



Shelby Christian Church

CORE 52: GETTING RIGHT WITH GOD PART 2-- ATONEMENT

ISAIAH 53, LEVITICUS 17:11, ROMANS 6:23, 1 PETER 1:18-19 * 11/23/2025

MAIN POINT

Jesus died to make atonement for your sins.

INTRODUCTION

When do you first remember hearing or understanding the notion that "Jesus died for you sins?" Do you remember how you understood that concept at the time?

What does atonement mean?

UNDERSTANDING

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ISAIAH 53

Who is the "Servant" described in Isaiah 53? What clues in the chapter indicate His identity?

What kind of suffering does the Servant experience, and how is it described?

How does the Servant's suffering provide atonement or healing for others (vv. 4-6)?

What does it mean that the Servant "was pierced for our transgressions" and "crushed for our iniquities"?

How does the Servant's silence in the face of oppression (v. 7) reflect His character and mission?

What is the significance of the Servant "bearing the sin of many" and "making intercession for the transgressors" (vv. 10-12)?

How do the people react to Him in the text? How do they misunderstand His role?

How does understanding Jesus as the fulfillment of Isaiah 53 affect your view of His love and sacrifice?

In what ways does the Servant's humility and obedience challenge you in your own life?

Isaiah 53 is a profound prophetic chapter that describes the Suffering Servant, who bears the sins and sorrows of others. The chapter emphasizes that this Servant is despised, rejected, and afflicted, experiencing physical and emotional suffering, yet He does so silently and humbly. Though He is innocent, He is pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities, taking on the punishment that rightly belongs to others, so that they might be healed and reconciled to God.

The text highlights the purpose and outcome of His suffering: through His wounds and sacrifice, many are forgiven, and justice and peace are accomplished. The Servant's death is not the end; God vindicates Him, and He is ultimately exalted, bearing fruit and justifying many.

In Christian understanding, Isaiah 53 is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who suffered on the cross for humanity's sins. The chapter reveals both the depth of human sin and the magnitude of God's redeeming love, showing that salvation comes through the willing sacrifice of the innocent Servant.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LEVITICUS 17:11

What does this verse teach about the connection between blood and life?

Why does God emphasize that blood is given for atonement?

What does "making atonement" mean in this context?

How is the blood used in the sacrificial system to restore a relationship with God?

How does this verse point forward to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ?

What does this teach us about the seriousness of sin and God's holiness?

How does understanding that "life is in the blood" affect your view of the value of life and sacrifice?

Leviticus 17:11 emphasizes the sacredness of life and the central role of blood in atonement. God declares that "the life of a creature is in the blood," and He has given blood to make atonement for sins. In the sacrificial system, the shedding of blood was necessary to restore a broken relationship between humans and God, symbolizing that life must be given to cover sin. It teaches that life is sacred, sin has consequences, and God graciously provides a means of reconciliation through the shedding of blood, ultimately fulfilled in Christ.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ROMANS 6:23

What does Paul mean by "the wages of sin is death"?

What is the relationship between sin, death, and separation from God?

How does Christ make eternal life available to humanity?

Why is it significant that eternal life is described as a gift? How does this reflect God's grace?

How does understanding this verse help clarify the gospel message?

Romans 6:23 presents a clear contrast between the consequences of sin and the gift of God. Sin earns a "wage," and that wage is death—spiritual separation from God and the ultimate consequence of human rebellion. In stark contrast, God offers a free gift: eternal life, which is available through Jesus Christ our Lord. This eternal life is not something earned by human effort or good works but is given freely by God's grace to all who trust in Christ.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 PETER 1:18-19

According to this passage, what were we redeemed from?

What does Peter mean when he says redemption was “not with perishable things such as silver or gold”?

How is Christ described in this verse, and why is that significant?

What does it mean that He is “a lamb without blemish or defect”?

How does this verse emphasize the seriousness and cost of sin?

Peter reminds believers that they were redeemed from an “empty way of life”—a life characterized by sin and separation from God—not by perishable things like silver or gold, but through something far more valuable: the precious blood of Christ, described as a spotless, flawless Lamb.

APPLICATION

What is the most expensive thing you've ever had to pay for? Try adding up all the expenses of a child. Is that more than you spent on a home?

What in your estimation is the costliest national sin on our nation? What causes the most damage to families and communities and what costs the most to fix?

How would you explain, "substitutionary atonement" in simple terms to a colleague at work or a friend?

PRAYER

COMMENTARY

Isaiah 53

verses 1–3 The Servant is described as one “who had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,” “despised and rejected by mankind,” and “a man of suffering, familiar with pain.” Unlike human expectations of a powerful Messiah, the Servant appears ordinary and suffers. His humility and invisibility to the world emphasize that God’s work often comes through weakness, not worldly grandeur.

