



Mike King-Minister

BIBLE TALK

Question: What is "atonement" and how does it relate to the Christian today?

Answer: "Atonement" is the bringing of two who have been enemies into a relationship of peace and friendship. The word literally means "at-one-ment." It is an Old Testament word meaning "reconciliation." The New Testament tells us that we can rejoice for God has reconciled us through Christ (Rom. 5:11).

Sin separates and alienates man from God (Isa. 59:2), necessitating a means of bridging the relationship. In the Old Testament, the offering of an animal and the shedding of its blood were required to "satisfy" God, even though it was only temporary (Heb. 9:12-14; Lev. 16:15-22). A scapegoat (typical of Jesus) was selected and bore "*upon him all their sins into a solitary land*" (Lev. 16:15,21-22). This had to be done yearly due to the inadequacy of the blood of animals (Heb. 9:13). We know without the shedding of blood, no sins could be forgiven (Heb. 9:22), and that animal blood was inadequate (Heb. 9:13), a superior blood sacrifice was found in Jesus to forgive, and not just temporarily appease God by means of atonement (Heb. 10:10-14).

"The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23), but God chose one "*who knew no sin, he made to be sin on our behalf*" (2 Cor. 5:21). God being just, hates sin and must condemn it (Amos 5:15), yet, "God is love" (I Jn. 4:8). God expressed His hatred for sin and His love for man by giving Jesus (Jn. 3:16). Jesus atoned for the sins of the world (Rom. 5:6-11), to be "redeemed" or "brought back" by His blood (I Pet. 1:18). He died in our place, satisfying God's disdain for sin (I Jn. 2:2) and became our Savior (Heb. 5:9). The lamb was offered yearly, but Christ once, making cleansing available to all mankind (Heb. 9:12-14, 25; 2:2-10).

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