

What Jesus Christ did for you - Atonement

Good morning church, I want to welcome you to our service today. If this is your first time joining us here on Sunday Online, we would like to welcome, you to our service and invite you to join us every Sunday for a weekly message.

Let us pray

Introduction

For the last two weeks, we have been in a series titled “God is not mad with you?”

Two weeks ago I discussed the Corrugated Christian life where we talked about the fact that Jesus Christ came to this earth so that we could a life above our normal circumstances and so that we could live the supernatural life that He paid for us to live, that is to live a life that is above the natural way people live.

Last week, we discussed the Image many people have of God that is often blurred by our past experiences.

Most people believe that God is out to punish them whenever they do something wrong, they believe that the cause of many of their problems in life is a punishment for their sins!

This is a lie from the devil and is so far from the truth, the truth is that God poured out all the punishment that our sins deserved, once and for all time He put SIN, all the sin of the entire human race upon Jesus Christ and punished that sin, all of it, at the Cross of Calvary.

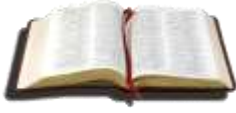
Why was Calvary so graphic?

This is why the Cross of Calvary was such a dramatic, graphic, and gory scene. In the movie, “The Passion of the Christ”, Mel Gibson tried to portray this, and many people said it was too graphic and did not like these scenes in the movie, but the truth is, it was not too graphic but rather much less graphic than what the events really were.

Please understand that when Pontius Pilot condemned Jesus Christ to death on a Roman Cross, Jesus was as good as dead as soon as spoke these words.

Whether the Roman soldiers killed Him any time before the crucifixion or at the Crucifixion did not matter, He was condemned to die, and so they would make sure it was painful and filled with suffering, with the intent of killing the condemned person.

So, when you read all the horrible things that were done to Jesus Christ, the whipping, the beating, the pushing of the crown of thrones on His Head, these were all done with the intent to mame, hurt and inflict as much pain and suffering as possible, all while trying to kill Him.



Isaiah prophesied that Jesus Christ was so badly beaten and tormented that **Isaiah 52:14** says *“¹⁴ Just as there were many who were appalled at Him - His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and His form marred beyond human likeness”*

Jesus Christ was beaten so severely by the Roman soldiers that people were appalled by His features because He was beaten to a pulp and unrecognizable as a human being, that says a lot and proves the intensity and brutality of the punishment and beating that was inflicted on Jesus Christ by these Roman soldiers.

Also, note that when Isaiah prophesied this prophecy about Jesus Christ, crucifixion was not even invented yet!

And He did it all for all of mankind, and He did it for you and me, personally!

No wonder the writer of Hebrews says-, *“¹ We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. ² For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, ³ how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. ⁴ God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.”*

How shall we individually and as the entire human race escape, escape what? Hell! How will we ever escape Hell if we neglect or turn our back on such a great Salvation which is the only way to being reconciled to God!

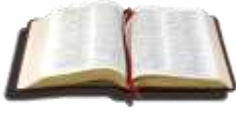
Without Jesus Christ's death on the Cross of Calvary as an Atonement for our sin and us accepting Him as our personal Saviour, there is no chance of any of us escaping Hell! There is no way to be reconciled to God except the only Way which is Jesus Christ!

Never forget, according to Jesus Christ Himself, Hell was never created for man, it was created for the devil and his angels, so Hell is not a nice place and also beyond what humans we meant to bare as it was created to punish supernatural beings!

Jesus speaking about Hell says in **Matthew 24:51** *“⁴¹ “Then He will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels”*

Yet those who go to Hell, go there by their own choice and in complete rebellion against God's Atoning sacrifice and His perfect plan for reconciliation which is Jesus Christ the ONLY WAY to God according to **John 14:6**,

What a “great Salvation”, it is a great Salvation because it is a perfect Salvation done once and for all time. It is a great salvation because someone else Atoned, paid a debt that we could never repay, Jesus Christ Atoned or paid the complete price for SIN.



Jesus Christ went through all the pain and suffering of the Cross of Calvary. All the horrors, all the pain, and all the suffering so that He could pay the FULL PRICE for SIN, or Atoned the price that is required by the LAW through the shedding of His Own Blood on the Cross of Calvary!

And that is why, before Jesus gave up His Spirit, He said, "It is FINISHED!" What is finished, the price for the sin of all mankind was paid or Atoned for.

The Power of the Law

I have mentioned Atonement many times in my message today, but it is so important that I need to explain a little more about the Law, Sin, Death, and Atonement because when Jesus Christ died on the Cross of Calvary.

He Atoned for SIN by paying the full price for SIN required by the LAW with His own Blood!

What sin did He die for? The SIN of the entire human race, including your sin and my sin, He Atoned for, covered, or paid the FULL price for SIN and thereby fulfilled the righteous requirements that the LAW required.

And therefore became the ultimate sacrifice to Atoned for SIN because He Atoned or Paid for SIN not with the blood of animals as was done throughout the Old Testament but with His own Blood and therefore, He Fulfilled the just requirements of the law and defeated Sin by taking away its power through fulfilling every righteous requirement of the LAW and took away the sting of Death by removing SIN altogether,

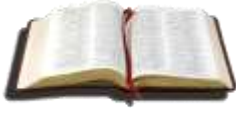
I know I am labouring this point so let me explain a little further.

