

Unwrapping Our Greatest Gift

Propitiation: God's Answer to the Blame Game

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Message Truth:

Each person who has received Christ as Savior is the recipient of God's greatest gift. Too often, however, we fail to realize our full potential as Christians. One reason for this failure is the confusion in the minds of many Christians concerning their salvation. Too few of us fully unwrap the meaning and significance contained in the gift of our salvation. This Christmas we will seek to better understand the gift of our salvation. While each of us who have accepted Christ as Savior are complete, often we fail to fully realize our full potential as Christians. Former attitudes, habits and false beliefs impede our spiritual progress. Today we will focus on how our blaming others for our own poor choices springs from a misunderstanding of the facet of our salvation known as propitiation.

① Some people believe that those who fail are u_____ of love and d_____ to be punished.

People who play the blame game do so because:

- For most of our lives we have been conditioned to make someone pay for failures or shortcomings.
- We seek to blame others because often our success depends on their contribution.
- We blame others to make ourselves feel better.
- We may accept the blame for others.

We must seek to please Jesus, not o_____ nor o_____.

²¹ His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:21 (KJV)

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, Romans 8:1

Condemning, blaming, and criticizing others are activities familiar to the enemy.

Propitiation

Propitiation means that the wrath of someone who has been unjustly wronged has been satisfied. It is an act that soothes hostility and satisfies the need for vengeance. You and I are guilty before God. We are sinners, and because God hates sin in His Holiness He must judge us. Because He is also loving and merciful, however, He has made a way by which His wrath can be turned away. In the death of Christ sin is punished and God's wrath averted. Because He loves us He provided a way we could be made sinless before Him.

²¹ But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶ he did it

to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Romans 3:21-26

²⁵ *Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; ²⁶ To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*

Romans 3:25-26 (KJV)

✓ **A propitiation was necessary because of our s_____.**

✓ **Propitiation is made possible only through the d_____ of Christ.**

Justification speaks of the removal of guilt in regard to the law of God and the restoration of our legal standing before God. Reconciliation goes far beyond that. Our whole life has changes. The statement, " *If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new*" (II Corinthians 5:17) is used in connection with reconciliation. Propitiation tells us how this is accomplished and why it was necessary.

✓ **The primary emphasis of the w_____ is on satisfying the demands of God's r_____ nature.**

✓ **The b_____ of Jesus is how we will overcome the accusations of the e_____.**

¹⁰ *Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night,*

has been hurled down. ¹¹ They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

Revelation 12:10-11

The Moment We Trust Christ

● **A_____ your sins are forgiven**

⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* I John 1:9

● **You become a c_____ of G_____**

¹² *Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—*

John 1:12

● **You receive e_____ life**

²⁴ *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.* John 5:24

● **You are delivered from Satan's d_____ and transferred into the k_____ of Christ**

¹³ *For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,*

Colossians 1:13