



## Lesson 3: God's Provision for Salvation

### The Cross Work of Jesus Christ

#### Part 1

#### Substitution

*"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,"*  
1 Peter 3:18.

We want to look at the atonement of Christ. *Atonement* first began to be used to describe the cross work of Christ in 1526. We will look at four aspects of the death of Christ:

1. Jesus died as our **Substitute** for Sin
2. Jesus died as a **Propitiation** for Sin
3. Jesus died as a **Redeemer** for Sin
4. Jesus died to **Reconcile** the Sinner

OUR PROBLEM	GOD'S SOLUTION
We deserve to die as the penalty for sin	A Sacrificial Substitute
We deserve to bear God's wrath against sin	Propitiation
We are separated from God by our sins	Reconciliation
We are in bondage to sin and to the kingdom of Satan	Redemption

## **Introduction:**

How is God able to maintain the integrity of His divine character and still save the sinner? God is righteous and holy. He said “the soul that sins shall die.” At the same time God says, “He loves a world of hostile sinners,” John 3:16; Romans 5:6-8. Thus, the tension that only God could resolve:

His righteousness demands that sin be judged!

His love wants to save the one who has sinned!

How can God righteously judge our sins and still, in love, rescue/save us from the penalty we deserve?

### **God’s answer is the death of His Son in the place of the sinner!**

- The death of Jesus Christ for sinners is the core of the gospel message; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.
- The message of the cross offended the Greeks and the Jews. The cross was the unleashing of the power of God towards the sinner without God the Father compromising His wrath towards sin; Romans 3:23-27; Isaiah 53:5-12; Romans 1:18.

Let us consider the idea of *substitution for sin*.

## **I. The Old Testament Idea of Sacrificial Substitution**

Abraham sacrifices an animal instead of his son Isaac. This was because God provided a *substitute* (Genesis 22). Perhaps the primary picture of substitution was the Passover (Exodus 12).

- Innocent Lamb was to die to protect the household who offered it.
- Divine judgment was averted by *blood* on the door lintel.
- Leviticus 17:11 “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life” (*life* given up).
- Hebrews 9:22 “Under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.”

### **Old Testament sacrifices were unable to atone for sin!**

1. Scriptures in Old Testament that support this: Ps. 40:6; 51:16; Hosea 6:6; Micah 6:6-8.

2. The blood of bulls and goats could not clear the conscience of the offerer. Inner defilement was not removed by sacrifices; Hebrews 9:9-10; 10:4; Mark 7:20-23. Only the perfect sacrifice of Christ could clear the conscience; Hebrews 9:14; 10:22.
3. The work of Christ on the cross would affect permanent cleansing that requires no repetition; Hebrews 9:26; 10:10.

## II. The New Testament Scriptures: Substitution

Matthew 20:28 and Mark 10:45

Jesus Christ came to give His life as a ransom *instead of many* (Greek *anti* or *huper*). At the Lord’s Supper we celebrate the *bread* and the *cup* as representing the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ *for our benefit*; Luke 22:19-20.

### A. Jesus Christ **died for sinners!**

Scriptures: Matt. 20:28; Luke 22:19-20; John 6:51; 10:11, 15, 18; 15:12, 13; Romans 5:6-8; 8:32; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15; 5:21; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; Ephesians 5:2, 25; 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Titus 2:13, 14; Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 3:16.

### B. Jesus **suffered** for our sins!

Scriptures: Romans 4:25; 8:3; 1 Cor. 15:3; Galatians 1:4; Hebrews 10:12; **1 Peter 3:18**; see also Isaiah 53:5-12.

### C. Jesus **bore our sins** upon the cross!

Scriptures: Hebrews 9:28; 1 Peter 2:24; see also Isaiah 53:6, 11, 12.

### D. Jesus was **made sin** and **made a curse for us**.

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13

### E. Jesus’ death removed and **remitted our sins** and delivered us from **all penalty** due our sins.

Scriptures: John 1:29; Hebrews 9:26; Matthew 26:18; 1 John 1:7; Luke 24:46-47; Acts 10:43; 13:38-39; Ephesians 1:6-7; Colossians 1:13-14; Revelation 1:5-6; John 3:14-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10.

