

Biblical Foundations for Ministry

The Work of Christ: Atonement for Sin

1. God and sin

- a. God's nature
 - 1) His justice required that he respond to sin with punishment
 - 2) His grace prompted him to seek a way to spare mankind
- b. God's dilemma: how to do both justice and grace (Rom. 3:26)

2. Substitute atonement

- a. Jesus suffering on the cross
 - 1) Bearing our sins and suffering our punishment (Isaiah 53:4-6; 1 Peter 2:24)
 - 2) Justice was satisfied (sin was punished)
- b. Believers treated as if righteous (2 Cor. 5:21)
 - 1) Spared the suffering our sins deserve
 - 2) Grace was satisfied (helped the helpless)
- c. Substitutionary atonement
 - 1) Atonement: to pay the debt incurred by sin
 - 2) Substitutionary: paid for you by someone else (vicarious)
- d. Substitution terms
 - 1) Must be human: to take the place of another human (Heb. 2:14, 17)
 - 2) Must be innocent: his suffering not needed for himself (Heb. 7:26-27)
 - 3) Must be eternal: for his efforts to have extensive application (Heb. 7:23-25)

3. Wrath of God

- a. Jesus suffering on the cross
 - 1) Faced the wrath of God the Father (Isaiah 53:4-6; Matt. 27:46)
 - 2) Faced God's wrath against sin
- b. The essence of hell
 - 1) The suffering and humiliation were comparable to hell
 - 2) Greatly intensified when applied to the Son of God
 - 3) Satisfied God's just requirement for sin
- c. Propitiation: Jesus drew God's wrath away from us (Rom. 3:25; 1 John 2:2; 4:10)

4. Atonement fulfilled

- a. Atonement was accomplished on the cross
 - 1) Final words: "it is finished" (John 19:30)
 - 2) The temple veil was torn (Matt. 27:50-51)
- b. Jesus departed to paradise (Luke 23:43)

5. The gospel invitation

- a. Two options
 - 1) Accept Christ as your substitute atonement (on the cross)
 - 2) Make your own atonement (in hell)
- b. The terms: respond to the gospel plan of salvation

