

# Theological Equipping Class – Atonement: Salvation Accomplished

## The Story of the Cross

- **Reviewing the problem: Sin**
  - We are separated from God
  - Death (physical and eternal)
  - We are under God's wrath
  - We have a sin nature. We are slaves to sin.
- **Old Testament patterns of salvation:**
  - The Sacrifice of Isaac: Genesis 22:13-14 – *“And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”*
  - Israel's Exodus from Egypt
  - Sacrificial system in the book of Leviticus
  - Isaiah 53:4-6 – *“Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”*
- **Jesus comes to the world:** John 1:29 – *“The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”*
- **Passover meal:** Matthew 26:26-28 – *“<sup>26</sup> Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” <sup>27</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”*
- **Garden prayer:** Luke 22:44 - *“<sup>44</sup> And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”*
  - Matthew 26:38-39 - *“<sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” <sup>39</sup> And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”*
- **Death on the Cross:** Matthew 27:45-46 – *“<sup>45</sup> Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. <sup>46</sup> And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*
- **Empty tomb and ascension:** - Matthew 28:1-6 – *“Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has risen, as he said.”*

## The Obedience of the Cross

- **Jesus is taking the wrath of God.**
  - Matthew 26:39 - *“And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”*
  - “The Cup” of God's Wrath in Scripture:
    - Jeremiah 25:15 – *“Thus the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: “Take from my hand this cup of the wine of wrath, and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it.”*

- Isaiah 51:17 – *“Wake yourself, wake yourself, stand up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the cup of his wrath, who have drunk to the dregs the bowl, the cup of staggering.”*
- Revelation 14:9-10 – *“And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, <sup>10</sup> he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger; and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.”*
- **Jesus is experiencing separation from God.**
  - Matthew 27:45-46 – *“<sup>45</sup> Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. <sup>46</sup> And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*
- **Jesus is defeating sin, death, and the devil in His death, burial, and resurrection.**

### The Accomplishment of the Cross

- **#1. The wrath of God has been satisfied.**
  - Isaiah 53:11 – *“Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.”*
  - Romans 8:1 - *“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”*
  - Romans 5:8-9 – *“God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.”*
- **#2. Our separation from God has been reconciled.**
  - Matthew 27:50-51 – *“And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. <sup>51</sup> And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.”*
  - Hebrews 4:16 – *“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace”*
  - 1 John 1:3 – *“and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.”*
  - John 20:17 – *“Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”*
- **#3. Death has been defeated. Satan has been dethroned. Sin’s chains have been broken.**
  - 2 Timothy 1:10 – *“And which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel”*
  - Hebrews 2:14 – *“Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil”*
  - Colossians 2:15 – *“He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”*
  - Revelation 1:18 – *“And the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”*

### The Atonement of the Cross

- Leviticus 5:10 – *“And the priest shall make atonement for him for the sin that he has committed, and he shall be forgiven.”*
- **Ransom View of Atonement:** Satan has ruled the world since Genesis 3 but Jesus has come to invade Satan’s dominion and free us from his grip. Jesus offers himself to the Satan as a ransom for humanity. However, Satan does not have the power to hold Jesus and therefore loses both humanity and Jesus.

- **Victory View of Atonement:** Satan has ruled the world since Genesis 3 but Jesus has come to invade Satan's dominion and free us from his grip. Jesus is infinitely more powerful than Satan and in His life and death on the cross wins the victory over Satan, sin, and death. In His resurrection and ascension Jesus is enthroned as the victorious king.
  - 1 Corinthians 15:50-57 – *“<sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” <sup>55</sup> “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
  - 1 John 3:8 - *“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”*
- **Substitution View of Atonement:** Jesus came into the world as the sinless seed who would be able to make a sacrifice for man's sin. He shows He is qualified to pay for man's sin in His sinless life. On the cross Jesus makes payment to God for the penalty of man's sin as a substitute.
  - Isaiah 53:4-6 – *“Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”*
  - 2 Corinthians 5:21 – *“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*
- **Moral Influence View of Atonement:** Jesus lowered Himself and came to the world to live a life of self-denial and service. This was ultimately to awaken in us a desire to overcome our sin and follow Jesus' example.
  - “While it is certainly true that we should follow Christ's example, this theory seems to be confusing atonement and sanctification. Once we are reconciled to God, we try (out of gratitude) to follow Christ's example. Admiration for Christ may well be a factor in leading us to turn to Christ initially, but this is not what makes it possible for us to enter a relationship with God. Our sin is not simply a minor problem from which we can extricate ourselves with inspiration from Christ. We were dead in our trespasses and sins (Eph 2:1-3); the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23). Dead people need more than inspiration; they need to be made alive.” – Donald Fairbairn
- What is the correct view? Victory through substitution
  - Colossians 2:13-15 – *“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”*
  - “The concept of substitution may be said, then, to lie at the heart of both sin and salvation. For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man. Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be; God sacrifices himself for man and puts himself where only man deserves to be. Man claims prerogatives that belong to God alone; God accepts penalties that belong to man alone.” John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*
  - “What looks like (and indeed was) the defeat of Goodness by evil is also, and more certainly, the defeat of evil by Goodness. Overcome there, he was himself overcoming. Crushed by the ruthless power of Rome, he was himself crushing the serpent's head. The victim was the victor, and the cross is still the throne from which he rules the world.” John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*
- **Salvation is accomplished for fellowship with God.**
  - 1 Peter 3:18 – *“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God”*

*When I Survey the Wonderful Cross, Isaac Watts*

When I survey the wondrous cross,  
On which the Prince of glory died;  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were an offering far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.