

October 5 2014

*Learning To Please GOD - Lesson #5*

ATONEMENT BY BLOOD

By Charles Box

Atonement is the effect of Jesus' suffering and death in redeeming mankind and bringing about the reconciliation of man to God. Man, the sinner, could not save himself. God, seeing man's helpless state provided atonement through Jesus. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) John wrote of atonement through Jesus in 1 John 4:10 when he said, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

*The theme of the Bible is salvation through Jesus.* Man was created for fellowship with God. Before sin came, Adam and Eve enjoyed God's fellowship. But, after they sinned they hid themselves. "And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden." (Genesis 3:8) The best of life comes when men walk with God. God does not force His fellowship upon mankind. He has always given man the choice of life or death. "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." (Deuteronomy 30:19) The Lord has shown His love for us by giving Himself for our sins. Jesus died on the cross to make atonement possible.

*The gospel is the good news of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.* "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:1-4) Man has a sin problem. "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." (Ecclesiastes 7:20) Man is basically sinful or un-god-like. God is holy and is repulsed by sin. God is holy and to be revered because He sent redemption to His people. "He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name." (Psalms 111:9) Mankind must learn that deliverance from sins comes only through Jesus. Paul knew the only answer to man's sin problem was Jesus. "O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God -- through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin." (Romans 7:24-25)

***The gospel is the great news that Jesus suffered sin's penalty in man's place.*** Jesus took my place and satisfied God's wrath in His death on the cross. "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness -- by whose stripes you were healed." (1 Peter 2:24) Christ suffered in the place of all sinners. God had no choice but to punish man's sin. But the death of Jesus satisfied the penalty for sin. His death was a substitute sacrifice for us. Isaiah said: (1) "He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows." (2) "He was stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted." (Isaiah 53:4) (3) "He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities." (4) "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him." (5) "By His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) (6) "The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6) (7) God saw the labor of His soul and was satisfied. (Isaiah 53:11) The gospel is the good news that God can now forgive sins because Jesus suffered sin's penalty in man's place. "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit." (1 Peter 3:18)

Paul preached, "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins." (Acts 13:38) Will you accept God's wonderful good news that Jesus died for your sins? Will you be baptized into Christ to put on Christ so that your sins can be forgiven by His

blood? "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Galatians 3:26-27) Believers contact Christ's saving blood by being baptized into His death. Those who become children of God have reason to rejoice. (Acts 8:39) Rejoicing follows man's response to God's good news of forgiveness by the death of Jesus.

***True or False:***

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ died for our sins. (Romans 5:8)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ God makes our choices for us in daily life. (Deuteronomy 30:19)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ We are delivered from sin through Jesus Christ. (Romans 7:24-25)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus "borne our griefs and carried our sorrows." (Isaiah 53:4)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Children of God have reason to rejoice. (Acts 8:39)

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