



[further study]

FOUNDATIONS: Week 10: ATONEMENT

4.1.12

After the fall, human beings found themselves cut off and separated from God because of sin both physically and spiritually. God however, wanted to make a way for mankind to be reconciled to Him. He did this through the ministry of Jesus Christ. Through Jesus' death on the cross He made it possible for us have a new position, status, and standing before God. God is righteous and just. Therefore, sin had to be paid for. Man's sentence was physical and spiritual death. The Bible uses a number of words, including atonement, to describe how God removed the sentence of death.

1. The image of the altar

The Bible uses words like expiation, propitiation, and atonement to relate to this aspect of salvation. Satisfaction had to be made for man's violations of God' law. The cross became the altar on which Jesus laid down His life in our place.

"whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins." (Romans 3:25, ESV)

"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8, ESV)

"Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people." (Hebrews 2:17, ESV)

"He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world." (1 John 2:2, ESV)

"In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:10, ESV)

Since Jesus died as our substitute, we do not need to die for our own sin. Instead, we can claim eternal life through faith in Him.

2. The image of a court of law

Justification means that since Jesus suffered for the punishment of our sin, we can receive the verdict of NOT GUILTY. We can be pardoned for our sin. This is an image of a court of law in which the accused stands guilty before the judge. And yet, the judge acquits him because Jesus volunteered to die in our place.



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“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.” (Romans 3:23-26, ESV)

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1, ESV)

“Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.” (Romans 5:9, ESV)

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.” (Romans 8:31-33, ESV)

“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.” (Colossians 2:13-14, ESV)

3. The image of the marketplace

Jesus gave His life a ransom for many

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45, ESV)

“who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.” (1 Timothy 2:6, ESV)

“knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.” (1 Peter 1:18-19, ESV)

4. The image of bondage in prison

The Bible also uses words like deliverance, bondage, liberation, salvation to describe what Jesus did for us.



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"And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house." (Mark 3:23-27, ESV)

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son," (Colossians 1:13, ESV)

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation." (Colossians 1:15, ESV)

"and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. " (1 Thessalonians 1:10, ESV)

"Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery." (Hebrews 2:14-15, ESV)

Jesus liberated us from the power of sin and Satan

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36, ESV)

"But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness." (Romans 6:17-18, ESV)

"But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life." (Romans 6:22, ESV)

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1, ESV)

5. The image of reconciliation

While it is conceivable that someone might die for a good person, imagine someone dying for their enemy. That is what Jesus did. While we hated Him and opposed Him, He died for us. "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6-8, ESV)



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6. The image of adoption

When we are born into this world God becomes our creator and we become His creation. However, when God saved us from our sin He decided to adopt us as His children. God became our Father. We became His children. Other Christians become our brothers and sisters in Christ.

“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,” (John 1:12, ESV)

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. ” (Galatians 4:4-7, ESV)

“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. ” (Galatians 6:10, ESV)

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,” (Ephesians 2:19, ESV)

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. ” (Romans 8:14-17, ESV)