

## ORDER OF SERVICE

January 3, 2021

Worship in Fellowship  
Worship in Music  
Worship in Message  
Worship in Giving

Wayne Braudrick

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### Propitiation

1 John 4:10; 2:1-2; 3:1-2

*Wonderful Words Series*

Life Change: We rely on our Advocate/Propitiation.

**Doctrine is boring...**

A map, even a good map, is no substitute for a trip. But studying the map is usually the best way to prepare for the trip.

– Jaroslav Pelikan, introduction to Barth, *Church Dogmatics*

**God provides propitiation for our sins.**

**1 Jn 4:10**

God is motivated by love for humans.

**God provides propitiation for our sins, cont.**

**1 Jn 4:10**

God the Son is the propitiation.

When we use the language of propitiation, we are not to think that the Son, full of love, offered himself and thereby placated (i.e., rendered propitious) the Father, full of wrath. The picture is much more complex. It is that the Father, full of righteous wrath against us, nevertheless loved us so much that he sent his Son. Perfectly mirroring the Father's words and deeds, the Son stood over against us in wrath...yet, obedient to his Father's commission, offered Himself on the cross. He did this out of love for both his Father, whom he obeys, and for us, whom he redeems. Thus God is necessarily both the subject and the object of propitiation. He provides the propitiating sacrifice (he is the subject), and he himself is propitiated (he is the object). That is the glory of the cross.

– D.A. Carson, *The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God*

**God provides for us every day.**

**1 Jn 2:1-2, 3:1-2**

God's love guides us away from sin.

When we fall, we rely on our Advocate/Propitiation.

We share the news with the whole world.



WONDERFUL  
WORDS

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

# pro·pi·ti·a·tion

/prəˌpiːʃiˈeɪʃən/ 

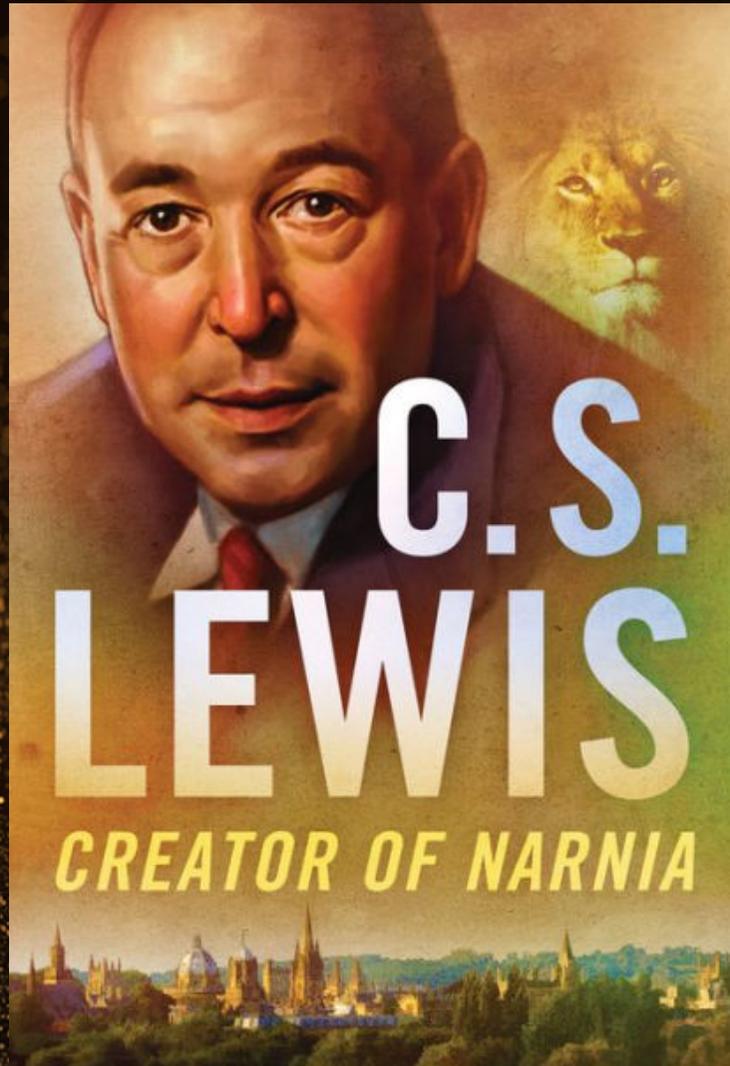
*noun*

the action of propitiating or appeasing a god, spirit, or person.  
"he lifted his hands in propitiation"

