

Session 5

The Atonement

I. Discipleship Scenario

2. Discussion Questions

a. “*The Atonement*” (Chap. 15 of Bible Doctrine)

Review Questions

- To which two aspects of God’s character can we trace the ultimate cause of the atonement?
- Was the atonement necessary? Please explain why or why not.
- Explain the two aspects of Christ’s obedience in the atonement.
- Why was it necessary for Jesus to bear the wrath of God? What Scripture can you point to in support of this position?
- What do both the moral influence theory of the atonement and the example theory of the atonement deny that the penal substitution theory affirms?
- Give the Scriptural evidence against the claim that Jesus descended into hell after He died.

Questions for Personal Application

- In what ways has this chapter enabled you to appreciate Christ’s death more than you did before? Has it given you more or less confidence in the fact that your sins have actually been paid for by Christ?
- If the ultimate cause of the atonement is found in the love and justice of God, than was there anything in you (as a sinner in rebellion against him) that required God to love you or to take steps to save you? Does your answer to this question help you to appreciate the character of God’s love for you as a person who did not at all deserve that love? How does that realization make you feel in your relationship to God?
- Do you think that Christ’s sufferings were enough to pay for your sins? Are you willing to rely upon his work to pay for all your sins or do you sometimes feel the need to do something yourself to pay for them? Do you think he is a sufficient Savior, worthy of all trust? Will you now and always rely upon him with your whole heart for complete salvation?

- If Christ bore all the guilt for our sins, all the wrath of God against sin, and all the penalty of the death that we deserve, then will God ever turn His wrath against you as a believer (see Romans 8:31-39)? Can any of the hardships or the suffering that you experience in life be due to the wrath of God against you? If not, then why as Christians do we experience difficulties against sufferings in this life (see Romans 8:28 and Heb. 12:3-11)?

b. Introductory Essay of “The Death of Death in the Death of Christ”, by J.I. Packer

Review and Application

- What portion of this article provoked you the most? How?
- What portion of this article inspired you the most? How?
- Do you have any questions about any particular point that the author makes?
- On page 5, the author says, “*Calvinism is in itself essentially expository, pastoral, and constructive... Calvinism negates these negations in order to assert the positive content of the gospel, for the positive purpose of strengthening faith and building up the church.*” What does he mean?
- What is the “one point” being made by reformed soteriology that the author refers to on page 6? Why does he summarize the five points with this one point?
- From this essay, “*How does a clear understanding of the gospel effect our view God and ministry?*” How does it affect our view of salvation?
- What did Christ accomplish on the Cross? What makes you confident he accomplished your salvation?
- How does knowing the biblical gospel give you confidence to preach the gospel to yourself? To others? (see page 22)
- What effect does this have on your desire to evangelize and your confidence in evangelism?

3. Scripture Memory Verse

Romans 3:23-26 ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.



4. Exercise

Ask each of the men to rate their present experience in quiet times (briefly). Are they regular, affectionate, and characterized by experiences of God's presence? How can material like that covered today bring change where needed?

5. Assignment for Next Time

Please listen to the sermon messages, "The Main Thing – Part 1" and "The Main Thing – Part 2", by C.J. Mahaney from New Attitude 2001. Please also read "The Gospel: An Evangelical Celebration". Next meeting is _____.