

Atonement

The dictionary says that Atonement is, “the reconciliation of God ... through Jesus Christ”

John Stott, said, , “...the meaning of the atonement is not to be found in our penitence evoked by the sight of Calvary, but rather in what God did when in Christ on the cross he took our place and bore our sin.”

Sacrifices

Hebrews 8:4-5 a copy and shadow of what is in heaven.

Four Images

1. Christ as a sacrifice for sin paints the picture of the Temple precinct where the sacrifices were a type of Christ's crucifixion **Hebrews 10:1** The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves.
2. Christ ransoming us depicts the market place as, for example, the story of Hosea buying back his wife, Gomer, from the slave auction block **Hosea 3:2** So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver
3. Christ our justification recalls the court room because justice is a legal term and Christ in His death paid the penalty for our sin **Romans 5:9** Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!
4. And now *reconciliation* adopts us into God's family. **Galatians 4:5** to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

What We Do Know

1. Sin brings death. “The wages of sin is (always) death.” (**Romans 5:23**)
2. Jesus was God incarnate. “existing in the form of God ... he had come as a man ... to the point of death—even to death on a cross.” (**Philippians 2:6-8**)
3. Jesus volunteered freely to go to Calvary. “This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.” (**John 10:17-18**)
4. Jesus was sinless. “...tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)
5. Jesus' death was substitutionary “God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (**Romans 5:8**)
6. Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. “According to the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” (**Hebrews 9:22**)
7. The Provisions of Calvary are available only through repentance. “Therefore, having

overlooked the times of ignorance, God now commands all people everywhere to repent.” (**Acts 17:30**)

Threefold Reason for Jesus' Crucifixion

1. Because He loved us. Calvary shows how much God loved us because He was willing to die for us. He inspires us, in turn, to love on a higher level. We were apathetic when it came to His love for us. Calvary offers us a new life in Christ (John 3:16). Love was not made for us but we were created for His love.
 - **1 John 4:16** And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love; and he that dwells in love dwells in God, and God in him.
2. Because we were sinners. Jesus had to die if we were to be forgiven because sin against God is punishable only by death. He died in our place because we were, indeed, guilty. Calvary satisfies God's justice.
 - **Isaiah 53:10**. “After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.”
 - **Romans 6:6** For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.
3. Because Satan needed to be defeated. Jesus' death had something to do with some unseen, spiritual, war being fought between God and Satan.
 - **Colossians 2:15** And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Five Things Jesus Did

1. Jesus died to deal finally and decisively with sin.
 - a) **1 Peter 2:22-24**. “Jesus, who had never committed sin nor could anyone ever catch Him in a lie or being deceptive, while being verbally abused, mocked and falsely accused, never lashed out in kind. He suffered their threats in silence, unjustly delivered over to the authorities. He, Himself, carried our sins in His body upon the Cross in order that by removing our sins, we might live right in relationship with God.”
 - b) **Hebrews 9:28**. “Christ Jesus (and He did this only once ever) offered Himself in His death to God to provide for the removal of our sins. He will return for us, not to die again but, to rescue from this present world those of us who have been faithfully looking for Him. ”
2. Jesus freed us from a bondage to sinning
 - a) **Matthew 20:28** & **Mark 10:45** “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life to free many, who accept it, from slavery to their sins.”
 - b) **1 Timothy 2:5-6** “For there is only one God, even one peacemaker between God and us, the man, Christ Jesus. Who gave Himself (to death) in our place at the time appointed by His Father to free us from slavery to our sinning.”

- c) **Revelation 5:9** “And they sang a song never before sung: “You are declared worthy to take the scroll and break its seals, because ... with your blood you bought a people for yourself from every ancestral line and language and nation and race.”
- 3. Jesus took our place: (Our substitute)
 - a) **Isaiah 53:4-6** “Surely he endured the wounds of our sin and carried a heavy load of our pain (mental and physical), yet we concluded God struck Him down for His own sins because God was punishing him. But not so! He was being wounded because of our rebellion, he was crushed, shattered, in pain spiritually, emotionally, physically, from the waywardness for which we were liable; His discipline brought us peace with God, and from the stripes, the whipping He bore, healing for our souls and bodies. Yes, we all, like sheep, all of us, strayed from the fold, each of us went our own way; and the Lord punished Him.”
 - b) **Romans 5:18-19** “Indeed, therefore, as by one act of disobedience (Adam’s) the sentence of death was passed on all of us, likewise, through the obedience of one man, Jesus, all of us can live aright before God. Let me explain it this way: because of one man’s unwillingness to listen (regarding the forbidden fruit) many were declared liable (sinners), and likewise through one man’s obedience (in His sinlessness and innocence going to the Cross), many are declared in right standing with God.”
 - c) **2 Corinthians 5:14** “For the love of Christ has us in its grip; we concluded this, that He died for all, in their place.”
 - d) **Romans 5:7-8** “You will seldom if ever hear of a just man taking the penalty for someone criminally liable. For a good person’s cause, perhaps, someone might consider risking their life. But God proved His love for us because while we were still sinners, Christ died in our place.”
 - e) **1 John 2:1-2** “My dear children, I write these things to you to discourage you from sinning; but, on the outside chance you might displease God, doing your own thing and ignoring His wise counsel, don’t lose heart. That’s why He sent Jesus who always knows what is right, who comes from the Father to do His bidding. Concerning our sins, He went to Calvary for this very reason, to deal with everyone’s sins.”
- 4. Jesus satisfied God’s Justice.
 - a) **Romans 8:1** “Therefore, there is now no one judged worthy of punishment for those in Christ Jesus.”
 - b) **Romans 5:9** “Therefore much more now rather being declared just by His death on the Cross, we will be spared His anger, which is coming.”
- 5. Jesus restores our relationship with God
 - a) **Romans 5:10-11** “If, to explain, while we were enemies of God, we were restored to friendship and relationship—this through the death of His Son—so much the more, we can conclude that now having been restored to friendship, our being rescued from being enslaved to sin, is assured through His resurrection from the dead.”

