

Message Five

Propitiation and Faith in His Blood

Scriptures reading: Rom. 3:25; 1John 4:10; Acts 20:28

I. God has set forth Christ Jesus as a “propitiation place”–Rom. 3:25.

A. The meaning of propitiation

1. Propitiation is to appease the situation between us and God and to reconcile us to God by satisfying His righteous demands.
2. Formerly, there was a separation between us and God, but propitiation makes us one with God.
3. Propitiation accomplishes this by solving the problem between us and God—our sins—which kept us away from God's presence and hindered God from coming to us.

B. Our need of propitiation

1. Propitiation involves two parties, one of which has wronged the other, has become indebted to the other, and must act to satisfy the demands of the other.
2. As sinners, we needed propitiation to appease our situation before God and to satisfy His demands.
3. Our pitiful situation is aptly illustrated by the case of the tax collector in Luke 18:13; “standing at a distance, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be propitiated to me, the sinner!”
 - a. He realized that he had offended God and that he needed something to be his offering of propitiation so that God would be appeased.
 - b. Because he offered a prayer that was based upon God's propitiation, he “went down to his house justified.” –v. 14.

C. The sacrifice of propitiation (Gk. *hilasmos*)

1. The sacrifice of propitiation is Christ Himself—1John 2:2.
2. The providing of this sacrifice was motivated by His love—1John 4:10.
3. Christ Himself is the propitiation for our sins, the sacrifice for our propitiation before God; He offered Himself to God as a sacrifice for our sins, not only for our redemption but also for satisfying God's demand—Heb. 9:28.

D. The action of propitiation (Gk. *hilaskomai*)

1. On the cross Christ propitiated for us and brought us back to God, making us one with God—Heb. 2:17.
 2. The Lord Jesus made propitiation for our sins, thereby satisfying the demand of God's righteousness and appeasing the relationship between God and us, that God may be peacefully gracious to us.
- E. The place of propitiation (Gk. *hilasterion*)
1. In Romans 3:25 the Greek word translated 'propitiation place' denotes the place where propitiation is made.
 - a. It is the lid of the ark, the place where God met with his people—Heb. 9:5; cf. Exo. 25:16-22 (Heb. *kapporeth* for the lid of the ark)
 - b. Paul speaks of the propitiation cover as the throne of grace which is in the Holy of Holies, for it is the cover of the ark which is in the Holy of Holies.
 2. The lid of the ark signifies Christ as the propitiation place set forth by God.
 - a. He is the place where we enjoy propitiation before God and where God gives grace to us.
 - b. Upon Christ as our place of propitiation, we have a standing to fellowship with God in glory, as He makes His will known to us and infuses us with His glory for His corporate expression.

II. God's setting forth Christ Jesus as a propitiation place is "through faith in His blood"—Rom. 3:25

- A. God obtained, acquired, purchased, the church by paying the price of "His own blood" —Acts 20:28.
 1. Through incarnation our God, the Creator, the eternal One, put on human nature and became mingled with man.
 2. As a result, He was no longer God; He was a God-man, who had human blood and thus was able to die on the cross for us.
 3. When the Lord Jesus died on the cross as the God-man, He died not only as man but also as God.
 4. The blood He shed was the blood not only of the man Jesus but also the blood of the God-man; therefore His blood, through which we have been redeemed and through which God obtained the church, is God's own blood.
- B. The blood that has redeemed fallen beings and the blood in which we have faith is the blood of "Jesus, the Son of God" —1John 1:7.

