

## FREE AT LAST!

**TEXT:** Gal. 4:4-5

**THESIS:** To reveal the biblical doctrine of redemption.

**INTRO:** A. In 1961 the U.S. Govt. paid over 53 million dollars in ransom to the Castro dictatorship on Cuba at then President John F. Kennedy's bid for the release of the Cuban Freedom Fighters captured during the abortive "Bay of Pigs" fiasco. Their freedom was purchased, they were ransomed or redeemed! In A.D. 33 (c) Christ paid the ransom price for our captive souls with His own precious blood.

B. The word "ransom" conveys the concept of biblical redemption. 4 Greek words are translated "redeemed" in the N.T. These three words and their meanings give us an understanding of the redemptive aspect of the Atonement of Christ for us. We who were once slaves to sin have been set free from its bondage.

### REDEMPTION MEANS...

#### I. PURCHASED IN THE SLAVE MARKET: "AGORAZO" (used 31 times in N.T.)

**ILLUS:** In the Roman Empire when you needed an employee you went down to the slave market and purchased one.

##### A. The Lost Are Bondslaves To Sin:

**Rom. 7:14** *For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.*

1. Paul speaks here of being "sold under sin" i.e., sold into the slave market of sin.

**Rom. 7:24** *O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*

2. Paul here speaks of one who is chained and in bondage to a dead body.
3. The lost are servants of Satan.

**Eph. 2:2** *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

**I Cor. 12:2** *Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.*

4. The lost are under condemnation.

**John 3:18** *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

##### B. A Bondslave Can Be Redeemed: "purchased in the slave market"

1. Redemption has to do with being "set free by a ransom price."
2. O.T. requirements for redemption of slaves are given in...

**Lev. 25:25** *If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold.*

**Lev. 25:47-49** *47 And if a sojourner or stranger wax rich by thee, and thy brother that dwelleth by him wax poor, and sell himself unto the stranger or sojourner by thee, or to the stock of the stranger's family: 48 After that he is sold he may be redeemed again; one of his brethren may redeem him 49 Either his uncle, or his uncle's son, may redeem him, or any that is nigh of kin unto him of his family may redeem him; or if he be able, he may redeem himself.*

- a. The redeemer must be a kinsman: (Christ is our Kinsman-Redeemer)

**Ruth 4:13-14** *13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son. 14 And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel.*

- b. The redeemer must be able to redeem, i.e. have the purchase price: (Christ alone could pay the price of our redemption from sin since he alone was holy and thus had spotless blood.)

- c. The redeemer must be free from the calamity of the one he wishes to redeem (one slave cannot purchase another slave): Christ was free from the sin nature and the practice of sin.
- d. The redeemer must be willing to redeem: Christ was more than willing.

## II. PURCHASED OUT OF THE SLAVE MARKET: "EXAGORAZO" (used 4 times in N.T.)

**Gal. 3:13** *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

- A. The Slave Is Removed Out of the Slave Market.
- B. The Slave Is Never Again Returned to the Place of Bondage Or Put Up For Sale Again.

**Gal. 4:8-9** *8 Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. 9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?*

## III. TO LOOSE OR SET FREE: "LUTROS" (used 8 times in N.T.)

- A. The Slave Is Not Sold To Another Slave Master...He Is Set Free:

**John 8:36** *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

1. Once the slave is redeemed (set free) he is not under bondage!

**ILLUS:** The unsaved cannot comprehend the doctrine of eternal security... that once saved, no matter what he does, he cannot be lost. He has been set free!

2. The slave may choose to remain a slave to the redeemer.

**Ex. 21:5-6** *5 And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: 6 Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever.*

- a. Christ will not hold unwilling slaves.
- b. When redeemed from bondage to sin, we are not forced to serve the Lord Who redeemed us.
- c. Love alone should cause us to desire to serve Him.
- d. Though free, the Christian can choose to voluntarily serve Christ.

- 1) The mark of permanent slavery was a "bored ear". Cf. Rom. 12:1
- 2) Paul called himself a "bondslave", i.e. a willing servant.

3. The slave may refuse to accept the ransom payment and though potentially redeemed, he remains a bond-slave to sin and Satan. Tragic!!