- b) **2 Corinthians 5:19** “God was in the person of Christ Jesus (He is God) restoring our relationship with Him, not keeping the record anymore of our sin (rebellion or waywardness).
- c) **Colossians 1:20** “God, through Jesus, restores all things, both on earth and in heaven (as He made them before Adam and Eve disobeyed). Said another way: He made peace through the blood of His Cross (Jesus’ death on the Cross).”

What All Christians Believe

1. Jesus was born of a virgin —Mary—
 - **Luke 1:34** “I know not a man” [The reference to a ‘virgin’ in
 - **Isaiah 7:14** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. and therefore,
2. Jesus is God —God’s Son — [Jesus is actually God come in the flesh or as a human.
 - **John 3:16**;
 - **Luke 1:23** “the Son of the Highest.” The Christian faith maintains that Mary carried Jesus to term before she was married to Joseph which made Jesus, God’s Son] and therefore,
3. Jesus is, therefore, a member of the Trinity—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit—
 - **Ephesians 4:4-6** Paul spoke of “one Spirit..one Lord.. one God and Father of all.”
 - **1 Corinthians 12:4-6** “same Spirit..same Lord..same God.” Also: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
 - **2 Corinthians 13:14**] and therefore
4. When He died on Calvary, God died for our sins—He died on the Cross, that we might live forever with Him in heaven — [It is important to note that it was God, in the person of Christ, that died there. A mere human could not satisfy the punishment for the sin of the whole world] and therefore,
 - **Hebrews 2:17** For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.
 - **Hebrews 1:3** The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.
5. The Bible IS God’s Word. -The message of the Bible is all about the Cross and our Lord’s resurrection.
 - **2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is God-breathed

Four Doctrines All Christians Believe

1. Jesus is the only Savior of sinners,
 - **Acts 4:12** “There is salvation in none other nor is there another named being, anywhere introduced to humanity, in whom is the necessary means to save us.”

2. We cannot find a way back to God without Him,
 - **Isaiah 53:6** “We are stray sheep, having lost our way”
 - **John 6:44** “No one is able to come to me,” Jesus affirmed, “unless the Father goes and gets them”
3. The death of Jesus Christ alone made reconciliation with God possible.
 - **Romans 5:12** “If while we were hostile toward God, He sought our friendship by such a great sacrifice, His Son, indeed, this friendship is forever”
4. His sacrifice, Jesus’ death, is the ultimate cause of our *justification*.
 - **Romans 3:25-26** “Jesus Christ was God’s appointed instrument of His mercy through His blood, His death ... that God might show Himself just and also justify those who trust in Jesus Christ. ”

The Covenant

“Father forgive them...” (Luke 23:34). Jesus said before He died.

Moses’ interceding for Israel when they rebelled and Moses asked God to forgive.

Number 14:20 The Lord replied, “I have forgiven them, as you asked. **21** Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, **22** not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times— **23** not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.

Leviticus 26:25 And I will bring the sword on you to avenge the breaking of the covenant.

Joshua 24:21 And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the LORD.

Deuteronomy 27 twelve times the people said “Amen” to the commandments vowing to stay true to the Covenant.

Deuteronomy 28 :1-14 are the blessing of keeping covenant, but verses 15 -57 reiterate the curses.

Deuteronomy 29:1 “These *are* the words of the covenant, which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, beside the covenant which he made with them in Horeb.”

Exodus 19:8 “And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.”

God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? Numbers 23:19

Because He is a holy **God honors covenant**.

- **Matthew 5:17** Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law [to render vain, toss aside, .abrogate, deprive it of its force]...I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill [it—avenged?]

The **New Covenant**

- **Jeremiah 31:33-34 & Ezekiel 36:26** This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ... A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you
- **Hebrews 9:15-18** Therefore, he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called might receive the promise of the eternal inheritance, because a death has taken place for redemption from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.
- **Hebrews 10:16** This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.

The language of Scripture describing Calvary is **judicial** because it is **covenantal**.

