

Special: Spring 2024 #2

March 24, 2024

Series Title: Behold Our King!

Today's Message: God Provided the Only Sacrifice for our Sins; Romans 3:10-20; 3:21-26

Last week we looked at the successful priesthood of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is our Great High Priest. This week let's look at the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The key to understand this is that God provided the most perfect, the only acceptable sacrifice for our sins by giving His Son as that very sacrifice. Don't you love to hear the words of Paul in Romans 3:25 where he writes with joy, "God presented Him (Christ) as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of His blood—to be received by faith!" Or, in John's gospel, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes on Him will have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. (3:16-17)"

The first coming of Christ was epic! He came with a specific purpose and that was to become both our Great High Priest and the perfect acceptable sacrifice for our sins. He was sent by God the Father sharing in our humanity, like us in every way yet without sin. Remember Hebrews 4:15? "For we do not have High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." Jesus Christ became *our fellow* in that He walked with us and among us. And as our High priest He intimately understands our condition and has pity on us and intercedes on our behalf before the throne of God.

But as our intercessor what does He plead before the throne of God? He pleads His blood as a reminder before Holy God that the ransom has been paid, and sin is atoned for! This is what makes our Lord most unique! There was never a high priest that could offer himself as the acceptable sacrifice; only Jesus Christ of Nazareth could do that! Therefore, He is not only our great high priest, but He is also the only acceptable sacrifice offered on our behalf for our sins! 2 Corinthians 5:21 describes it like this: "God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us so that in Him (Christ) we might become the righteousness of God!"

I want you to understand that when Jesus offered Himself as the sacrifice of atonement, becoming the very sacrifice that propitiated God the Father, He did not cease to be our high priest. His sacrifice of Himself was the greatest expression of His commitment to serve as Mediator between God and sinful man. He offered a better **sacrifice** to bring us **near to God**. Not of bulls or goats or rams or lambs (Leviticus 1-8) but His own life given through the shedding of His own blood! In His self-sacrifice He fulfilled the servant nature of the role of high priest by setting aside the prerogatives of His divine glory and dignity, taking the guilt and shame of our sin into Himself, becoming numbered among the transgressors, condemned as an enemy of God—blamed, mocked, insulted, reviled!

Today we are looking at the offering of the sacrifice of God, on our behalf, through the person of Jesus Christ. To understand the sacrifice of God in offering His Son we will consider three main words as they relate to the sacrificial work of Christ: Humiliation; Propitiation; Glorification.

l) Humiliation: Christ Jesus humbled Himself to become God's offering of sacrifice.

A) Christ was eternally preexistent, the Son God, became a human in the fullness of time.

- 1) **From eternal glory to earth to glory:** John 17:5: "And now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world began."
 - (a) John 1:1-2; John 8:58; 1 John 1:1; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-3
- 2) **God the Son became in the likeness of sinful man:** John 1:14: "The Word became flesh (human) and *tabernacled* among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the Only Begotten, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."
 - (a) Galatians 4:4; Romans 5:6; John 3:17

- 3) Made Himself nothing: Philippians 2:6-7: “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be cling too, but made Himself nothing, taking the very form of a servant, being found in human likeness.”
 - (a) Matthew 20:28, “came to serve”; Hebrews 5:7, *bore heavy human burdens*; Isaiah 53:3, *was despised and rejected*; Isaiah 53:4, *He took upon Himself our infirmities*.
 - (b) 2 Corinthians 8:9: “For you know the **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes (**in your place**) became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.”
 - (i) Christ became comparatively destitute on our behalf for our eternal gain!
 - (ii) By becoming the sacrifice of propitiation we have been brought near to God!
 - (a) The purpose of sacrifices and offerings in OT was to bring us near to God. But sacrifices and offerings could not do what Christ alone could do. Were it not for **His humiliation** we would never have been able to truly come near.
 1. Ephesians 2:13: “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been **brought near through the blood of Christ!**”

II) **Propitiation: Christ Jesus willingly suffered as the sacrifice to propitiate God.**