## IV. COMPLETE DELIVERANCE: "FREE AT LAST!" "APOLUTROSIS"

**Rom. 8:23** *And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the re-demption of our body.*

- A. The Slave is Liberated From the Guilt and Doom of Sin and Introduced Into the Life of Liberation.
- B. The Slave is Delivered From the Presence and Power of Sin Forever! "FREE AT LAST!"

**CONCL: "FREE AT LAST!"** That is the condition of the believer who is not only redeemed but redeemed and serving out of love and then finally ushered into glory with a glorified body, like His Masters.

How tragic for one who is potentially redeemed to not accept the terms of his redemption and who continues to serve as a bond slave to sin with its ultimate doom!

# CHRIST DIDN'T DIE ACCIDENTLY

**TEXT:** Acts 2:23

**THESIS:** to reveal the predetermined nature of the death of Christ.

**INTRO:** A. The number of predictions of Christ's death in the O.T. are 2nd in number only to those which relate to His 2nd Coming. All the events surrounding His death were predicted and predetermined by God Himself. "CHRIST DIDN'T DIE ACCIDENTLY!" "Calvary was no accident!"

B. God left nothing to chance regarding His great and marvelous plan of redemption. Everything was planned, purposed, predicted and predetermined before the beginning of time. Just as the universe was in the mind of God before its actual creation, so to...

## I. THE ATONEMENT HAD ITS ORIGIN IN ETERNITY:

**Rev. 13:8** *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

A. God's Predetermination Makes Any Event Certain:

1. He cannot change His will...though He can will a change.

**ILLUS:** His will is bound by self-imposed limitations. There cannot be a change in God's will...it is fixed! He is immutable! However, He may will a change in reference to His dealings with man or with His created universe. God always hates sin, but when the sinner changes in relation to it, God changes His dealings with that sinner.

2. God cannot change His Word:

**ILLUS:** His Word is "forever settled in heaven" We could not trust a vacillating Being Who one day said one thing and another day spoke the opposite.

C. God's Predetermination of Calvary Was Prerecorded in His Word:

1. Details were given of that event in Ps.22, 1000 years. Previous literally hundreds of years before crucifixion was a form of capital punishment.
2. A vivid description of His death was recorded in Is. 52:13-53:12 700 years before His death.

**NOTE:** Before Isaiah or David wrote it God said it!

## II. THE ATONEMENT HAD ITS SOURCE IN GOD:

**Acts 2:23** *Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:*

A. Men Were Used To Accomplish This Task:

1. This fact does not absolve men of their guilt.
2. The time, manner and instruments of the crucifixion are all seemingly of man.
3. The Jews, Romans and Gentiles were all involved in the act and they "crucified the Lord of Glory."

**I Cor. 2:8** *Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*

B. God Initiated The Entire Plan:

**Acts 4:27-28** *27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together. For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.*

1. The crucifixion in all its gory detail was a fact in eternity before it became a fact in time.
2. The "determinate counsel" could be rendered "the specific declaration of God".
3. "Foretelling..." guarantees fulfillment.

**NOTE:** The fact that God fore knew the details of the death of Christ and foretold them implies fixity,

### III. THE ATONEMENT HAD ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN TIME:

**I Pet. 1:18-20** *18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,*

**ILLUS:** It is true that the crucifixion was foreknown, foreordained and foretold, but until it actually occurred it was valueless. He must be made "manifest...for you."

#### A. The Universe Is Like A Giant Clock Wound Up By God:

1. Every **SECOND** on that clock represents an event foreknown by God occurring in history.
2. Every **MINUTE** on that clock represents one of God's prophesies being fulfilled.
  - a. Time is essential to God's program even though He dwells in eternity and is Himself timeless.
  - b. Time words are always used in connection with God's plan of redemption:

**ILLUS:** *"But when the fullness of the TIME..." "NOW is the Son of man glorified..." etc.*

3. Every **HOUR** on that clock brings us nearer to the completion of the rest of God's plans.

#### B. Every Tick of God's Prophetic Clock Will Likewise Be Fulfilled:

1. One of the greatest proofs of the Bible's accuracy and historicity is fulfilled prophecy.
2. Present day events are leading to the culmination of God's plan for the future as past events led to Calvary.
3. The necessity of the fulfillment of Script. is based upon the integrity and character of God; He can and **MUST** be trusted.
4. A plan without implementation is ineffectual:

**ILLUS:** We all have plans or projects we talk about and desire to accomplish, but until we do something about them, they do not change anything.

