

**Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics**

Protestant Reformation Doctrines of Salvation

The Heights Church April 28, 2019

Protestant Reformation Doctrines of Salvation

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*For the discussion of Limited Atonement refer to the December 16, 2018 and January 6 and 13, 2019 Adult Sunday School notes posted on THC Adult Sunday School Page

The Atonement – The Old Testament Foreshadowing

- The OT has two major sacrificial holidays, Passover and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), that point to Jesus .
- Passover:

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)

Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. (1 Corinthians 5:7)

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:24)

The Atonement – The Old Testament Foreshadowing

- Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement):

For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. (Hebrews 9:13 – 15)

The Atonement – The Old Testament Foreshadowing

- Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement):

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world.

The Atonement – The Old Testament Foreshadowing

- Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement):

But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (Hebrews 9:22 – 28)

For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. (Hebrews 10:4)

The Atonement – Our Congregational Affirmation of Faith

IV. Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in **His substitutionary atoning death**, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.

The Atonement – Elder Affirmation of Faith

7.1 We believe that by His perfect obedience to God and by His suffering and death as the immaculate Lamb of God, Jesus Christ obtained forgiveness of sins and the gift of perfect righteousness for all who trusted in God prior to the cross and all who would trust in Christ thereafter. Through living a perfect life and dying in our place, the just for the unjust, Christ absorbed our punishment, appeased the wrath of God against us, vindicated the righteousness of God in our justification, and removed the condemnation of the law against us.

The Atonement – Elder Affirmation of Faith

7.2 We believe that the atonement of Christ for sin warrants and impels a universal offering of the gospel to all persons, so that to every person it may be truly said, "God gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life." Whosoever will may come for cleansing at this fountain, and whoever does come, Jesus will not cast out.

The Atonement – Elder Affirmation of Faith

7.3 We believe, moreover, that the death of Christ did obtain more than the bona fide offer of the gospel for all; it also obtained the omnipotent New Covenant mercy of repentance and faith for God's elect. Christ died for all, but not for all in the same way. In His death, Christ expressed a special covenant love to His friends, His sheep, His bride. For them He obtained the infallible and effectual working of the Spirit to triumph over their resistance and bring them to saving faith.

The Atonement – Why Do We Need A Savior?

- Definition: *The atonement is the work Christ did in his life and death to earn our salvation*

And you were **dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked**, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience - among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by **nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind**. (Ephesians 2:1 - 3)

The Atonement – Why Do We Need A Savior?

- What do we need to be saved from?

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the **wrath of God**. For if while **we were enemies** we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. (Romans 5:9-10)

The Atonement – What Is the Cause of the Atonement?

The love of God: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

The justice of God: 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)

The Atonement

Definition: *God's righteousness means that God always acts in accordance with what is right and is himself the final standard of what is right.*

Note: In the original Hebrew in the OT the English words righteousness and justice are primarily translated from Hebrew words derived from the Hebrew word ***tsedek***.

In the original Greek in the NT the English words righteousness and justice are primarily translated from Greek words derived from the Greek word ***dikaio***.

The Atonement

- *Tzedek/tzedakah* means more than strictly legal justice, but is almost impossible to translate, because of its many shadings of meaning: justice, charity, righteousness, integrity, equity, fairness and innocence. "When you make your neighbor a loan of any sort, you shall not go into his house to collect his pledge. You shall stand outside, and the man to whom you make the loan shall bring the pledge out to you. And if he is a poor man, you shall not sleep in his pledge. You shall restore to him the pledge as the sun sets, that he may sleep in his cloak and bless you. And it shall be **righteousness** for you before the LORD your God. (Deuteronomy 24: 10-13)

The Atonement

Dikaios occurs 79 times in the NT

- In a wide sense it means:
 - upright, righteous, virtuous, keeping the commands of God
 - innocent, faultless, guiltless
 - used of him whose way of thinking, feeling, and acting is wholly conformed to the will of God,
- In a narrower sense it means rendering to each his due
- In a judicial sense, passing just judgment on others, whether expressed in words or shown by the manner of dealing with them

The Atonement – Was The Death of Jesus the only way to save the Elect?

1. God did not need to save any one. For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; (2 Peter 2:4)
2. But once God in his love decided to save some humans then there was not another way except through the death of his Son. And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." (Matthew 26:39)

The Atonement – Was The Death of Jesus the only way to save the Elect?

And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! **Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?**" (Luke 24:25 – 26)

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 3:25b – 26)