Divine Justice

Romans 3:25 where Paul concludes that God did what He did "so as to be just." (NIV) Such words describe the justice of God.

The language that describes
Calvary is in many places
judicial because it was
covenantal.

...no other family of theories
takes God to be the object of

the work of Christ on the cross.
- Vidu

Romans 5:10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

The Marrow of Theology

Romans 3:25 God's purpose was to give Jesus as our Mercy Seat, the Place and means of Atonement [a means of propitiation], which we believe He was when He shed His blood on Calvary demonstrating God's justice because up to this moment He didn't forgive but only overlooked sins that He tolerated.

- God **presented Christ**- Put His own Son on **public display**
 - ā not by accident or mistake but purposely and being determined before the world was created or Adam was formed. 1 Peter 1:19-20 But [we are redeemed] with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but **was manifest** in these last times for you,
 - ā But how was Calvary a **manifestation** of God's justice? Four reasons:
 - ā Jesus' death had to be on public display. "He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them **publicly**; he triumphed over them in him." (Colossians 2:15)
 - ā Prof. Godet added, "From His cross there rose the most perfect homage rendered to the righteousness of God. How could His death for our salvation, for the atonement of the world, not be public!? "not willing that any should perish, but that **all should come** to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)
 - ā The Jewish law is now replaced by a new life in Christ. This needs to be heralded as a **public proclamation** in the town square. Matthew 9:37 The harvest indeed is plenteous, but the laborers are few.
 - ā "For four thousand years," Godet reminds us, "the spectacle presented by mankind to the whole moral universe was, so to speak, a continual scandal. [Some think the Bible too raw.] With the exception of some great examples of judgment, divine righteousness seemed to be asleep....." Our verse confesses, "God passed over the sins " But now, Hear ye! Hear ye!! He that hath

an ear , let him hear! “Therefore, having overlooked the times of ignorance, God **now commands all people everywhere** to repent.” (Acts 17:30). We are God’s Crier in the town square of our world.

- as a **sacrifice of atonement**, the word “sacrifice” is not written. Modern scholarship says it is more at “the means by which God is appeased (propitiated) or pleased in His Son.”
 - ā This **disconnects** this verse from the symbolism of the Mercy-Seat since Paul is speaking to Greeks.
 - ā God set Jesus as a propitiation. The breaking of the Old Covenant is now avenged, The Law is **fulfilled**.
 - ā “For Christ is the **end** of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” (Romans 10:4) “The law, then, was our guardian **until** Christ, so that we could be justified by faith.” (Galatians 3:24)
- through **the shedding of his blood** through His death of the Cross
- to be received **by faith**. Is there not a limit to our ability to figure out God’s council in sending Jesus to die.
 - ā How far can our logic or reasoning reach into the Heart of God? How much of our relationship with Him is based on a trust in His faithfulness! Habakkuk. 2:4 [NLT] “Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked. But the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God
 - Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.
 - Our worldview is based on this touchstone [a standard or criterion by which something is judged or recognized] is Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Romans 10:13-15 For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

□

- to **demonstrate** and why was Jesus sent to Calvary? To show, prove If Paul meant by “demonstration” a “compensation,” he should have written “a satisfaction of His (God’s) justice.” God’s justice, *was, indeed,* retributive. Jesus’ death was a punishment for sin. But “the demonstration of His justice” is a **manifestation** of Divine Justice.

- When God manifests, He **reveals**. "It is a revelation" Matthew 16:17 "You are blessed, Simon; no person shared this insight with you, My Father in Heaven told you this" [Matthew 27:54]
- his **righteousness**, His justice: just. As regards the Savior's death.
- because in his **forbearance** - not forgiven but disregarded, *overlooked*, ignored.
 - Paul asked us to forbear in love Ephesians 4:2 [The secret to Christian unity for now] With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love
- he had left the sins committed **beforehand** - previous to Calvary

"It Is Finished"

When Jesus cried, "It is finished!" What was finished? What did He mean by these words just before He expired on the cross?

- Paid in full: "(Financial) receipts are often introduced by this phrase," according to Moulton & Milligan's Vocabulary of the Greek New Testament. In general the word means: to fulfill obligations, to pay."
 - Charles Swindoll explained: "It was a Greek expression most everyone present would have understood. It was an accounting term. Archaeologists have found papyrus tax receipts with "Tetelesthai" written across them, meaning "paid in full." With Jesus' last breath on the cross, He declared the debt of sin cancelled, completely satisfied. Nothing else required. Not good deeds. Not generous donations. Not penance or confession or baptism or...or...or...nothing. The penalty for sin is death, and we were all born hopelessly in debt. He paid our debt in full by giving His life so that we might live forever."
- The simplest meaning of "finished" in the form He spoke it on the Cross is "All is fulfilled, All is accomplished!"

Jesus finished the Work **FINALLY**. "The fulness of the time was come." (Galatians 4:4)

- Jesus finished the work **COMPLETELY** "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." (Luke 24:26-27)
- Jesus finished the work once **FOR ALL TIME**. "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (Hebrews 10:10)