



The Son Died

Our Subjection to Death

First, death came through Adam.

- Romans 5:12 where Paul wrote, “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.”

Second, God is sovereign over death.

- 1 Samuel 2:6, “The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.”

Third, death results from our own sin, not just Adam’s.

- Ezekiel 18:4: “Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.”

Fourth, no one has escaped death yet (with a few exceptions).

The Necessity of Christ’s Death

First, only through death could our wages be absolved.

Second, life can only reign through Jesus’ death

Third, the scriptures highlight the importance of Jesus’ death.

Christ our Propitiation

A Definition

A sacrifice that satisfies the demands of God’s justice and appeases His wrath.¹

Forensic/Penal or Commercial

Paul washed describes Forensic Satisfaction like this:

¹ Paul Washer, *Discovering the Glorious Gospel*, page 62.



The debt is satisfied when the criminal serves the sentence decreed by a judge. The sentence is not required to be of the same nature as the crime. All that is required is that it should be a just equivalent. For theft, it may be a fine; for murder, imprisonment; and for treason, banishment.²

But now, what about commercial? Paul washed again defines it helpfully for us:

The debt is satisfied only when the exact amount was paid. A debt of \$50 is not satisfied by a payment of \$25, nor can a debt of ten ounces of gold be satisfied with a payment of the same weight in clay.

Jesus provided Forensic/penal satisfaction—a just equivalent.

The Infinite Value of Christ

1. Jesus is the Son of God incarnate. Paul wrote of Jesus in Colossians 2:9 that in him “the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.” Hebrews 1:2-5 says of Jesus,

but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

2. Jesus’ blood is valuable enough to save the whole world. This is not a denial of limited atonement.

Peter wrote of the blood of Christ in 1 Peter 1:18-21,

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. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Propitiation in the Scriptures

1. Propitiation means Jesus had to be made like us. Hebrews 2:17 says, “Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, *to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*”
2. Propitiation is evidence of God’s love. 1 John 4:10 says, “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.”

² Ibid page 61



3. Propitiation was the Father's will. Romans 3:24-25a says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, *whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.*"
4. Propitiation shows God's righteousness and divine forbearance. Again, Romans 3:25b-26 says, "This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 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."

Small Group Discussion

1. David writes in Psalm 39:4, "O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!" If our days are fleeting and death will come; how urgent should we be in sharing the gospel? What is healthy urgency, what is unhealthy urgency?
2. How do cultures glorify death? What are ways we humans try to ignore it? How do we normalize death?
3. How would you describe propitiation to a small child/your kids? How would you describe the difference between forensic satisfaction and commercial satisfaction to a small child/your kids?
4. How would respond to an objection that says propitiation is "divine child-abuse"?