- A) Explanation of Propitiation: Jesus satisfied the justice of God and turned away wrath.
 - 1) For fallen humanity propitiation involves an effort to appease the deity feared or worshiped.
 - (a) Most of the time it involves the “worshiper” offering sacrifices of offerings of different kinds to come near to or appease the anger or wrath of the deity.
 - (i) Usually involving the blood of someone or something else: a person or animal.
 - (a) In the OT there are many warnings given by God to His people not to behave like the pagan nations around them in trying to appease the *gods*.
 1. Leviticus 18:21: “Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molech, for you must not perform this utter blasphemy against your God. I am the Lord.”
 - 2) For Christians, the Bible teaches us that God *propitiated* Himself.
 - (a) The Gospel of God! The Gospel is *THE DEMONSTRATION OF HIS LOVE FOR US!*
 - (i) Romans 3:25: “God presented Him (Jesus Christ) as a sacrifice of atonement (propitiation) through the shedding of His blood—to be received by faith.”
 - (ii) 2 Corinthians 5:21: “**God** made Him who knew no sin to be sin **on our behalf**, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”
 - (a) GK: *Huper: on behalf of*. God did for us what we could NEVER do!
 1. Isaiah 64:6: “All of us have become like one who is [ceremonially] unclean [like a leper], and all our righteous acts/ works are like filthy rags [disgusting biohazards]. We all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.”
 - a. Romans 3:23: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
 - (iii) 1 John 4:9-10: “This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the **propitiation** for our sins.”
 - (a) Romans 5:8,10: “**But God** demonstrated His own love for us in this: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” And, “For if when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life.”

1. Ephesians 2:4-5: “**But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love for us, made us alive together with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by **grace you have been saved.**”
 - 3) The Centrality of the cross! God *propitiated* Himself by the work of Christ on the cross.
 - (a) The cross of Christ was God’s altar of sacrifice, and Christ was the sacrifice.
 - (i) On the cross “[He] bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.” (1 Peter 2:24)
 - (a) He bore our sins. That is, He took upon Himself, on our behalf... (1 Peter 2:23)
 1. The insults, the shame, the reproach, the embarrassment of our sins!
 - a. Galatians 3:13b: “**Cursed** is everyone who is hung on a tree.”
 - (b) The cross and the Great Exchange
 - (i) The guilt of our sins was laid upon Him.
 - (a) Isaiah 53:4-5: “Surely, He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.”
 1. Our sins were imputed (accounted to Him).
 2. His righteousness was imputed (accounted) to everyone who receives Him.
 - a. 2 Corinthians 5:21: Describes the great exchange: “God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”
 - 4) The Certainty that God is *propitiated*, and everyone who believes in Him is saved from wrath.
 - (a) God promises in Isaiah 53:11 that, “After He has suffered, He will see the light of life (resurrection) and be satisfied; by His knowledge [the certainty of what He accomplished] My righteous servant (The Son of God Jesus Christ) will **justify** many, and He will bear their iniquities.”
 - (b) In Romans 4:25 God affirms that He is *propitiated* by Christ’s acceptable sacrifice: “He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”
 - B) A beautiful responsive application:
 - 1) Now we need never to try to appease God, but rather trust in His substitutionary sacrifice!
 - (a) “Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling; naked come to Thee for dress; helpless, look to the for grace; foul I to the fountain fly; wash me Savior or I die.”
 - (i) Is Christ your Savior? Would you claim His sacrifice as your own today?
- III) **Glorification: Christ Jesus finished the work as sacrifice and was glorified.**
- A) Jesus anticipated a completed, finished work and the glory to follow.
 - 1) Remember John 17:5 when Jesus prayed, “And now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world began.”
 - B) Jesus ascended into heaven as the Son of God with the added glory as the Son of Man, in sinless humanity, representative all who will believe on Him and join Him in glory!
 - (a) Acts 1:9 testifies to the risen Christ ascending bodily into heaven: “After He had said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.”
 - C) Jesus is glorified in Heaven in blazing glory, ruling and reigning (Revelation 1:12-18).
 - D) Jesus Christ, the glorified King, will come again a second time in a true, living and glorified body.
 - 1) Acts 1:11: They angels said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This **same Jesus**, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.”