- a. God planned the first Advent of His Son and His death.
- b. God has planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent of His Son and your place in the future of His plans is dependent upon what you do with His predetermined death on Calvary.

**CONCL:** While Christ's death was predetermined, your eternal destiny is up to **YOU**. He has done all He can to save you. You must respond positively to His offer of eternal life. **"CHRIST DIDN'T DIE ACCIDENTLLY"** and you will not go to hell accidentally either...you will decide to reject Christ and thus determine where you will spend eternity. He made provision for **YOU** in His predetermined plan. His desire is for you to accept what He did.

Christian, just as He planned the Atonement for His Son, He also planned the results. You are predestined to be conformed to the image of God's dear Son. How close are you right now!

# THE SURVIVAL OF THE WEAKEST

**TEXT:** John 10:17,18

**THESIS:** To reveal the completely voluntary nature of Christ's death.

**INTRO:** A. It seems that during Christ's last hours before the Cross, all the forces of the universe were stacked against Him: forces both natural and supernatural. The Romans and Jews, the Religious and Civil Leaders, the power and of darkness and the Father in Heaven, His friends and His enemies. The hour, His hour...prophesied and predetermined, had finally arrived. He was power- less...or was He?!

B. Listen to His own words in our text:

**John 10:17-18** 17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

**TRANS.:** In these words we see...

## I. THE POWER OF CHRIST AS THE LORD OF LIFE:

A. Christ Has Control Over Life Itself:

**John 5:26** For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

1. He is the only human who does not owe His life as a debtor to sin.

**Rom. 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (KJV)*

2. Every man MUST die; Christ alone died voluntarily.

3. Having voluntarily taken up a body, He could voluntarily lay it down again.

**Heb. 10:7-10** 7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. 8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldst not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; 9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. 10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (KJV)

a. He could slip the knot of union bet. body and soul at any time and disengage the two.

b. He could drop the shell of humanity without a violent act if He so chose.

**NOTE:** Interestingly, Jesus, though choosing to die, did not choose to rid Himself of His human body and has a body in heaven right now.

B. Christ Had Power To Keep His Life Against All Enemies:

1. Natural enemies:

a. Sin and death: Christ's body, untouched by the ravages of sin, could have survived indefinitely...like Adam before the fall.

b. The powers of earth: "No man taketh it..."

**ILLUS:** The treachery of Judas, the arrest in the Garden by the authorities, the insults by the mob, the trials by Pilate and Herod and the High Council, the scourging by the soldiers, the jeering of the mockers, the soldiers nailing Him to the cross...were all powerless against Him in the final analysis.

Here is the fulfillment of Gen.22:13 of the ram caught in the thicket of thorns by its horns. Horns speak of power, not weakness. Typically they speak of our Savior. He did not succumb to death thru weakness, but thru strength. He gave up His life in the full strength of manhood. It is not the nails, but the strength of His love for the Father and for the world that held Him on the Cross.

2. Supernatural enemies:

a. Satan and the forces of evil were powerless against Him as He had demonstrated on the Mt. of Temp-tation, in Gethsemane, by his casting out of demonic hosts, etc.

## II. THE PURPOSE OF CHRIST AS THE LIFE-GIVING LAMB:

### A. To Become the Shepherd He Must Assume the Roll of the Lamb:

1. Thousands of sheep had been slain for the sins of their shepherds; now the Shepherd is sacrificed for His sheep!

**II Sam. 24:17** *And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.*

**ILLUS:** The Lord slew 70,000 men as a result of David's sin of numbering the people. The above question is asked by a broken shepherd. The Son of David was sinless and His sheep...what evil have they NOT done? Ye He said: "I lay down my life for the sheep."

### B. To Become the Shepherd He Must Separate the Sheep From the Goats: cf. Jn.10:16,19,20 and 26,27

1. Here is the Shepherd willing to lay down His life for the unity of the flock.
2. But it is thru His death AND resurrection that this unity may be accomplished. cf. v.18

**NOTE:** Many shepherds have died for their flocks; He alone can take up His life again.

## III. THE PREROGATIVE OF CHRIST AS THE LORD OF LORDS:

### A. The Contest Over True and Ultimate Authority:

**John 19:9-11** 9 And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? 11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin. (KJV)

1. All true Govt. is of God...there would be chaos without Him.
2. Christ submits to Pilate's authority only because He recognizes its ultimate Source.
3. Christ again demonstrates the voluntary nature of His atonement.