Fulfillment in Christ: Jesus’ ordinary appearance and rejection by society mirror this description. People underestimated Him and misunderstood His mission.

verses 4–6 “Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering... he was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities... the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” The Servant suffers vicariously, taking the punishment that others deserve. His suffering is substitutionary, providing healing and peace to those who trust in Him.

Fulfillment in Christ: Jesus bore the weight of humanity’s sin on the cross, offering spiritual healing and reconciliation with God. His suffering was not for His own sin but for ours.

verses 7–9 The Servant is “oppressed and afflicted,” yet He does not open His mouth, “like a lamb led to the slaughter.” He is unjustly condemned and dies with the wicked, yet He remains innocent. The Servant’s silence and obedience demonstrate submission to God’s will, modeling humility and trust in God even in the face of injustice.

Fulfillment in Christ: Jesus’ silence during His trials, His willingness to go to the cross, and His innocence fulfill this prophecy (see Matthew 27:12–14; 1 Peter 2:23).

verses 10–12 Though the Servant suffers, it is “the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer,” so that he “will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.” He makes “many righteous” and intercedes for transgressors. The Servant’s suffering is purposeful, bringing redemption and justification to many. God uses His suffering to accomplish salvation for others.

Fulfillment in Christ: Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, salvation, forgiveness, and reconciliation are made available to all who believe. His exaltation and intercession at God’s right hand reflect the promise of vindication and victory.

Leviticus 17:11

This is part of God’s instructions to Israel regarding proper worship, sacrifice, and the sanctity of life. This chapter emphasizes that blood is sacred because it represents life. God prohibits consuming blood and requires that sacrifices be offered at the tabernacle to make atonement for sin. This highlights the theological principle that life is sacred, and sin has a cost.

Blood symbolizes life itself. In the ancient Near East, blood was understood as the essence that sustains a living being. Because sin disrupts the relationship between humans and God, life must be offered to satisfy divine justice. The verse teaches that God values life deeply, and atonement requires a real, tangible sacrifice.

In the sacrificial system, the shedding of blood on the altar symbolically transferred sin from the sinner to the sacrifice, restoring the relationship with God. “Atonement” literally means “covering” or “reconciliation.” The blood covers sins and allows the sinner to be in right standing with God. This shows that forgiveness is costly; it is not merely a matter of words or good intentions, but of life given to satisfy God’s justice.

Leviticus 17:11 points forward to Jesus Christ, whose blood was shed once and for all for humanity’s sins. Jesus’ sacrifice fulfills the principle that life must be given for sin (Hebrews 9:12, 14). His perfect, sinless life and death cover the sins of all who believe in Him. Unlike the repeated animal sacrifices, Christ’s blood provides eternal atonement, making a permanent way for reconciliation with God.

Romans 6:23

Romans 6 addresses the believer’s relationship to sin and the new life in Christ. Paul contrasts the old way of life under sin with the new life under God’s grace. Verse 23 serves as a summary of this contrast, highlighting the consequences of sin and the provision of God through Christ.

The term “wages” refers to what someone earns from their actions. Sin earns a consequence—death. In this context, death is primarily spiritual separation from God, though it also includes physical death. Sin disrupts our relationship with God, and its natural outcome is separation from Him. Just as a worker earns pay for labor, humans earn death through sin—not because God is unfair, but because sin inherently destroys life and fellowship with God.

Gift: Eternal life is freely given; it is not earned or deserved. It contrasts with wages, emphasizing grace rather than merit. Eternal Life: This is the unbroken, everlasting life in relationship with God, beginning now and continuing forever. It is qualitatively different from mere biological life, representing a restored relationship with God and freedom from the penalty of sin. Through Christ Jesus our Lord: Jesus is the mediator who makes this gift possible. His death and resurrection satisfy God’s justice, pay the penalty for sin, and open the way for reconciliation with God.

1 Peter 1:18-19

Peter writes to believers scattered across Asia Minor, encouraging them to live holy lives in the midst of suffering and persecution. In this passage, he emphasizes the basis of their salvation: a redemption that is precious, costly, and eternal, in contrast to the fleeting values of the world.

verse 18 Empty way of life: This phrase refers to a life characterized by sin, futility, and separation from God—a life focused on worldly pursuits rather than on God's purposes. Not with perishable things: Peter stresses that silver, gold, or any material wealth cannot secure redemption. Human efforts, status, or resources are insufficient to remove the guilt and consequences of sin. Redemption requires something of ultimate value, beyond anything humanly attainable.

verse 19 Precious blood: Christ's blood is described as invaluable, highlighting the worth and sufficiency of His sacrifice. Lamb without blemish or defect: This imagery recalls Old Testament sacrificial laws (Exodus 12, Leviticus 1–5), where only a flawless lamb could atone for sin. Jesus fulfills this requirement perfectly, being sinless and spotless.

Christ's sacrifice is substitutionary—He bore the penalty for sin on behalf of humanity. His perfection ensures the sacrifice is fully acceptable to God. Redemption is eternal, not temporary or perishable, unlike earthly treasures.