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**Oh my goodness. I just convinced the family to come to church to start the new year, and that dummy on stage is teaching a series on doctrine. Theology! Doctrine is boring. It's sterile. I wanted my family to get an experience of God.**



courtesy Barnes and Noble

I remember once when I had been giving a talk to the R.A.F. [Royal Air Force], an old, hard-bitten officer got up and said, "I've no use for all that stuff. But, mind you, I'm a religious man too. I know there's a God. I've felt Him: out alone in the desert at night: the tremendous mystery. And that's just why I don't believe all your neat little dogmas and formulas about Him. To anyone who's met the real thing they all seem so petty and pedantic and unreal!"



courtesy City of Portsmouth; ABC Science



**But here comes the point. The map is admittedly only coloured paper, but there are two things you have to remember about it. In the first place, it is based on what hundreds and thousands of people have found out by sailing the real Atlantic. In that way it has behind it masses of experiences just as real as the one you could have from the beach; only, while yours would be a single glimpse, the map fits all those different experiences together.**

**But In the second place, if you want to go anywhere, the map is absolutely necessary. As long as you are content with walks on the beach, your own glimpses are more fun than looking at a map. But the map is going to be more use than walks on the beach if you want to get to America.**



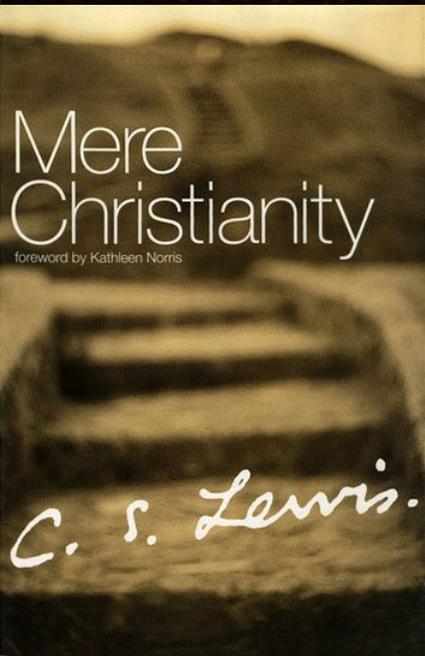
courtesy godream

**Now, Theology is like the map. Merely learning and thinking about the Christian doctrines, if you stop there, is less real and less exciting than the sort of thing my friend got in the desert. Doctrines are not God: they are only a kind of map. But that map is based on the experience of hundreds of people who really were in touch with God – experiences compared with which any thrills or pious feelings you and I are likely to get on our own are very elementary and very confused.**

