

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

Reading Romans 3:21-26

- 249, *There is a Redeemer*
- *O the Love of my Redeemer*
- 262, *I will sing of my Redeemer*
- *My worth is not in what I own*

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

Message in the Word -

The meaning and blessings of Salvation! #2

Propitiating God's wrath at sin, by removing the offense

Romans 3:21-26

Sending prayer

Mar 25, Hartstone work day

Good Friday Service at GBF with UBC here

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

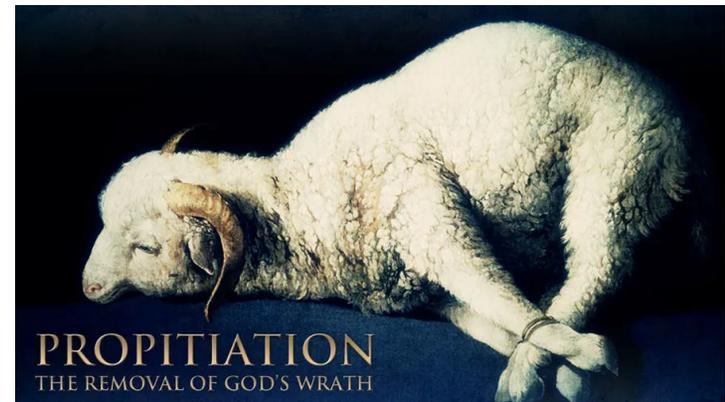
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PROPITIATION
THE REMOVAL OF GOD'S WRATH

- Teaching -

Eric Peterman

The meaning and blessings of Salvation! #2

Propitiating God's wrath at sin, by removing the offense

Romans 3:21-26

- March 19th, 2023 -

The meaning and blessings of Salvation! #2

Propitiating God's wrath at sin, by removing the offense

Romans 3:21-26

Anyone who's had a sibling, or has when they were a child, interacted on a school playground with other children, has either done this, or had it done to them: Kid A hurts Kid B, the one they're playing with, either physically, or emotionally with nasty and forbidden language. As the hurt and offended child cries, the offender in a desperate attempt to satisfy and calm the offended for the foul deed, offers their own arm, "Don't tell Mom/Dad! Here, you can hit me instead!"

*The main point is that the indignation and anger of the offended child is spent so that the offender doesn't have to face the Big Judge (Mom or Dad). In a small, sad and imperfect way, this vividly captures something of our topic today, which is that Jesus the innocent, stepped in and took the hit due us. As our substitute, Jesus' vicarious, atoning death on the cross, in His own blood shed, **propitiated**, or satisfied and calmed the just wrath of our rightly offended God. In doing this, Jesus also in His body **expiated**, or bore away from us, the cause of of God's offense – even our sins. As a result there is simply nothing to tell Dad! It's as if no offensive wrong had taken place at all!*

What is Propitiation? Propitiation is the biblical doctrine embodying the concept that the death of Christ fully satisfied the demands of a righteous God in respect to judgment upon the sinner. Thus God's wrath and indignation at our wrongdoing is pacified.

In pagan cultures *propitiating* a god meant a worshiper doing what was necessary to placate a vindictive, arbitrary, capricious god or deity. Thus Molech, for instance, was propitiated when the Canaanites sacrificed their children to him. (Chemosh by the Moabites).

But the God of the Bible, the true God, is not to be seen in these terms. He is holy, without sin, and neither arbitrary nor capricious. His wrath in the OT is spoken of some 580 times! Leon Morris: "Where there is sin, the OT teaches, that there is wrath; but this does not mean that all men are to be consumed, for that wrath is the wrath of a loving father Who yearns for His children to come to Him." The OT concept of propitiation elevates it above the crude pagan idea of placating an unreasonable deity and introduces a high concept of divine righteousness which is satisfied by a propitiation from a loving God who desires to provide a proper basis by which the sinner can come to Himself. The OT provides a broad platform upon which the NT concept can be understood.

The NT continues and builds on the OT with the concept of the Holy God necessarily bearing wrath towards sinners that trample on holiness.

A few references dealing with the anger and wrath of God are Romans 2:5; 3:5 ; 4:15 ; 5:9 ; Ephesians 2:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2:16 ; 5:9 ; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, and Hebrews 12:29. In addition to this, the NT abounds with warnings of divine judgment upon sinners who do not avail themselves of the mercy of God.

People are in deep, deep trouble with God!

But God is not simply holy. He is also loving and merciful. So while He cannot overlook sin forever, He also is willing and able and has provided a satisfaction for the venting of His wrath. His wrath is, amazingly and mercifully diverted from us, by God Himself, onto Jesus as the one who satisfies and completely douses its fury, and bears its cause, our sins away from us! If God's wrath is like a dragon's consuming fire, Jesus' death on the cross in our place is God's own perfect shield for those hiding in its shadow and His blood the fireman's stream of water that douses the flame and calms its heat to nothing.

Our text today demonstrates how this works: Romans 3:21-26

1 John 2:2 & 1 John 4:10 capture the love and justice of God! His wrath and punishment at sin cannot just be bought off by our trying to be good! A true satisfaction must be made, otherwise God is not just!

And **1 John 1:9** tells us that the propitiation of Christ's death provides us the daily and moment by moment joy and peace that are free to us because of the extravagant expense of Christ for us. We who are in Christ by faith in Him and what He has done on our behalf, have the privilege and cure of going to God and simply confessing!

So we dare to come boldly before the eternal throne of God's Grace resting on the merits of the satisfaction of Christ on our behalf. The fierce anger of God is gone and here there is joy and rest and peace and love.