### B. The Conclusions Taken from This Conversation:

1. That a correct used of Pilate's God-given authority would have released the innocent Christ.
2. That Pilate's authority was limited by God almighty.

**Rom. 13:1** *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*

3. That Christ's death was truly voluntary and that even at that 11th hour He could have granted Himself a reprieve, with a word!
4. Christ's reply and last words before the Cross were words of judgment. cf. v.11b
  - a. Christ distinguishes between degrees of sin (doesn't absolve Pilate). v.11
  - b. The last words Pilate heard from Christ's lips were SIN...the next words he will hear will be his sentence of eternal doom.
  - c. The position of Judge and defendant will then be reversed.

**CONCL:** Yes, Christ freely, voluntarily, gave Himself for His flock...the believer. Will you, like Paul and others, then give yourself freely, voluntarily to be crucified with Him?

**Gal. 2:20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Unsaved...how can you continue to reject the Savior who gave His life in your place voluntarily? He thought you were worth this supreme sacrifice. Prove He was right today by coming to Him and accepting His finished work for YOU!

# ONE FOR ALL

**TEXT:** Romans 5:18

**THESIS:** To reveal the vicarious nature of the death of Christ and the necessity for it.

**INTRO:** A. The Atonement has in this series been shown to have been redemptive, predetermined and voluntary. Now I want to reveal the vicarious nature of Christ's death. The word "vicarious" means "in behalf of others" or "for others."

**ILLUS:** An ambassador goes to another country's Govt. on behalf of his own Government and his own country's people.

The V.P.'s job is not usually desired because he rarely speaks for himself, but for the President. When a soldier goes to war and dies in others' behalf, his death is then vicarious.

B. When Christ died on the Cross, He died vicariously, or on behalf of others. He took their place as a substitute.

## I. THE VICARIOUS ACT OF ADAM IN LIFE BROUGHT ABOUT THE CURSE OF DEATH: 5:12

A. Adam Acted As Our Representative:

1. Representatives are not always elected by those they represent.

**ILLUS:** Castro represents the Cubans; the N.C.C. represents Protestants; the Pope represents Catholics; the President represents me! Representatives sometimes occupy their positions out of necessity; so with Adam.

a. He w headship over humanity. as chosen by God to be humanity's representative...whether you object or not does not change his

**ILLUS:** Just as you had no voice in determining your physical or mental capabilities before birth. It was an act of God and a combination of genes. It does no good to complain about it. Jer. 13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots?

b. Whenever God begins a social organization He always selects a representative head, e.g., Adam (human race), Israel (Abraham), Ishmael (Arabs), Church (Christ).

B. Adam's Sinful Act Brought Condemnation Upon His Ancestors: v.12

1. The actions of one man, or a group of men or nations, do affect the following generations.

**ILLUS:** Washington, Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, FDR, JFK, Pilate, Nero, Hitler, Clinton! The financial and moral debts which are being accrued today by our reps. will be paid by our children and our children's children.

2. Adam's position was unique:

a. Adam alone could control his destiny...he was a free moral agent in a world untouched by sin.

b. He had complete dominion over his will, environment and over the creatures of the earth, as no man since.

3. Adam willfully sinned...with eyes wide open and brought condemnation upon all who followed.

a. V.12 conveys the concept "for that all sinned in Adam" or "were in Adam sinning."

b. Adam did what any one of his ancestors would have likewise done.

C. Adam's Act Changed His (And Our) Relationship To God:

1. God deals wit the human race thru Adam.

2. God deals with the human race as an organic unity "for all have sinned.'

**ILLUS:** Every infant that dies is proof of the transmission of sin from one human to another. They die because of their relation to Adam. v.12

The only scriptural "brotherhood of man" is the sinful state we are all in thru Adam.

3. We are "in Adam" potentially or seminally; our seed was in his loins.

**ILLUS:** Levi is said to have "paid tithes to Melchizedek" the high priest being "in Abraham"...for he was in the loins of Abraham.

**Heb. 7:9-10** 9 And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. 10 For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.

4. For the universal effect (death) there must be a universal cause (sin). v.18a

**ILLUS:** Instead of quarreling with this arrangement, it is our duty to recognize it and to see how this same principle works FOR us...