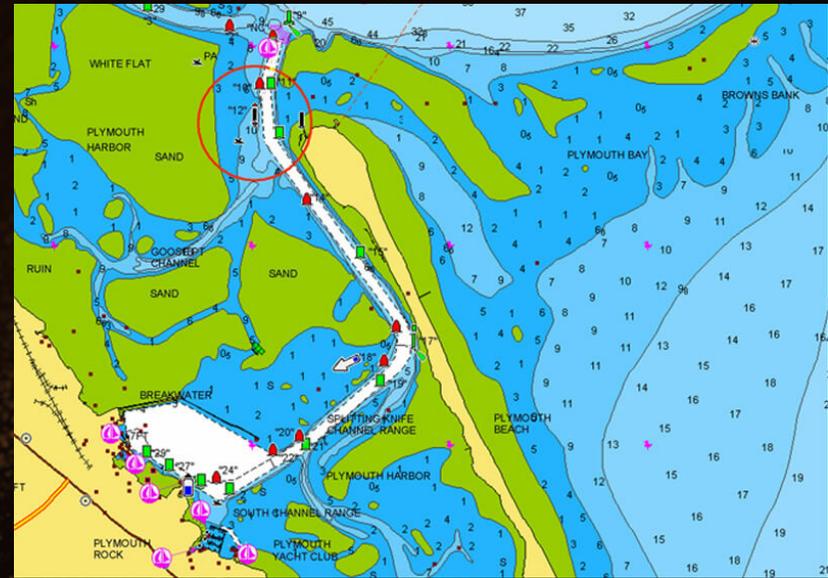
**And secondly, if you want to get any further, you must use the map as [you go to sea.] What happened to that man in the desert may have been real, and was certainly exciting, but nothing comes of it. It leads nowhere. In fact, that is just why a vague religion – all about feeling God in nature, and so on – is so attractive. It is all thrills and no work: like watching the waves from the beach. But you will not get to Newfoundland by studying the Atlantic that way, and you will not get eternal life by simply feeling the presence of God in flowers or music.**

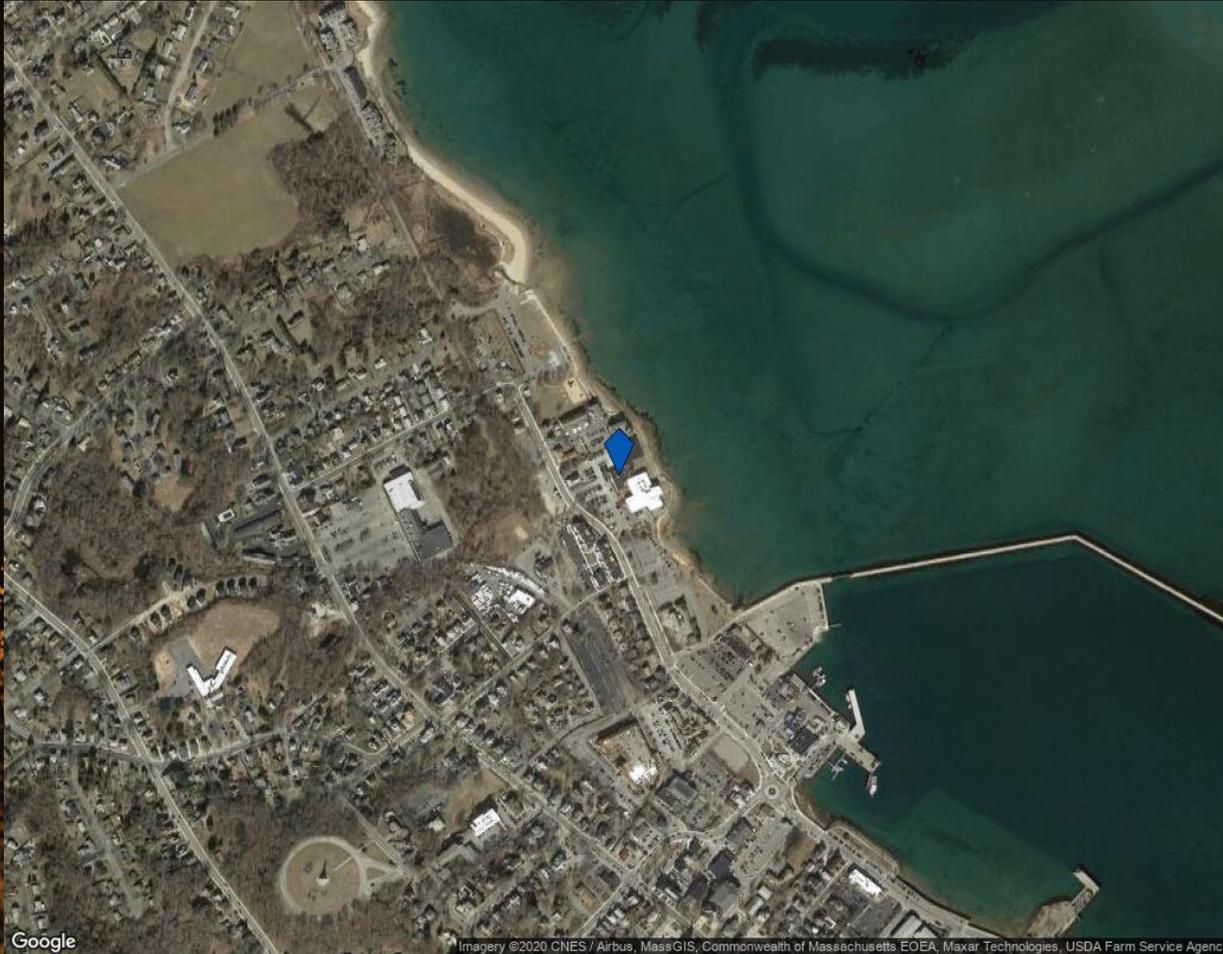
**In other words, Theology is practical...if you do not listen to Theology, that will not mean you have no ideas about God. It will mean you will have a lot of wrong ones – bad, muddled, out-of-date ideas. For a great many of the ideas about God which are trotted out as novelties today are simply the ones which real Theologians tried centuries ago and rejected.**

