

Soteriology 101

Week 5 – Nature of the Atonement, Part 2



Propitiation: Through His sacrifice, Christ **satisfied** God's righteous anger against sin and turned away His wrath from the elect.

(Rom. 3:24-25; Heb. 2:17; 1 John 2:2, 4:10; Ex. 32:30; Num. 25:11-13; Rom. 2:5, 3:21-26)

"Propitiation presupposed the wrath and displeasure of God, and the purpose of propitiation is the removal of this displeasure. Very simply stated, the doctrine of propitiation means that Christ propitiated the wrath of God and rendered God propitious to His people." – John Murray

"Moses clearly understood the problem: God's wrath was kindled against the sin of his people. His instinctive solution was to seek to 'make atonement' for their sin – that is, to seek to turn God's wrath away from his people. This clearly suggests that propitiation is a concept inherent to the biblical teaching on atonement."

– MacArthur and Mayhue

"God has satisfied His wrath against sin by the sprinkling of the blood of the spotless Lamb on the mercy seat of the heavenly altar. He has punished the sins of His people in a substitute, and thus His wrath has been turned away from them. Ultimately, any denial of a propitiatory component to Christ's atonement is a denial that God's wrath is aroused against sin or a denial that it must be appeased for man to be granted salvation."

– MacArthur and Mayhue

1. Propitiation is not the **cause** of God's love. (Romans 5:8)
2. Propitiation is not a **turning** of the wrath of God into love. (1 John 4:9-10)

"The propitiation is the ground upon which the divine love operates and the channel through which it flows in achieving its end." – John Murray

3. Propitiation does not **deduct** from the love and mercy of God. (Isaiah 53:10)



Reconciliation: Because of Christ's sacrifice, the ground of the **enmity** between God and men is removed and dealt with, thus accomplishing **peace**.

(Isaiah 59:2; Romans 8:7, 5:10-11; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, Ephesians 2:16, Colossians 1:20-22)

"Reconciliation presupposes disrupted relations between God and men. It implies enmity and alienation. This alienation is twofold, our alienation from God and God's alienation from us." – John Murray

1. Reconciliation is a **work** of God.
2. Reconciliation is a finished work **accomplished** by Christ's sacrifice.
3. Reconciliation is fundamentally **forensic**.



Redemption: Man is redeemed from the **bondage** of sin and the law through the payment of Christ's shed blood as a **ransom**.

(Matthew 20:28, 1 Corinthians 6:20a, Ephesians 1:7, 1 Peter 1:18-19, Revelation 5:9)

1. Christ's ransom was paid to **God**, not **Satan**. (Ephesians 5:2)
2. Christ has redeemed us from:
 - a) the **curse** of the law. (Galatians 3:13)

"That curse He bore and that curse He exhausted. That was the price paid for this redemption and liberty secured for the beneficiaries is that there is no more curse." – John Murray

b) **sin**. (Romans 6:6). Redemption frees us from the:

- the **penalty** of sin. (Romans 6:23)
- the **power** of sin. (Romans 6:18, 22)
- the **presence** of sin. (Romans 8:23, Luke 21:28)



Conquest: By His sacrificial death and resurrection, Christ accomplished **victory** over Satan, all rulers, authorities, and powers, and **death** itself.

(John 12:31, 16:11; 1 John 3:8; Romans 16:20; Colossians 2:13-15)

“There is no tribunal so magnificent, no throne so stately, no show of triumph so distinguished, no chariot so elevated, as is the gallows on which Christ has subdued death and the devil, the prince of death.” – John Calvin

Christ’s resurrection:

1. **validates** and completes the work of redemption initiated by His sacrifice. (Romans 4:25)
2. **demonstrates** His victory over sin, death, and the powers of evil. (1 Corinthians 15:54-55)
3. **vindicates** His claims about Himself. (Matthew 17:22-23)
4. **secures** believers’ hope of their own resurrection. (Romans 6:4, Acts 17:31)

“Such, then, is the character of the penal-substitutionary atonement of Christ. The guilt of our sin demanded the penalty of death, and so the Lamb of God was slain as an expiatory sacrifice on our behalf. The wrath of God was kindled against our sin, and so Christ was set forth as a propitiation to bear that wrath in our place. The pollution of our sin alienated us from God and aroused His holy enmity against us, and so by atoning for sin Christ has reconciled God to man. Obedient to sin, man was in bondage to sin through the law that exposed sin in our lives, and so Christ has paid the ransom price of His precious blood to God the Father in order to redeem us from such slavery. In doing so, He has plundered Satan’s house, conquering death and its captain by the exercise of His own power.” – MacArthur and Mayhue

Penal substitution summary:

- **Sacrifice** removes the guilt and penalty of sin.
- **Propitiation** removes the wrath incurred by sin.
- **Reconciliation** removes the alienation and enmity incited by sin.
- **Redemption** rescues from the bondage of sin.
- **Conquest** accomplishes victory over Satan, his kingdom of darkness, and death itself.



Take Aways

1. Cherish the sufficiency of Christ’s atonement.
2. Live with joyful obedience and mission.
3. Live in assurance of ultimate victory.