

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 5- The Call to Holiness

42. Our Advocate and Propitiation- Part 7

WAOY Thursday 06/21/07; WOSM Tuesday 11/29/22

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse “journey” through the Epistle of **1 John**, and today I want to continue to look at what the Apostle John taught about “The Call to Holiness”. So, let’s read **1John 2: 1&2** again together:

1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world*.

Now on the last broadcast- we began to look at the word “propitiation” and today I want to examine a little further what it means for Jesus to be our propitiation.

Now as I mentioned on the last broadcast- the word that was translated into English as “propitiation” is the Greek word, *hilasmos* (e)cila/skomai), which has several meanings.

And as I mentioned on the last broadcast- only by understanding the sacrifices of the Old Testament- can we ever hope to comprehend the full meaning of how Jesus is our propitiation. If anything at all is clear from studying the Old Covenant sacrificial system, it is that God Himself provides the way for Man to be able to approach Him.

Ezekiel 18:4 lays the groundwork for why we need a propitiation- so let’s read that verse together:

Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die.

So, we can see that when we sin- we die. Now if that was the end

of the story- then none of us would ever have any hope of ever going to Heaven- because we *all* periodically sin. But God provided a way of escape for Man- even under the Old Covenant. You see, when someone sins- there has to be a death- that is God's just Wrath against all sin. Sin is so horrible to God; so, insulting to His Holiness and Righteousness- that death- the shedding of blood must follow after sin if sin is to be forgiven. Read with me **Hebrews 9:22:**

And according to the Law, *one may almost say*, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

So, we can see that God's just wrath against sin must be satisfied and his wrath against our sin is only satisfied with the shedding of blood. So, without the shedding of blood- there can be no remission of sin. Simply saying that you are sorry does not remit your sin- someone has to die; some blood has to be shed in order for God to forgive you.

Now some have been bold enough to say, "*Well just who does God think that he is that he can set in motion the principles whereby we may or may not be forgiven when we sin?*".

Well, bubba- God thinks that He is God. He thinks that He is the Creator and the Owner of everything that exists. And He thinks that He is more important than anything or anyone who lives. And He thinks that all souls who have the breath of life in them owe to God all of their love; all of their devotion; all of their loyalty; all of their happiness; all of their worship; and all of their obedience. God thinks that He has complete and total ownership rights over every living soul on earth and that He alone has the power and the authority and the right to establish all the rules and all the means by which we live and move and have our being.

God owns your breath; He owns your heartbeat; He owns your life and your future and the real question that should be asked is not Who does God think that He is- because Who God is has been firmly and incontrovertibly answered. No, the real question is found in **Romans 9:20-21:**

20 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it?

21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?

Now the Old Testament clearly teaches that God has made a way whereby the sinner does not have to die when he sins- but that another may die in the place of the sinner. Let's turn to **Leviticus 16** and see the plan that God made whereby another could die in the place of the sinner:

1 Now the Lord spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they had approached the presence of the Lord and died.

2 The Lord said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron that he shall not enter at any time into the holy place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, or he will die; for I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat.

3 "Aaron shall enter the holy place with this: with a bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

4 "He shall put on the holy linen tunic, and the linen undergarments shall be next to his body, and he shall be girded with the linen sash and attired with the linen turban (these are holy garments). Then he shall bathe his body in water and put them on.

5 "He shall take from the congregation of the sons of Israel two male goats for a sin offering and one ram for a burnt offering.

6 "Then Aaron shall offer the bull for the sin offering which is for himself, that he may make atonement for himself and for his household.

7 "He shall take the two goats and present them before the Lord at the doorway of the tent of meeting.

8 "Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats, one lot for the Lord and the other lot for the scapegoat.

9 "Then Aaron shall offer the goat on which the lot for the Lord fell, and make it a sin offering.

10 "But the goat on which the lot for the scapegoat fell shall be presented alive before the Lord, to make atonement upon it, to send it into the wilderness as the scapegoat.

