

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of April 13, 2014

This Week's Focus: Jesus Our Expiation & Propitiation

This Week's Text: 1 John 1:9, 2:2

In one act of sacrifice, the perfect Son of God died in the place of sinful humanity (substitution), absorbing the punishment we deserved (propitiation) and removing the burden of guilt associated with our sins (expiation).

The Gospel Project: The Atonement Thread

Christ has made an atonement so complete that he never need suffer again. No more drops of blood; no more pangs of heart; no more bitterness and darkness, with exceeding heaviness, even unto death, are needed."

Charles Spurgeon

Related Texts: Leviticus 16:15–22, Romans 3:21–26; 5:8–19, Hebrews 2:17, 1 John 4:9-10

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- In what ways do the multiple aspects of the atonement affect our worship?
- Define Propitiation. Why is this significant and necessary?
- Define Expiation. Why is this significant and necessary?
- Read Leviticus 16:15–22.
 - Why does the first goat have to be punished?
 - Why is the second goat released?
- Why does God have to punish sin? Is there a "get out of jail free" card? Can God just overlook sin?
- Read Numbers 5:1-4. How do this passage and the scapegoat both show the relationship between sin and the holiness of God?
 - What does this tell us about our sin? How has culture tried to downplay the severity of sin?
 - How does the severity of sin show us just how great the gospel is?
 - How should the severity of sin and holiness of God propel us to share the good news with others?
 - What are some practical reasons for God's command to send the people out of the camp?
 - What does this show us about the character of God?

- How often did the Day of Atonement ritual need to be completed? Reference Hebrews 10:3–4.
 - How then is Jesus our greater and better expiation and propitiation?
 - Is there anything we can possibly do that Jesus hasn't done already to satisfy the wrath of God or cleanse ourselves of unrighteousness? What does this tell us about our identity in Christ?

Gospel Celebration:

- Jesus Christ bore the wrath of God that we deserve. Rejoice!
- We have been cleansed from all unrighteousness through the blood of the lamb. Do not dwell on your sins from the past but rather gaze wholly on Jesus remembering we are washed clean.

Prayer Focus:

- Repent and confess your sins before God, especially for those times you've tried to be your own propitiation and expiation.
- Give thanks for the atoning work of Christ.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to share the gospel with those you encounter.

Additional Resources:

What Expiation Means for You (4 Things) by Adam Mabry

(<http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/trevinwax/2014/02/13/what-expiation-means-for-you-4-things>)

Pagan Propitiation vs Biblical Propitiation by Fred Sanders

(<http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/trevinwax/2014/02/20/pagan-propitiation-vs-biblical-propitiation>)

Next Week's Text: Matthew 28:1–9, Colossians 2:8–15