## **II. THE VICARIOUS ACT OF CHRIST IN DEATH BROUGHT ABOUT THE REWARD OF LIFE: V.16**

### **A. Christ Acted as Our Representative:**

1. Once again our rep. is CHOSEN by a Sovereign God, not elected by those He will represent.
  - a. However, while our union with our first rep. is involuntary, our union with the 2nd Adam is voluntary.
  - b. We are united to the first Adam by ordinary generation, but to the 2nd Adam by regeneration.
2. Christ also becomes our representative thru necessity:
  - a. No one else is capable of acting vicariously for us "for ALL have sinned...except Him!
  - b. He alone is free from the taint of sin and it's consequence...death

### **B. Christ's Righteous Act Made Salvation Avail. for All: v.18**

1. The actions of this Man removes the curse of Adam from all...this is the universal aspect of His death.

**ILLUS:** Christ declared that if He were to be crucified He would "draw ALL MEN to Him."

**I Tim. 4:10** For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

### **2. Christ, like Adam, held a unique position.**

(He could control His destiny within the bounds of His Father's will)

- a. He had complete dominion over His will, environment and His creatures, even more than Adam...He COULD NOT respond to temptation as Adam could and did.

### **3. Christ willingly laid down His life in our behalf and pours blessings on all who chose Him.**

### **C. Christ's Act Made Possible A New Relationship To God:**

1. God now deals with man thru Christ.

**ILLUS:** All infants who die because of their relationship to the 1st Adam, inherit eternal life because of their relation to the 2nd Adam. (Others must "believe" to receive...infants are not able so they are exempt.)

The sufferings of an infant unto death is a cheap price to pay for exemption from the temptations of this present world. The death of an infant, from God's point of view, is a merciful arrangement. (Christ died for our "sins" and to put away "sin".

**Heb. 9:26** For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

2. For the universal cause and effect...SIN and DEATH...there is now, in Christ, a universal cure.

**I John. 2:2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

**CONCL:** Truly, Christ's death was vicarious for us. He did what we could not do...reconciled us to God.

We who were once strangers and foreigners to the grace of God are now made partakers of it and fellow citizens with the saints of God. If you are only in the first Adam the curse of sin is still on you. Why not today place yourself in the 2nd Adam" and be reconciled to Him?



# ONE FOR ALL - ONCE FOR ALL!

**TEXT:** Heb. 10:1-10

**THESIS:** To set forth the sacrificial nature of Christ's death and its sufficiency as compared to O.T. sacrifices.

**INTRO:** A. We have seen Christ's atonement as a glittering jewel with many facets: Redemptive, Predetermined, Voluntary, Vicarious and now we will examine another vital facet, that of its Sacrificial nature.

B. A sacrifice in the Biblical sense means "to make an offering for sin." The Rabbi's of ancient Judaism listed 5 acts belonging to the OFFERER: (*5 is the number of death in the Bible*)

1. Selecting the proper offering.
2. Bringing the offering to the Tabernacle / Temple. (incl.women)
3. Laying on of hands indicating substitution.
4. Prayer for cleansing and confession.
5. Slaying, skinning, cutting up and washing inwards of animal.

They also listed 5 acts belonging to the PRIEST:

1. Catching the blood.
2. Sprinkling the blood.
3. Laying on the wood.
4. Lighting the altar fire.
5. Bringing up the pieces of the sacrifice to the altar and attendant duties.

## I. O.T. SACRIFICES - TYPICAL AND INSUFFICIENT:

A. Types and Shadows: v.1

**ILLUS:** A CEREMONY is an act without inward spiritual significance, though perhaps designed to suggest something spiritual.

A SYMBOL is an act with present spiritual significance; e.g. Lord's Supper.

A TYPE is an act with present and future spiritual significance; e.g. the Ark of the Covenant was the immediate dwelling place of the Lord and the picture of His future dwelling place in glory.

1. A shadow is not the likeness but the contour or "outline" of that which casts the shadow.
2. A shadow gives a mere hint at the reality of the object.
3. The Law met only the shadow of the need and not the need itself.

**ILLUS:** You cannot live in the shadow of a house, draw money from the shadow of a bank, etc.

- a. The Law spoke of the need of pardon, but could only bestow the shadow or suggestion of actual forgiveness.
- b. The Law pictured the "good things to come" but could never produce them.