**– C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity***



A map, even a good map, is no substitute for a trip. But studying the map is usually the best way to prepare for the trip. – Jaroslav Pelikan, introduction to Barth, *Church Dogmatics*





**Scripture is given  
by God, and  
doctrine based on  
the Bible is the  
exact map needed  
for a successful  
adventure.**

In other words, doctrine is a useful, cheerful, God-directed, human-experienced, animated part of life that cries out, “I’m the map!”



courtesy city of Plymouth

**Please place video  
here:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFa9ODxctYI>

# 1 John 4

<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>CSB</sup>

<sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>ESV</sup>

Heb

Jam

1 Pe

2 Pe

1 John

2 Jn

3 Jn

Jude

Rev

# 1 John 4

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Greek: ἱλασμός hilasmos = appeasing wrath by paying a price to someone offended

1 John

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# 1 John 4:10

we have loved God

but

*not*

He (God the Father) loved us

and

to be the propitiation

(He) sent Son

*His*

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*His*

Oh. My. Goodness.  
Now he's doing  
grammar!



# 1 John 4:10

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*His*



View of the Acropolis 1846 Leopold Frank karl von Klenze courtesy Berlin Museum



courtesy MJ Harrington



courtesy National Museum of Athens



courtesy Nicholas Rossis

*Athenian miasma*  
Neopolitan school  
1715



*Epimenides* in  
“*Promptuarii Iconum Insigniorum*”  
Guillaume Rouille  
1580?



# Life of Solon

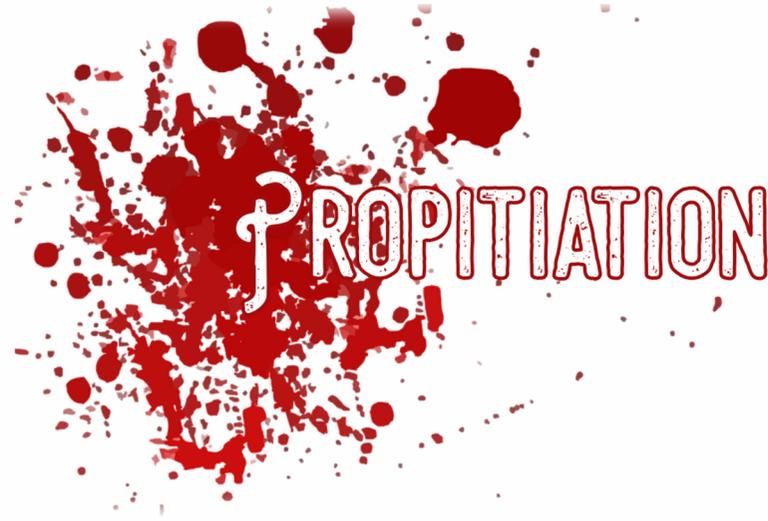


Plutarch

Epimenedes performed secret blood rituals for Megacles' family & the city, ensuring that everyone did the exact right actions to stop the epidemic. And through his special works done according to the secret laws of the gods, Epimenedes managed to convince the gods to remove the miasma. Plutarch wrote that Epimenedes was the ἱλασμός hilasmos – the propitiation – for Athens.