1. As fallen human beings, we needed genuine human blood for our redemption, and as a man, the Lord Jesus shed human blood to redeem us.
 2. Because the Lord is the Son of God, even God Himself, with His blood there is the element of divinity, and this divine element ensures the eternal efficacy of His redemptive blood—cf. Heb. 9:14.
 3. Therefore, as a man He had genuine human blood, and as God He has the element that gives His blood eternal efficacy.
- C. In our Christian spiritual experience, “the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin” —1John 1:7.
1. The name Jesus denotes the Lord's humanity, which was needed for the shedding of the redeeming blood.
 2. The title His Son denotes the Lord's divinity, which was needed for the eternal efficacy of the redeeming blood.
 3. The blood of Jesus His Son indicates that this blood is the proper blood of a genuine man for redeeming God's fallen creatures with the divine surety for its eternal efficacy.
 4. This eternal efficacy is not limited either in space or in time; rather, this efficacy is all-prevailing in space and everlasting in time; for this reason, the redemption accomplished by the God-man is eternal—Heb. 9:12.
- D. The faith through which we believe in Christ and in His blood is not of human origin; it is not something that originates from ourselves.
1. Christ Himself is the Author and the Perfecter of our faith—Heb. 12:2.
 2. Just as Abraham, our father in faith, believed in God as a response to an infusion from the divine glory that imparted to him both the believing element and the capacity to believe, so we believe in Christ “through the faith of Jesus Christ”.
- E. “In God's New Testament economy, God desires that man believe in Jesus, who is God incarnate. If man does not believe in Him, he commits the unique sin before God (John 16:9). However, if man believes in Him, he is righteous to the uttermost before God, and God reckons this faith as his righteousness. At the same time, this faith brings its object, that is this One who is God incarnate, into those who believe in Him. He is God's righteousness, and God has given Him as righteousness to those who are indwelt by Him (Jer. 23:6). All this is out of, and depends on, the faith that is in Him and of Him (Heb. 12:2).” —Rom. 3:22, note1, Recovery Version.

Message Five

Reference Scripture Verses:

Rom. 3:25 Whom God set forth as a propitiation place through faith in His blood, for the demonstrating of His righteousness, in that in His forbearance God passed over the sins that had previously occurred,

1John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son as a propitiation for our sins.

Acts. 20:28 Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers to shepherd the church of God, which He obtained through His own blood.

I.

Luke 18:13-14. 13 But the tax collector, standing at a distance, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be propitiated to me, the sinner! **14** I tell you, This man went down to his house justified rather than that one; for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted.

1John 2:2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for *those of* the whole world.

1John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son as a propitiation for our sins.

Heb. 9:28 So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time to those who eagerly await Him, apart from sin, unto salvation.

Heb. 2:17 Hence He should have been made like His brothers in all things that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in the things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Heb. 9:5 And above it cherubim of glory overshadowing the propitiation place, concerning which it is not now *the time* to speak in detail.

Exo. 25:16-22. 16 And you shall put into the ark the testimony which I shall give you. **17** And you shall make an expiation cover of pure gold: two and a half cubits shall be its length, and one and a half cubits, its width. **18** And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of beaten work you shall make them, at the two ends of the expiation cover. **19** And make one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end; of one piece with the expiation cover you shall make the cherubim on its two ends. **20** And the cherubim shall spread out their wings above the cover, covering the expiation cover with their wings, with their faces toward one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the expiation cover. **21** And you shall put the expiation cover on top of the Ark, and into the Ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. **22** And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the expiation cover, from between the two cherubim which are upon the Ark of the Testimony, of everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

II.

Acts. 20:28 Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers to shepherd the church of God, which He obtained through His own blood.

1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

Heb. 9:12 And not through the blood of goats and calves but through His own blood, entered once for all into the *Holy of Holies*, obtaining an eternal redemption.

Heb. 9:14 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?

Heb. 12:2 Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.

John 16:9 Concerning sin, because they do not believe into Me;

Jer. 23:6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, Jehovah our righteousness.

Cf. Reference verses for the precious blood of Christ

Lev. 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you to make expiation for your souls on the altar, for it is the blood, by reason of the life, that makes expiation.

Matt. 26:28 For this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Eph. 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace,

1Pet. 1:18-19. **18** Knowing that *it was* not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, *that* you were redeemed from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers, **19** But with precious blood, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot, *the blood* of Christ;

Rev. 5:9 And they sing a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain and have purchased for God by Your blood *men* out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

Heb. 9:22 And almost all things are purified by blood according to the law, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Rom. 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified in His blood, we will be saved through Him from the wrath.

Rev. 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood

Eph. 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have become near in the blood of Christ.

Heb. 10:19 Having therefore, brothers, boldness for entering the *Holy of Holies* in the blood of Jesus,

Heb. 12:24 And to Jesus, the Mediator of a new covenant; and to the blood of sprinkling, which speaks something better than *that of* Abel.

1Cor. 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the fellowship of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the fellowship of the body of Christ?