B. Lacked Substance: v.1

1. They were not "the very image."
2. They were inadequate representations of the True Sacrifice.
3. They provided only a rude and inadequate sketch of the great truths of Christ's sacrifice.

**ILLUS:** The animals for sacrifice were ignorant of what was taking place... not our Savior. These animals had to be dragged to the altar...Christ went willingly and boldly.

D. Lacked Sufficiency: v.1

1. They could never make a man perfect or change his standing before the Lord.
  - a. If so, they would have ceased. v.2

**ILLUS:** If a man is arrested and put in jail for a crime and serves his sentence the law requires no further penalty for that crime. He will not have to go back to jail "year after year continually" when that judgment has been met.

b. They could never give a "clear conscience" before God.

2. They were designed to help the individual. "remember" not to FORGET his sin; they provided a perpetual reminder. v.3
3. Animal sacrifices could not suffice. v.4

- a. They portrayed the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"
- b. They taught that bloodshed was necessary for cleansing.
- c. They revealed that an innocent substitute must be slain for the guilty sinner.

## **II. N.T. SACRIFICE - REAL AND SUFFICIENT:**

### **A. Replaced Shadows: v.5-9**

1. Now the "outline" has been filled in and the image itself appears.
2. The "shadow" becomes a reality: "...He taketh away the first that He may establish the second."
3. His sacrificial death provided a change in man's relationship to God
4. His sacrifice abrogated the Levitical sacrificial system.

**ILLUS:** Sacrifices in religious ceremonies are nearly universal! But animal sacrifices cease when individuals, tribes, or nations receive the "Good News" of Christ's "one sacrifice for all". CHRISTIAN societies do not continue sacrifices.

### **B. Revealed Obedience: v.8,9**

1. His "prepared body" readily submitted itself to the Divine will. v.5
2. He was "obedient unto death...even the death of the cross."
3. He was voluntarily obedient. v.6,7

### **C. Repetition Unnecessary:**

1. Cf. v.2...Animal sacrifices ceased when He died; i.e., their effectiveness ceased.

**ILLUS:** Unfortunately the Jews attempted to continue the sacrificial system as long as the Temple stood. They sewed together the rent veil. God sent Christ to stop the sacrifices, then sent the Romans to destroy the Temple.

2. We are sanctified or "made holy" by the offering of His body "once for all." v.10  
Further sacrifices are useless...yea, are an abomination to God. v.11

**ILLUS:** The R/C's "unbloody sacrifice" of the Mass is useless for 2 reasons:

- 1) Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin (Heb.9:22) and
- 2) The sacrificial system is outdated.

4. Christ "sat down" next to His Father because His work was complete. v.12

**ILLUS:** The O.T. priest always stood while ministering because his work was never done. Christ sat down!

**CONCL:** Perhaps YOU are trying to present some "sacrifice" to God to appease His wrath, to satisfy His righteous demands, or as an act of dedication to Him. But He is interested only in the "ONCE FOR ALL" sacrifice of His Son and in your obedience to His Word. Believe, receive, obey today!

# SEND IN THE SUBSTITUTE!

**TEXT:** Matt. 15:26

**THESIS:** To teach and illustrate the substitutionary nature of Christ's death.

**INTRO:** A. Christ died on the cross that was intended for the murderer Barabbas. He died in Barabbas' place. He also died in our place!

B. A substitute is usually used when the original is worn out or useless. The substitute is presumed to be of superior quality, able to perform more efficiently and able to do the job the original could not do.

**ILLUS:** In baseball, they usually substitute the pitcher when he is having an off day, or getting tired, etc. Hopefully, the substitute will do a better job. Or, if the pitcher is right-handed with a good curve ball, they may send in a pinch hitter (a sub), who is left-handed so he cannot pitch that deadly curve ball to him. If you are substituted for, you are out of the game!!!

C. It was said of Christ while He was expiring on the Cross, "He saved others, He cannot save Himself." How true! To secure redemption for others He must give Himself as a Substitute!

**TRANS:** So far in this series on the Atonement, we have preached on its redemptive nature, how it was predetermined, voluntary, sacrificial and vicarious. Vicarious means "for others"; substitutionary means "in their place." Today we will focus on Christ as our Substitute...

