

Understanding Propitiation

2006041

Topic # 996 – propitiation

Introduction:

- A. A unique perspective in studying our salvation is to consider that Satan through evil robbed God.
 1. Most of the time we focus on:
 - a) Salvation matters in us.
 - b) Our need for forgiveness
 - c) Our losses because of sin and guilt.
 - d) What we should do for God.
 2. Think about it: God suffered extreme justice because Satan deceived mankind.
- B. All people should be God's possession. We rightfully belong to God. He created us.
- C. Today we will discuss the link between trusting the certainty of our salvation with God's reaction to the injustice put on Him by Satan.
- D. Understanding God's reaction to Satan's theft begins by understanding our feelings of anger and sense of injustice when we experience a theft or violence against us.
 1. 9/11/01. Remember your reaction to the events of that day?
 2. Terrorists ignored us. Declared that we & the people they killed as unimportant & insignificant.
 - a) We were exploited that day.
 - b) We were treated unjustly & it angers us.
 - c) The act against us produces intense feelings of anger.
- E. Think of that for the next few moments of our lesson, please.

I. The situation.

- A. Genesis 1-2. God brings physical life into existence.
- B. The crowning jewel of his creation is human life.
 1. Gen. 1:31 – God **liked** everything He made.
 2. Gen. 2:7-8; 15-25 – God had a special relationship with mankind.
 - a) Visited them in the garden.
 - b) Was a close, intimate, personal relationship.
 - c) Mankind communicated with Him w/o shame, fear, or guilt.
 3. From the beginning, God valued human life. He had a special and cherished relationship with us.
- C. Gen. 3:1-10 – Evil **robs** God of what was exclusively His.
 1. Satan destroyed God's relationship with His creation: us!
 2. Satan diverted the course of mankind on an alternate mission – away from its original purpose which was to serve & glorify God.
- D. What was God's reaction to what evil did?
 1. He wants us back! *God passionately wants what is His!*
 2. His desire to deliver humans from destruction is intense! It matters more than we can comprehend!
 3. I Peter 1:10-12

- E. The actions of Satan placed God in conflict.
 - 1. God found His righteous **anger** in conflict with His **love**.
 - 2. Anger: wished to impose the just consequences that come with doing evil.
 - 3. But still had a deep, intense, and passionate love for people.
 - a) Love moved God to do something to deliver man from the slavery of sin.
 - b) Only God could rescue us. Only God can redeem us.
 - 4. While God's love was motivating Him, His sense of justice needed to be satisfied.
 - a) Just anger is a part of divine nature.
 - b) God needed a way to satisfy divine justice without destroying people.
- F. And, there needed to be a way for God to forgive human sin and extend compassion.

II. God's purpose in sending Jesus.

- A. John 3:16-18
 - 1. God's purpose in sending Jesus was to express His **love** for those in sin.
 - 2. In Jesus, God's objective was not condemnation. Mankind already condemned.
- B. 2 Pet. 3:9 – emphasizes the same truth...
 - 1. God is delaying His total victory over evil – to give mankind the opportunity to **repent**.
 - 2. God does not desire the destruction of any human being.
- C. 1 John 2:2 – Jesus is the **propitiation** for our sins...the sins of the whole world.
 - 1. Jesus was sent to appease God's anger while at the same time making it possible for man to be justified.
 - 2. God allowed a part of Himself to endure the penalty that belonged to evil – paying the price for *our* sins!
- D. Focus on 2:2 – *propitiation*. It is an interesting and strange word.
 - 1. The word means to "**render favorable**."
 - a) **Jason Jackson, Christian Courier, quote:**
 - 3. In the NT, propitiation is a word that is employed in the context of **salvation**.
 - 4. Short definition of propitiation would be: *an offering that turns away wrath*.
 - 5. **Jesus** is the propitiation that turns away God's wrath.
 - 6. Result of propitiation is man's reconciliation to God.
- E. Propitiation is something that **God** initiates.
 - 1. Rom. 5:6-8 – God already looks upon us w/loving favor – even while in sin.
 - 2. God is the one who provided the sacrifice – Jesus!
- F. In every case where propitiation is mentioned – it is in reference to our sins. The alienation that results is from our rebellion – not a reluctant God!
- G. Jesus is our propitiation & He is the sacrifice that willingly gave Himself!
 - 1. His death is the means by which we may be forgiven!
 - 2. Heb. 2:9-11 – His sacrifice was enough to avert the wrath of God.
 - 3. 2 Cor. 5:20-21 – think of what is expressed here. The power of this verse!

III. What does this have to do with our assurance?

- A. 1 John 2:1-2 – verses of great comfort!
 - 1. Written to Christians who wish to live a holy life, but still occasionally give into sin.
 - 2. When a believer commits a sin, he still remains a **child** of God.
 - 3. While the relationship may be disrupted because of sin, the Father/child relationship continues...unless the child refuses to **acknowledge** his sin.
- B. 2:1 - When we sin, and seek God's forgiveness, Jesus will speak in our **defense**.
 - 1. Jesus is our helper. He is our defender.
 - 2. Heb. 2:11 – He is our **brother** and is acquainted with our shortcomings. He is the righteous one who wants to help!
- C. Jesus has met God's demands, has defeated Satan, and silences His accusations!
- D. Heb. 2:14-18 – when we come to God in prayer, asking for forgiveness, it is ours!
 - 1. God is on our side! He wants our salvation...not our damnation!
 - 2. For far too long, we've viewed God as someone who is always ready to punish and makes salvation almost impossible!
 - 3. Could this be an overreaction to combating false teaching on impossibility of apostasy?
- E. 2 Tim. 1:12 – we can live with just as much confidence & assurance as Paul did!
- F. Our salvation is not about **us!** We're saved! It is all about **God!**
- G. We exist to glorify God! Eph. 1:6, 12, 14.

Conclusion:

- A. Are you living with this assurance? Christians...are you living for God? Are you serving Him to the best of your ability? Are you walking in the light?
- B. Are you outside of Christ & need this assurance? It can be yours today!
- C. INVITATION