

KNOWING GOD

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The Heart of the Gospel - Chapter 18

The rule of offerings for pagan beliefs is the bigger the better. The higher the offering the higher the rewards. Human sacrifice, in particular, is expensive but effective. The bible does not present this kind of system but through propitiation. It appears 4 times in the New Testament.

1. Romans 3:21-26: God's justification of the sinner
2. Hebrews 2:17: Merciful and faithful Son of God
3. 1 John 2:1-2: An advocate with the Father
4. 1 John 4:8-10: Definition of God's love

A Gospel without propitiation at its heart is another gospel than the one preached in scripture.

Romans ch. 1 affirms that the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven and repeats 3 times, God gave them up. Later Paul explains that the "blood" of Christ abolishes the anger "against us" and sets right the relationships by moving it to "for us". The shedding of Christ's blood is a visual, direct demonstration of God's love.

God's Anger is not bad-tempered or conceited or sinful, resentful or vengeful. It is a function of His holiness expressed in the law given by Him to His people. A holy rejection of anything against His holiness.

Propitiation

1. **It is a work of God Himself.** He set forth Jesus Christ. He sent His Son. God quenched His own wrath or anger himself. He chose to save us, He first loved us. To ascribe or impute His righteousness.
2. **Made by the death of Jesus Christ.** God instituted blood sacrifices in Leviticus. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins. He redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. Representative substitution or substitutionary atonement. He averted God's wrath and restored fellowship.
3. **Manifest God's righteousness.** He declares as in a public display to be the just and justifier of His own righteousness.

The death of Jesus Christ

1. The driving force in His life. Isaiah 53
2. The destiny of those who reject God
3. God's gift of peace
4. God's great love
5. The meaning of God's glory