## I. OUR SUBSTITUTE IN THE O.T.:

### A. Pictured in Animal Sacrifices: (Lev.1-5)

#### 1. The sweet savour offerings:

**NOTE:** In these sweet-savour offerings He is pictured in His perfections. He is seen not only as our innocent Substitute (passive) but as the One who had done only good (active).

- a. **The Burnt Offering:** Christ is seen as our Sub. accomplishing the will of God, which we as mere humans failed in doing.
- b. **The Meal Offering:** pictures the perfection of our Sub. the fine flour, His perfect, well-balanced humanity; the oil the Holy Spirit who overshadowed Him in His incarnation and life and the incense points
- c. to the moral fragrance of His person; the absence of leaven, His sinlessness and the salt, His ability to hold back corruption and to bring conviction.
- d. **The Peace Offering:** speaks of the peace we can have with God on the basis of His substitutionary death on our behalf.

#### 2. The non sweet savour offerings:

- a. **The Sin Offering:** was to provide atonement and forgiveness for specific, but unintentional or nondefiant sins where no restitution was required; God accepted the animal substitute and diverted His wrath from the sinner and ultimately to Christ.
- b. **The Trespass Offering:** was to make restitution payment and fine to the wronged party, either man or God; the sacrifice animal was not part of the restitution, but was the substitute in the sinners place which paid the penalty.

### B. Portrayed in Abraham and Isaac: Gen. 22

1. This is the only type that suggested that God required a HUMAN sacrifice or substitute... "take thy son..."
2. The dialogue is bet. the father and son alone.
3. God stops the sacrifice and provides a substitute (the ram) because the sacrifice of Isaac could serve no useful purpose as a substitute for he too was a sinner.
4. The victim or substitute must be innocent and ultimately also human.

a. Our sacrificial Substitute must be a sinless human free from even the sin nature.

b. He must shed innocent blood.

- c. He must be accepted by God the Father.
- d. He must be set apart from mankind by the "head of the household," the Father.

### C. Prophesied by Isaiah:

**Is. 53:4-6** *4 Surely he hath borne OUR griefs, and carried OUR sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for OUR transgressions, he was bruised for OUR iniquities: the chastisement of OUR peace was upon him; and with HIS stripes WE are healed. 6 All WE like sheep have gone astray; WE have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD had laid on HIM the iniquity of US ALL.*

## II. OUR SUBSTITUTE IN THE N.T.:

### A. The Righteous For The Unrighteous:

**Rom. 5:6-8** *6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

1. The God-man dying for the ungodly.
2. Christ laying down His life for His enemies.
3. Christ became Jehovah-Tsidkenu (our Right-eousness).

### B. The Sinless For The Sinful:

**II Cor. 5:21** *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

1. Christ Who was devoid of all sin, died for men who were devoid of all righteousness.

### C. The Just For The Unjust:

**I Peter 3:18** *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*

1. He took the "guilty" indictment against Barabbas and died in his place on his cross.
2. By receiving the execution of the guilty sentence upon all sinners He purchased our freedom.

### D. The Innocent For The Guilty:

**Acts 3:13-15a** *13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. 14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life,...*

1. Though declared "innocent" by Pilate, He was put to death as "guilty".
2. As in all the O.T. sacrifices the victim must always be innocent to have any effect upon those for whom it was sacrificed.

**CONCL:** The verdict upon every son of Adam is "guilty" and the sentence is "death."

During the Civil and Revolutionary Wars rich people could pay to have someone substitute for them in military service. The substitute was accepted in the place of the one drafted to serve. Often the substitute would die in the place of that one. His death only spared the life of the one drafted, it did not absolve him of any of his sins. An INNOCENT SUBSTITUTE alone could do that. There is only One. His name is Jesus. Why not "SEND IN THE SUBSTITUTE" today?!

# HID FROM GOD

**TEXT:** Rom. 3:23-26

**THESIS:** To explain and illustrate the propitiatory nature of Christ's death.

**INTRO:** A. The Atonement is a multi-faceted jewel. We have examined 6 of these facets in this series: the Red-emptive facet, the Predetermined facet, the Voluntary, Vicarious, Sacrificial and Substitutionary facets. Today we will carefully handle this precious jewel and wonder at the Propitiatory facet.

B. Obviously nothing can actually be "HID FROM GOD", i.e., God is Omniscient and knows everything and is Omnipresent so is everywhere. But God may in fact "hide" things from Himself. He says our sins are forgotten, removed as far as the east is from the west, buried in the deepest sea; all figurative terms, but very instructive and graphic. That is the nature of this facet of the atonement, the Propitiatory facet...