11 "Then Aaron shall offer the bull of the sin offering which is for himself and make atonement for himself and for his household, and he shall slaughter the bull of the sin offering which is for himself.

12 "He shall take a firepan full of coals of fire from upon the altar before the Lord and two handfuls of finely ground sweet incense, and bring *it* inside the veil.

13 "He shall put the incense on the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on *the ark of* the testimony, otherwise he will die.

14 "Moreover, he shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle *it* with his finger on the mercy seat on the east *side*; also in front of the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.

15 "Then he shall slaughter the goat of the sin offering which is for the people, and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat.

16 "He shall make atonement for the holy place, because of the impurities of the sons of Israel and because of their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and thus he shall do for the tent of meeting which abides with them in the midst of their impurities.

17 "When he goes in to make atonement in the holy place, no one shall be in the tent of meeting until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself and for his household and for all the assembly of Israel.

18 "Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the Lord and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and of the blood of the goat and put it on the horns of the altar on all sides.

19 "With his finger he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it seven times and cleanse it, and from the impurities of the sons of Israel consecrate it.

20 "When he finishes atoning for the holy place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall offer the live goat.

21 "Then Aaron shall lay both of his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the sons of Israel and all their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and he shall lay them on the head of the goat and send *it* away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who *stands* in readiness.

22 "The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a solitary land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.

23 "Then Aaron shall come into the tent of meeting and take off the linen garments which he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there.

24 "He shall bathe his body with water in a holy place and put on his clothes, and come forth and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people and make atonement for himself and for the people.

25 "Then he shall offer up in smoke the fat of the sin offering on the altar.

26 "The one who released the goat as the scapegoat shall wash his clothes and bathe his body with water; then afterward he shall come into the camp.

27 "But the bull of the sin offering and the goat of the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, shall be taken outside the camp, and they shall burn their hides, their flesh, and their refuse in the fire.

28 "Then the one who burns them shall wash his clothes and bathe his body with water, then afterward he shall come into the camp.

29 "*This* shall be a permanent statute for you: in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall humble your souls and not do any work, whether the native, or the alien who sojourns among you;

30 for it is on this day that atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you; you will be clean from all your sins before the Lord.

31 "It is to be a sabbath of solemn rest for you, that you may humble your souls; it is a permanent statute.

32 "So the priest who is anointed and ordained to serve as priest in his father's place shall make atonement: he shall thus put on the linen garments, the holy garments,

33 and make atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tent of meeting and for the altar. He shall also make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly.

34 "Now you shall have this as a permanent statute, to make atonement for the sons of Israel for all their sins once every year." And just as the Lord had commanded Moses, *so* he did.

So even here deep inside the Old Covenant- we can see a shadow; a type of Jesus Christ- Who like the scapegoat could take our place and die for our sins so that we may go free. Oh, the riches of the Grace of God in that He Himself would be our Sacrifice and that He Himself would be our High Priest and our Advocate and our Propitiation!

Under that Old Covenant- the individual Israelite was commanded to bring an animal for sacrifice whenever he approached God; the family was to kill and consume an animal at the yearly observance of the

Passover; the nation was to be thus represented by the high priest annually on the Day of Atonement when the blood of one offering was sprinkled in the Temple.

It was this latter sacrificial ceremony that John was thinking about when he tells us that Jesus is our propitiation, and it was with this same understanding and word in mind that the writer of Hebrews wrote this in **Hebrews 9:1-15**

1 Now even the first *covenant* had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary.

2 For there was a tabernacle prepared, the outer one, in which *were* the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place.

3 Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies,

4 having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant;

5 and above it *were* the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

6 Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle performing the divine worship,

7 but into the second, only the high priest *enters* once a year, not without *taking* blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance.

8 The Holy Spirit *is* signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing,

9 which *is* a symbol for the present time. Accordingly, both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience,

10 since they *relate* only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.

11 But when Christ appeared *as* a high priest of the good things to come, *He entered* through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;

12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh,

14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were *committed* under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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