1 Corinthians 15:56-57 says *"⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

So the sting of death is sin, which means that it is sin that is causing us to die or be separated from this world and God, remember death always means separation, and the sting is also that because of our sin we cannot enter the presence of a Holy God, we would be destroyed if we tried, so the sting of death was to be separated from God or the second death.

Before Jesus Christ died on the Cross of Calvary and rose from the Death, If you were a righteous person you would go to a place in Hell called Paradise, see the story of Lazarus and the rich man found in **Luke 16:19-31**, and if you were not righteous you went to a part of Hell called Hades, or a place of eternal punishment.

Also, when Jesus was on the Cross of Calvary the thief who accepted Him right there on the Cross, Jesus said to Him **Luke 23:42-43** *"⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."*



Why Paradise and not heaven? The reason is that all the saints of old were not in heaven but in a place called Paradise. The Bible tells us in **1 Peter 3:18-22** that after Jesus rose, He first went to preach the Good News in Hell actually called Paradise, and took these spirits in Paradise into heaven with Him. I have good news. Today Paradise is empty!

The sting of death is sin, and sin's power comes from the Law, not only the 10 commandments but there are 613 Jewish Laws, each one of them has the power to convict us of sin, Paul says in **Romans 7:7**, that he would not have known what sin was unless the law told him it was a sin.

The Good News of the Cross of Calvary is that Jesus Christ completely fulfilled every requirement of the Law through sacrificing His body on the Cross of Calvary and then taking His shed blood as a one-time, complete sacrifice for sin in heaven (**Hebrews 9:11-28**)

According to this passage, Jesus Christ presented His own Blood as an Atoning sacrifice, a covering sacrifice for SIN and therefore He fulfilled the just requirements of the LAW, every requirement of the 613 LAWS, Jesus Christ fulfilled to the letter and therefore took away the power that the power that SIN had over us through the LAW and therefore He defeated DEATH or the separation that existed between man and God since the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden

Last week we looked at **Hebrews 9:12**, Jesus Christ took His own Blood and place it on the mercy seat in the heavenly tabernacle to obtain an ETERNAL redemption for everyone!

In the past- the High priest could only enter the Holy of Holies once a year at Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

You will remember that the Tabernacle or later the Temple had a tent called the Holy place that contained the Lampstand, the Table of Showbread, and the Altar of Incense, this area only a priest could enter, and he needed to be pure.

The Holy of Holies is where a thick curtain separated the Ark of the Covenant where only the High Priest could enter and only once a year!

You can read in **Exodus 25:17-22** how Moses was instructed to build the Ark of the Covenant.

On top of the Ark of the Covenant was a golden lid that was called the Atonement Cover or Mercy Seat with two Cherubs facing each other, this is where God met with the Israelites and where the light of the presence of God shone, known as the Shekinah.

The word Atonement means to cover, the blood of the animal sacrifice covered the sin of Israel for the entire year until the next year.



During this time in the Holy of Holies, the High Priest would offer incense before God and go behind the curtain into the presence of God and present the blood of animal sacrifices on the mercy seat to have the sin of the entire Israeli nation Atoned for, forgiven by God.

This is an exact picture of what Jesus Christ did for us in **Hebrews 9:11-28** after His resurrection. Jesus did not go into an earthly tabernacle, but in the heavenly tabernacle and present not the blood of an animal which only lasted only for a year, but with His own Precious Blood, Jesus presented His Blood on the Mercy Seat to cover, to pay for, or Atoned for the SIN of all mankind once and for all time.

That is why when Jesus said on the Cross of Calvary before He gave up His Spirit, IT IS FINISHED, sin had been atoned for forever! You and my sin are covered by the Blood of Jesus Christ!

Closing

Wow, wow, wow – what a Saviour, what an Awesome display of God’s love and the love Jesus Christ has for all mankind and that is why the writer of Hebrews could say, how can we neglect such a great salvation?

To neglect Jesus Christ’s death and His resurrection, His Atonement for the SIN of all Mankind means that our sins are not atoned for / or our sins have not been paid for and we have to pay for it ourselves, but the Law finds us guilty and the penalty for that sin is DEATH or eternal separation from God!

Just think of any of the 10 commandments, let’s say You shall not murder! You might say well I have never murdered anyone, but Jesus says in the Sermon of the Mount (**Matthew Chapters 6-8**), that if you think of killing, murdering someone in your mind it is as good as you have done it yourself, so even if you said to someone, I wish you were dead, or I want to kill that person that is murder! And without Jesus Christ’s atonement, you will be separated from God in a place called Hell.

To accept Jesus Christ is to have our sin atoned for, our sin paid for, and we are no longer affected by the power of the law, which is sin, yes, we will die but death in our case is not eternal separation from God, but we live forever with God in heaven and Jesus according to **John 14:1-6** has prepared a place for each of His children to live with Him in heaven.

The question remains, Will you accept Him, and have your sin atoned for? Or will you reject Him and atone for your own sin?

Let us pray