



MISSION CITY

BIBLE CHURCH

DATE: Sunday, March 26, 2023

TITLE: The Atonement: Substitution

SERIES: Nothing But The Blood: How The Atonement Changes Everything

PASSAGE: Isaiah 53:4-6

INTRO:

The atonement is the work of Christ in his _____ and _____ to earn our salvation.

BIG IDEA: Jesus died as our substitute.

3 NON-NEGOTIABLES OF SUBSTITUTION:

1. Jesus took the full _____ for all our sins and all our sin's _____
(Isaiah 53:4-6)

cf., The Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16)

cf., Colossians 2:13-14

2. God's plan was for Jesus to _____ as our substitute (Isaiah 53:4-6; cf., 53:10)

PENAL:
SUBSTITUTIONARY:
ATONEMENT:

cf., 2 Corinthians 5:21

cf., Hebrews 9:22

3. His _____ secures our _____ (Isaiah 53:5-6)

cf., 1 Peter 2:24-25



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Substitution
 - a. Have you ever played a sport or game where your coach called you off and put someone else in the game as a substitute? How did you feel about that?
 - b. Have you ever had to use a different ingredient in cooking as a substitute because you did not have the proper ingredient? Did it taste ok?
 - c. Have you ever had a substitute teacher? Did you treat them with respect?
2. The substitutes in question 1 were all replacing someone or something. Jesus is our substitute. He replaces us, representing us as he bore our sin penalty. Jesus took the full punishment for all our sins and all its effects. How does that make you want to respond to him?
3. Read Isaiah 53:4-6, 12, John 1:29, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 3:13-14, Hebrews 9:28, and 1 Peter 2:24-25.
 - a. What do you learn about who Jesus is and what he has done for you in these verses?
 - b. How often do you think about or meditate on these truths?
 - c. How different would your life be if you thought about and meditated on these truths more often?
4. Read Isaiah 53:6, 10, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 5:8.
 - a. What do you notice about God's plans in these verses?
 - b. Would you agree that the cross has always been God's "Plan A"?
 - c. True or False: The cross is where God's justice against sin meets God's love for the sinner.

5. What we have been reviewing is the doctrine of Penal Substitutionary Atonement. There have been other views in the history of the church that attempt to explain the atonement apart from the thought of the wrath of God or payment of the penalty for sin. Here is a brief overview in part taken from ***Systematic Theology*** by Wayne Grudem of the different theories of the atonement and if they are supported by Scripture.
- I. **Penal Substitutionary Atonement** – Christ’s death was “penal” in that he bore a penalty when he died. His death was a “substitution” in that he was a substitute for us when he died. This is supported by Scripture.
 - II. **The Ransom to Satan Theory** – The ransom Christ paid to redeem us was paid to Satan. There is no direct confirmation of this in Scripture.
 - III. **The Moral Influence Theory** – God did not require the payment for a penalty of sin and Christ’s death was simply a way in which God showed how much he loved human beings by identifying with their sufferings, even to the point of death. Christ’s death therefore becomes a great teaching example that shows God’s love to us and draws from us a grateful response, so that in loving him we are forgiven. This theory is contrary to many passages of Scripture.
 - IV. **The Example Theory** – Denies that God’s justice requires payment for sin and Christ’s death simply provides us with an example of how we should trust and obey God. This theory fails to account for the many Scriptures that focus on Christ’s death as a payment for our sin.
 - V. **The Governmental Theory** – It holds that God did not actually have to require payment for sin but since he is Omnipotent, he could have set aside that requirement and simply forgive sins without the payment of a penalty. God is a moral law giver and governor of the universe that requires a penalty paid when his laws are broken. Christ did not actually pay the penalty for the actual sins of the people, but simply suffered to show when God’s laws are broken there must be some penalty paid. This theory fails to account for the many Scriptures that focus on Christ’s death as a payment for our sin and it underestimates the absolute character of the justice of God.
6. The 5 theories of the atonement above are: Penal Substitution, Ransom to Satan, Moral Influence, Example, and Governmental.
- a. Which one would you agree with? Why?
 - b. Why is it important to rightly understand the atonement?
7. Read Isaiah 53:5-6, 1 Peter 2:24-25, Mark 6:34, Luke 15:4-7, and John 10:1-18.
- a. What do you learn about yourself as a sheep?
 - b. What does Jesus do for his sheep?

8. The atonement is the work of Christ in his life and death to earn our salvation, and Jesus as our substitute is a part of this. Jesus took the full punishment of all our sin's consequences. God's plan was for Jesus to suffer as our substitute. His suffering has secured our blessing. Read Hebrews 13:20-21.
- a. What do you learn about God the Father in these verses?
 - b. What do you learn about God the Son in these verses?
 - c. What do you learn about yourself in these verses?
 - d. Who gets all the glory?