## Human use of ἵλασμός hilasmos/propitiation:

- Deity is motivated only by offense to the law.
- Humans initiate propitiation.
- Human formula & sacrifice make way for humans to be propitiation.

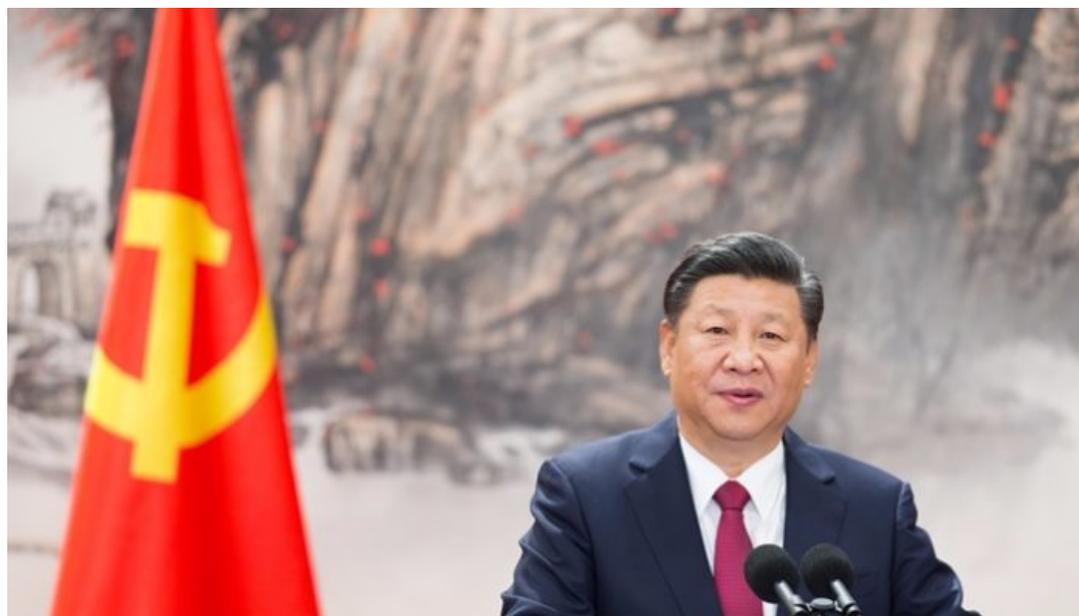
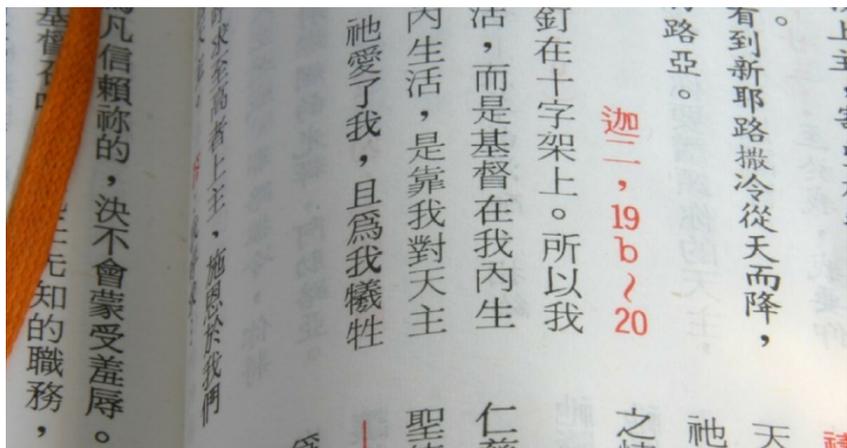