### F. Jesus’ death for us **purchased eternal life**.

Scriptures: John 3:14, 15; 5:24; 6:40, 47, 51; 10:27-28; 14:2, 3; 17:1-2;  
Romans 5:20, 21; 2 Timothy 2:10; Hebrews 5:9; 9:15; 1 Peter 5:10; 1  
John 5:11; Jude 21.

G. Jesus death was a **sacrifice for sin.**

Scriptures: “The Lamb of God our Passover Lamb” 1 Corinthians 5:7;  
Ephesians 5:2; Revelation 7:14-15; Hebrews 9:22-28; 10:11-14.

Jesus Christ died in the place of sinners. Everyone who looks to Jesus Christ and believes in Him may know that all their sins have been placed on our Savior. When Satan or conscience should bring up our sins and failures to condemn us, we can say with Luther while looking at a crucifix, “There is my sin.” Can God demand double payment for sin?

Sinners who do not have faith in Jesus Christ are liable for all their sins! Eternity will not be enough to remove their sins. What Jesus Christ accomplished in six hours on the Cross can never be duplicated by the suffering of those who refuse Him.

**Suggested reading:**

Grudem, Wayne, Systematic Theology, Chapter 27, “The Atonement,” pgs. 569-607.

Chafer, Lewis, Systematic Theology, Volume 3, “Introduction to the Sufferings of Christ,” pgs. 35-115.

Ryrie, Charles, Basic Theology, “The Meaning of the Death of Christ,” pgs. 286-297.

Demarest, Bruce, The Cross and Salvation: The Doctrine of Salvation, “Christ Died for the Sins Once for All,” pgs. 147-199.

Murray, John, Redemption Accomplished and Applied.

Jeffery, Steve, and Ovey, Michael, and Sach, Andrew, Pierced for Our Transgressions: Rediscovering the Glory of Penal Substitution.

Horne, Charles M., Salvation.

Chafer, Lewis, Salvation.



## **Break Out Session – Lesson 3**

### **Group Discussion Background**

In each of our break out sessions we will probe three aspects of the truths presented during each class through a series of discussion questions as described below.

**WHAT:** What is the key informational content?

**SO WHAT:** What is the implication of this information? Or said another way, why is the truth of this information important?

**WHAT NOW:** How will you apply this truth or what will you do now that you know this truth?

Our goal for these classes is not simply to increase our knowledge, but for lives to be transformed by truth. (Romans 12:2)

### **Discussion Questions:** (25 minutes)

*Ask the group the following questions and allow the group to thoroughly explore and discuss each one.*

1. Based on the discussion, what are the four ways Jesus' death solved the sin problem?
2. What payment is sufficient to appease an angry God? See: Romans 6:23, Leviticus 17:11 and Hebrews 9:22.
3. How does God's use of sacrificial substitution found in Genesis 22:13 and Exodus 12:21-23 relate to Christ's death on the cross for us today?
4. What are the only two ways your debt of sin to God can be paid?
5. When we put our faith and trust in Christ, what penalty or debt remains for the believer?
6. All mankind is sinful and has a sin debt before a holy God that must be paid. So who will be paying your debt?

### **Time to Care – Share – Bear** (15 minutes)

*During this time, the group is encouraged to share in each other's lives and demonstrate care for one another by bearing one another up through prayer.*

### **Wrap-Up** (5 minutes)

Answer any remaining questions and clarify the homework for the following week.



### **Lesson 3 Homework**

1. Using a Bible dictionary look up the following terms and write out the definition in the space below:

Propitiation:

Redemption:

Reconciliation:

2. Using a Bible concordance look up the above words and write the references next to your definitions.
3. Read Isaiah 53 every day for a week. Write down every idea of "substitution" you see.

NOTE: Grudem's Salvation book does not deal with the Cross work of Christ so we are not assigning any reading from that book yet.