



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

1 JOHN 2:2 - JESUS CHRIST OUR PROPITIATION!

COLORADO APRIL 3, 2018

Dan File, P.O. Box 1088, Lake City, CO 81235-1088/303-345-8830 / filefamily@centurytel.net

How does Christ, without fail, win the acquittal for all who put their faith in Him? He intercedes with the Father on the basis of His own substitution for sinners by His sacrificial death on the cross, which fully paid sins' penalty for all who put their trust in Him for salvation, meeting the demands of God's justice. Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord has become our Advocate Who gains our acquittal.¹ (2 Corinthians 5:21) Christ is God's gracious and loving provision for us when we sin. Christ is our heavenly Advocate, the One Who pleads our cause with the Father. And as our defense counsel, Christ is uniquely qualified to stand in God's presence to represent us...because He is "Jesus the righteous". Jesus testifies before the throne of God in favor of us, against our sin and its due punishment. We are assigned the greatest defense lawyer in the universe Who every time pleads our case. He is our generous champion of our otherwise lost cause.²

I. JESUS CHRIST OUR PROPITIATION! - 1 JOHN 2:2

"My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world." 1John 2:1-2

Jesus Christ is our Advocate, but John wants us to understand there is another requirement for our salvation to be complete. There can be no forgiveness of our sin without a propitiation, an appeasement of God's wrath. Christ our Advocate acknowledges our guilt and presents His vicarious sacrifice as the groundwork for our acquittal.

A. "HE HIMSELF IS THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS"- 1 JOHN 2:2A

Our righteous Advocate, Jesus is also the propitiation for our sins. What does it mean that He was our propitiation and why is that so important?

"propitiation" Greek **"hilasmos"** a noun that means satisfaction, used as appeasement of any angry deity by offerings to turn away wrath.

Propitiation is an appeasement of the wrath of God by the love of God through the gift of God, His Son Jesus Christ.³ By Jesus Christ's sinless life and sacrificial death on the cross, He satisfied the demands of God's justice, thus appeasing and satisfying His holy wrath against sinners who believe in Him.

The Old Testament has a term used for "propitiation" and that is "mercy seat" used in the sacrificial system found in Exodus 25:10-22. (Leviticus 16:15) The mercy seat was located on top

of the Ark of Covenant and was the cover or lid. God's divine Shekinah glory cloud was above the Ark and in the Ark lay the tablets of stone with the Law written by God on them. The priest would sprinkle the mercy seat with blood from their sacrifices and it was the place where atonement for sin was secured. The sprinkled blood stood between and before God (the Shekinah glory cloud) and His broken law (the stone tablets). Now the sacrificial blood of animals were never enough to satisfy God, (Hebrews 7:26-28, 9:6-15, 10:1-18) but looked forward and pictured the future sacrifice of Christ Who would fully satisfy God the Father's wrath. (Hebrews 9:23-28, Isaiah 53:6, 10) If the Old Testament sacrifices and the whole sacrificial system had appeased God's wrath once and for all, the Jews would not have continued endlessly to bring burnt offerings, sin offerings and trespass offerings over these many centuries.⁴ But it is Jesus Christ Who fulfilled the sacrificial system of the Law. Jesus Christ is the mercy seat.

Propitiation is necessary because we continue to break God's perfect law. And God, as the righteously offended Creator, must react justly in holy anger and wrath with judgement. God's justice must be satisfied. Every sin that has ever been committed by every person who has ever lived will be punished in one of two ways. Either God's wrath is satisfied when unrepentant, unbelieving sinners suffer in hell forever. (Matthew 13:42, 25:41, 4, 2 Thessalonians 1:9, Revelation 20:15) But, for all who, by the convincing, convicting and regenerating power of the Holy Spirit, repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, God's wrath is satisfied.⁵ Because of Christ's one sacrifice, once offered, this has an eternal virtue, which is effective today in those who believe. Christ is the only propitiation for sin. There is none other. God's wrath is averted entirely through the free gift of His Son Jesus Christ. Later John would write in 1 John 4:10, "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." And there was never any reluctance, but only love on God the Father's part and the Son's part, on our behalf!⁶

Jesus Christ is the offering that turns away God's wrath against our sin. Christ never says to God that we are innocent. He only says that He is the propitiation for our sins. Jesus Himself is the believer's defense. His substitutionary, blood shed on the cross appeased God's wrath against our sin. Hebrews 7:25 talks of how Christ was obedient to death and now lives to make intercession for us.⁷

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, [SSB 1525 SHERMAN, RM #603- ACROSS COLFAX FROM CAPITOL](#)

Colorado

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When God’s holy law reveals our guilt, when Satan accuses and condemns us and when our own conscience condemns us, Christ’s propitiation, the divine gift of God’s love, forgives us. There is no other propitiation for the world. Jesus Christ was the one and only atoning sacrifice for our sins; past, present and future. (Romans 3:23-27)

On the cross, Jesus turned away God’s righteous anger and satisfied the demands of God’s divine justice. He averted our punishment in a substitutionary manner and took away our sins. And the fact that God accepted Christ’s sacrifice for sin, that God was appeased by His Son’s substitutionary death on the cross was verified by Christ’s resurrection from the dead. If Christ had not been raised from the dead, it would have shown that God did not accept His sacrifice. But Christ’s resurrection is so important because it verified that God was appeased and satisfied by His Son’s blood shed on the cross for atonement.

B. “AND NOT FOR OURS ONLY, BUT ALSO FOR THE WHOLE WORLD.”- 1 JOHN 2:2B

There is no other propitiation for the whole world...only in Jesus Christ. Only in Jesus Christ the righteous, is there shelter from God’s all-consuming wrath against sin. As Peter declared

to the Jewish Council, *“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.”* (Acts 4:12)

What is it that Christ our Advocate, our Defense Counsel says to God the Father? That He is the propitiation for our sins and for the sins of any who would call on Him to be saved. When God’s holy law reveals our guilt, when Satan accuses us, Christ’s propitiation, the divine gift of God’s love, forgives us.

John is not saying that Christ’s propitiation means that all sins are automatically forgiven, but rather that there is a pardon offered to all, and that pardon is enjoyed by those who repent and believe in Jesus Christ. Jesus’ death is sufficient to deal with every believer’s sin. May we take time to contemplate that incredible reality. Think about the far-reaching scope of Christ’s redeeming work through all of human history. The death of Christ reaches out as far horizontally into history and the future as it reaches up vertically into heaven. And it reaches out to all as a universal offer.⁸ Remember this song? How true it is!

*“My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus blood and righteousness...”*

¹ MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary Series on 1-3 John*. Moody Press: Chicago, IL, 2007. Pg. 43-46.

² Hamilton, Ian, *Let’s Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg. 10.

³ Stott, John R., *The Epistles of John*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company: Grand Rapids, MI, 1964, Pg. 88.

⁴ MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary Series on 1-3 John*. Moody Press: Chicago, IL, 2007. Pg. 47.

⁵ MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary Series on 1-3 John*. Moody Press: Chicago, IL, 2007. Pg. 48.

⁶ Stott, John R., *The Epistles of John*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company: Grand Rapids, MI, 1964, Pg. 89.

⁷ Hamilton, Ian, *Let’s Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg. 10.

⁸ O’Donnell, Douglas Sean, *Reformed Expository Commentary: 1-3 John*. P&R Publishing Company: Phillipsburg, NJ, 2015. Pg. 37.