## I. PROPITIATION SPEAKS OF COVERING:

### A. O.T. Origin of the Word:

#### 1. The 3 Arks:

a. Noah's Ark: "pitch" - ("cover")

**Gen. 6:14** *Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.*

b. Moses' Ark: "daubed" - ("cover")

**Ex. 2:3** *And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink.*

c. Ark of the Covenant:

**ILLUS:** The Ark of the Covenant was a gold plated box with a solid gold cover or lid which hid the contents inside. Cf. **Ex. 25:17-22**

The solid gold spoke of righteousness and purity. The lid hid or covered the broken Law of God inside the Ark, otherwise the Shekinah Glory would view the Law instead of the covering. It must be sprinkled and stained with blood!

The limitations of measurements stated in Ex. for the Mercy Seat show that God's covering for sin is limited to those who come to the Antitype of the Mercy Seat, our Covering or Mercy Seat, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Lev. 16:14** *And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times.*

#### 2. Other O.T. uses of the word:

a. Used 71 times as "to atone for sin" or "to make a covering."

b. Used of Jacob and Esau as "appease" or satisfy.

**Gen. 32:20** *And say ye moreover, Behold, thy servant Jacob is behind us. For he said, I will appease him with the present that goeth before me, and afterward I will see his face; peradventure he will accept of me.*

### B. N.T. Usage of the Word;

1. The Greek word is "hilasterion" and is translated "propitiation" in our text and literally means "a covering sacrifice."

Rom. 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a pro-pitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

2. In Heb. 9:5 the same word is translated "Mercy Seat" (the covering)

**Heb. 9:5** And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

## II. PROPITIATION PICTURES COMMUNION:

**Ex. 25:21-22** *21 And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. 22 And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.*

### A. The Mercy Seat Covered Over The Broken Law of God in the Ark:

1. God provided a perfect, pure covering for the broken Law and its penalties.
2. God provided Christ a propitiation for man's sin and it's consequences in Christ.

**I John 2:2** *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

**ILLUS:** Israel dared to uncover what God had covered. They exposed the broken Law and thus severed mercy from judgment and the result was immediate death! The Mercy Seat became the Judgment Seat.

**I Sam. 6:19-20** *19 And he smote the men of Beth-she'mesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD, even he smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men: and the people lamented, because the LORD had smitten many of the people with a great slaughter. 20 And the men of Bethshemesh said, Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? and to whom shall he go up from us?*

**NOTE:** As you can see from these verses God is not just a God of love, but of wrath, vengeance and judgment. Praise the Lord for His mercy, but His mercy is limited to a response to His love. No required love for what He has done for everyone on Calvary's cross by the sinner, then judgment follows. A scary thought indeed.

### B. The Mercy Seat is the Place Where Jehovah Met the Sinner in the Person of His Representative:

1. Aaron the H.P. alone entered the Most Holy Place in behalf of the people to obtain mercy.
2. Today the Throne of Grace likewise is hidden from view and must be approached only in faith by the believer thru his H.P., the Lord Jesus.

Cf. **Heb. 10:19-22**

### C. The Mercy Seat is the Center of Worship and Communion:

3. It was the most expensive and important furniture in the Tabernacle.

## III. PROPITIATION PORTRAYS COMPLETION:

### A. Nothing Needed to Be Added to the Mercy Seat. (Except Blood!)

1. It was made of pure gold.
2. Cherubim made of the same piece, not added.
3. It was a perfect and complete covering!

### B. Nothing Needs to Be Added to Christ's Finished Work!

**CONCL:** The Broken Law was "HID FROM GOD" inside the Ark covered by the blood spattered lid known as the Mercy Seat. Our sins are covered by our Propitiation, our Mercy Seat, the Lord Jesus, and we need only accept the Covering for our sins so we can commune with God.

Adam and Eve tried to hide from God after their sin and to cover their sin with a covering of their own making. But God did not accept their covering and made a covering of His own by slaying innocent substitutes. Only then was He satisfied or appeased.

Ultimately the Mercy Seat was the climax of the worship service. God's mercy is still available for every sinner. His sinless blood shed on the cross and His subsequent resurrection seals His mercy for anyone who asks for it.

**Romans 10:9,10** *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*