

Our Atoning Sacrifice – Romans 3.21-26

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus (Romans 3.21-26).¹

Memory Verse: Romans 3.23 – “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

When we are born, we are slaves to sin, owned by sin but Jesus Christ came to earth and paid our sin debt on the cross. By shedding His blood, He has made a way for each of us to get out from under the ownership of sin and become a child of God, this is redemption, Christ has ransomed us, paid our price and set us free from sin (Galatians 4.5; Ephesians 1.7, 14; Colossians 1.14; Hebrews 9.12). “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time” (I Timothy 2.5-6, ESV).² “God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins” (I John 4.9-10, CSB).³

Christ Jesus was put forward by God to be our atoning sacrifice by the shedding of His blood on the cross, so we could be forgiven and set free. The only thing that would allow God to be reconciled to God had to be made by God; therefore, “God in human flesh, Jesus Christ, “gave Himself as a ransom for all” (I Timothy 2:6). He appeased the wrath of God.”⁴

Christ paid for our ransom with His own blood, Peter wrote to those scattered throughout the Roman Empire, “knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot” (I Peter 1.18-19, ESV).⁵

In the Old Testament the priest every year would have to go into the Holy of Holies and offer a sacrifice on the Day of Atonement of himself and for the people. He would sprinkle blood on the altar. However, this was only a temporary appeasement to God of their sins, but Jesus Christ came into the world to make a permanent appeasement to God for our sins. The author of Hebrews writes:

Since the law has only a shadow of the good things to come, and not the reality itself of those things, it can never perfect the worshipers by the same sacrifices they continually offer year after year. Otherwise, wouldn't they have stopped being offered, since the worshipers, purified once and for all, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in the sacrifices, there is a reminder of sins year after year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁶ By

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ro 3:21–26). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

² *Ibid.*, (1 Ti 2:5–6).

³ [Christian Standard Bible](#). (2020). (1 Jn 4:9–10). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

⁴ MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). [Romans](#) (Vol. 1, p. 209). Chicago: Moody Press.

⁵ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (1 Pe 1:18–19). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁶ [Christian Standard Bible](#). (2020). (Heb 10:1–4). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time. Every priest stands day after day ministering and offering the same sacrifices time after time, which can never take away sins. But this man, after offering one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God. He is now waiting until his enemies are made his footstool. For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are sanctified.⁷ Now where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer an offering for sin (Hebrews 10. 1-4, 10-14, 18).⁸

God confirmed righteousness for us through His Son Jesus Christ at the cross, and in doing so, He washed us clean of our sins. But let us not get lazy or complacent, God has called us to reach out to those who do not know Him yet, to call them to repent. Because there will come a time when He will as a Just God, judge the world. He has shown us His mercy and grace He has given us a way of repentance and eternal hope in His Son Jesus Christ, however, we must receive this through faith in Jesus Christ, confessing with our mouth “the Lord Jesus” and believe in our hearts that God has raised Him from the dead then we will be saved (Romans 10.9).

The sins of the world will be punished in the end, God’s wrath will be unleashed and those who have rejected His plea, His olive branch will only find death and destruction. We, His children, must be busy spreading His gospel message at every turn, when ever He opens a door for us. It must be the prayer of our heart to be a witness for Him (Matthew 28.18-20, Acts 1.8).

Application

1. Jesus Christ paid a great price for your life, what is the best way you could repay Him? Please explain.
2. In your own words what does it mean to you to know you do not have to offer a sacrifice for your sins each day, month or year? Please explain.
3. Say your memory verse to someone today without looking. How did you do? Keep trying until you can say it without messing up.
4. Make a commitment to share the gospel with at least one person today.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, I want to Thank You for Your Son who came and gave His life in my place. Words could never express the gratitude or feelings, so, I ask Lord that You help me know how to be the best follower of Your Son I can be. To be a great witness, to share His gospel message with others, and Lord that I would be an example of His love and compassion that all may know I have Your Son in my life. I thank You for Your mercy and grace which You poured out upon the whole world; may the world see what I see in You. May they come to know Your love and accept You as their Savior before it is too late. Lord show me what I must do in service to You today and give me an opportunity to share Your gospel with at least one person. All this I pray In Jesus Christ’s Name, Amen.

⁷ *Christian Standard Bible*. (2020). (Heb 10:10-14). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

⁸ *Ibid.*, (Heb 10:18).