

Understanding Propitiation

Introduction:

A unique perspective in studying our salvation is to consider that Satan through evil robbed God. All people should be God's possession. We rightfully belong to God. He created us. 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.

I. The situation.

- A. Genesis 1-2. God brings physical life into existence.
 - 1. Gen. 1:31 – God liked everything He made.
 - 2. Gen. 2:7-8; 15-25 – God had a special relationship with mankind.
- B. Gen. 3:1-10 – Evil robs God of what was exclusively His.
- C. What was God's reaction to what evil did?
 - 1. He wants us back! *God passionately wants what is His!*
 - 2. 1 Peter 1:10-12
- D. The actions of Satan placed God in conflict.
 - 1. God found His righteous anger in conflict with His love.

II. God's purpose in sending Jesus.

- A. John 3:16-18- God's purpose in Jesus was to express His love for those in sin.
- 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.
- D. Focus on 2:2 – *propitiation*. It is an interesting and strange word.
 - 1. The word means to “render favorable.”
 - 2. In matters of salvation, *propitiation* is employed in the context of salvation.
 - 3. Short definition of propitiation would be: *an offering that turns away wrath.*
 - 4. Jesus is the propitiation that turns away God's wrath.
 - 5. 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.
- F. 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. When a believer commits a sin, he still remains a child of God.
 - 2. 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.
- C. Heb. 2:14-18 – when we come to God in prayer, asking for forgiveness, it is ours!
- D. 2 Tim. 1:12 – we can live with just as much confidence & assurance as Paul did!
- E. Our salvation is not about us! We're saved! It is all about God!

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!