**That's just old  
world stuff.  
Nobody thinks like  
that anymore.**

## Human use of ἵλασμός hilasmos/propitiation:

- Deity is motivated only by offense to the law.
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courtesy China Daily

**The official translator in charge told me: “We feel the doctrine of justification by faith in Jesus Christ is too narrow. We instead need a Bible that is promoting justification by love in doing good deeds...the Bible should show [that] Communist party heroes doing many good deeds should be accepted into Heaven on the [basis of] their works.”**

*Athenian miasma*  
Neopolitan school  
1715



courtesy fineartamerica

## Human use of ἵλασμός hilasmos/propitiation:

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**It is a duty to call the police and report neighbors not following my orders.**



## Human use of ἵλασμός hilasmos/propitiation:

- Deity is motivated only by offense to the law.
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**I must demand payment  
from those who offend me,  
or things will never be right.**



**The Lord is my propitiation.  
In His peace, I can address  
rights & wrongs.**



# 1 John 4

<sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>ESV</sup>



Greek: ἱλασμός hilasmos = appeasing wrath by paying a price to someone offended

## Human propitiation idea

- Deity is motivated only by offense to the law.
- Humans initiate.
- Human formula & sacrifice make way for humans to be propitiation.



courtesy Guardian; © David Edmonds

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Greek: ἀγαπάω agapao = self-sacrificial love for the good of the other

# 1 John 4

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# WONDER

2020-21 ANNUAL THEME

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## Isaiah 29

<sup>14</sup> I will do an amazing thing for these people—  
an absolutely extraordinary deed.  
Wise men will have nothing to say,  
the sages will have no explanations. NET



courtesy You Tube

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yet, obedient to his Father's commission, offered Himself on the cross. He did this out of love for both his Father, whom he obeys, and for us, whom he redeems. Thus God is necessarily both the subject and the object of propitiation. He provides the propitiating sacrifice (he is the subject), and he himself is propitiated (he is the object). That is the glory of the cross. – D.A. Carson,  
*The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God*



- **Atonement is sinward. Jesus purchased believers from the slave market of sin.**
- **Reconciliation is manward. Sinners separated by a holiness gulf are brought to God.**
- **Propitiation is Godward. It pays the offense price for sinners.**

# Ephesians 2

**8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.**

**9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.<sup>NLT</sup>**

- **Atonement is sinward. Jesus purchased believers from the slave market of sin.**
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# 1 John 2

<sup>1</sup> My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup> He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. <sup>ESV</sup>

**Nice word.  
Important even.  
But what  
difference does  
propitiation make  
in my daily life?**



# 1 John

**2:1** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup> He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. <sup>ESV</sup>

**3:1** See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God's children—and we are!  
<sup>2</sup> ...Dear friends, we are God's children now. <sup>CSB</sup>



courtesy, Erica Wink



courtesy Erica Wink

# 1 John

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*Return of  
the prodigal*  
Rembrandt  
1642



*Dad, I don't belong  
there. That isn't  
who I really am.*

*Return of  
the prodigal  
Rembrandt  
1642*

# 1 John

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**Oh God, You are my God  
And I will ever praise You  
And I will seek You in the morning  
And I will learn to walk in Your ways  
And step by step You'll lead me  
And I will follow You all of my days  
– Rich Mullins, “Sometimes by Step”**



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courtesy ozy

**Should we bail him out?**

**Christians mustn't facilitate sin.  
We must always love unconditionally,  
just as God loves us.**



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courtesy pexels

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**Sometimes I think of Abraham  
How one star he saw had been lit for me  
He was a stranger in this land  
And I am that, no less than he  
And on this road to righteousness  
Sometimes the climb can be so steep  
I may falter in my steps  
But never beyond Your reach  
– Rich Mullins, “Sometimes by Step”**



## **1 John 2**

**<sup>2</sup> He is the  
propitiation for our  
sins, and not for ours  
only but also for the  
sins of the whole  
world. <sup>ESV</sup>**



courtesy: [oneawesome Momma](#)





**We are blessed to be  
a blessing.**

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**4:10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>ESV</sup>**



WONDERFUL  
WORDS