

LESSON 6



JESUS IS OUR ATONEMENT

Scripture Texts: *Ezekiel 18:4; Leviticus 17:11; Matthew 26:26-28; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13; Acts 4:12*

God as Supreme Deity demands holiness. He never demands anything but that He supplies all things needed to make it possible. To disobey this law of holiness brings death to body and soul. Jesus died in our place to save us from eternal death and give us eternal life.

In the last lesson we studied about the priesthood of Christ. Today we look deeper into the sacrifice that He offered as High Priest. What did it accomplish? It is impossible to cover so vast a subject in one lesson, but let us look at some of the higher points.

MEMORY VERSE: *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.* *1 Peter 3:18*

Atonement Is Needed

Ezekiel 18:4 All souls are mine, says the Lord God. This statement was made truthfully by God. God is the Supreme Deity, and man is His creation. For these reasons He has complete authority over man. He rightly sets the standard for man. God's character is holiness, and He requires holiness in man. He required obedience of Adam. He said to Abraham, **Walk before me, and be thou perfect**; and to us, **Be ye holy; for I am holy** (Genesis 17:1; 1 Peter 1:16). Failure to reach God's standards brings a penalty. **The soul that sinneth, it shall die**. Adam was the first to receive this law—... **for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die** (Genesis 2:17). This is a changeless law reaching from beginning to end—**The wages of sin is death** (Romans 6:23). The final and eternal sentence to sinners is **the second death** (Revelation 20:14-15). Since **all have sinned**, this is a universal disobedience (Romans 3:23). Unless a remedy can be found all will be lost.

Leviticus 17:11 It is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. The life is in the blood. Life must pay for sin. **Without shedding of blood is no remission** (Hebrews 9:22). Blood is sacred. Under the law God accepted the blood of animals sacrificed by priests on the altar as a temporary atonement for sins. The shedding of that blood was a type of the later shedding of Christ's blood on the Cross as the perfect atonement (Hebrews 9:14). Here is the remedy by which all may be saved from the sins that damn the souls of mankind.

Complete Atonement

Matthew 26:26-28 For this is my blood of the new testament. Jesus and His disciples had partaken of the Passover. Although the disciples themselves did not know it, the old spiritual dispensation was being closed out and a new one was coming into reality. Jesus did not destroy the old form; He just fulfilled it. He took away the shadow and left the real thing. Under the old covenant animal blood had to be sacrificed. To bring in this new covenant the blood of the Son of God was the sacrifice for man's sins. A new plan would now be in force that would bring complete atonement. **This is my blood . . . shed for many . . . not for Himself, for He had no sin**. He gave it for others **for the remission of their sins**. This new covenant marks the departure of man from his imperfect, sinful state

into that spiritual perfection which God has made possible for him in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. Moses led the children of Israel out of the bondage of Pharaoh; Jesus leads the whole world out of the bondage of Satan.

The bread and wine are significant not only because they represent the body and blood of Christ but because bread contains every element found in the human body, and the wine represents the blood poured out which sealed the covenant for man's redemption. This same covenant is extended to us, but we must accept it. With our finite minds we cannot understand it. We cannot understand how God can save us or why He should care to save us. But there stands the covenant, sealed by the blood of Jesus (1 John 1:7).

Jesus Became a Cure

Second Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us. Jesus had to stoop way down to obtain our freedom from eternal death. All the way from Heaven to Earth. All the way from holiness to sin. He, **the just**, died for us, **the unjust, that he might bring us to God** (1 Peter 3:18).

Galatians 3:13 Christ was **made a curse for us**. The cross or **tree** was cursed (Deuteronomy 21:22,23). It was the curse for sin. Jesus voluntarily hung on the tree and so became a cursed thing. All are placed under the curse of sin. It was in place of us, to bear our curse, that He hung there. In taking our sins upon Himself He became **sin for us**.

The Only Atonement

Acts 4:12 There is none other name than Jesus **whereby we must be saved**. There is no use in looking to any organization or form or sacrifice or suffering or good works or any other thing to save us. Jesus died to give us life. In Him, and Him alone, our sins are paid for. To receive the benefit we must identify with Him. We must repent of sin, take up our cross, and die to self and sin. Thus we are **made conformable unto his death** (Philippians 3:10). As we accept Him as our sacrifice He will give us His life. Was it enough for an Israelite to know that a lamb had been slain? No, there was more. He must have the blood applied and do all God's commandments.

JUST A THOUGHT

It is impossible to have faith over disobedience.