

THE SATISFYING SAVIOUR

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

Sin is the universal difficulty of man and of God. It is in every home; it is in every heart; it is in every life. Any way you observe it, study it, experience it, or analyze it, it does three things to you. It estranges you from God, or puts a barrier between you and Him. Sin undoubtedly and unquestionably separates you from God. It also enslaves you—enslaves your thoughts, appetites, ambitions, affections and conscience. Then, it inescapably and inevitably entails death. "The wages of sin is death." It is death to character, to reputation, to love, to ambition, to influence, to chances of getting ahead in the world, to the mind, the heart, the body and the soul.

By propitiation is meant the complete satisfaction of the claims of the law on the sinner by the infliction of the law's penalty on the Lord Jesus Christ as the sinner's substitute. The principle involved is that the authority of the law must be maintained by the lawgiver, and that when the law has been broken the sentence of the law must be carried into effect. So, in His boundless grace and mercy, God gave His Son to die for our sins. Thus the law has been vindicated and the sin punished, while at the same time the love is satisfied and the sinner set free. This is what is meant by propitiation.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the one who makes satisfaction for our sins. In His sacrificial death on the cross He satisfied the love and mercy and justice of the Father for our sins. He completely satisfies the soul that will believe on Him, accept Him, and live for Him.

I. Christ Is The Propitiation.

That He is here appropriately called the propitiation will appear, if we consider:

1. The glory of His person.

He was human. His growth was human. He was a child, a boy, a youth, and a man of thirty-three. His relationships were human. He was a son, a brother, a friend, and a neighbor. He sat on Jacob's well, way-weary and thirsty. In the storm He slept. He had all the infirmities of humanity, sin excepted. His sympathies were intensely human. He pitied the multitude. He loved Martha and Mary. "He wept," words that show that He could gather up into His great human soul a world's woe.

But He was Divine as well as human. He was the Infant of Day and the Father of Eternity. The testimonies to His deity are numerous. The angels broke the silence of Bethlehem's plains, announcing Him as the "Saviour who is Christ the Lord."

2. The purity of His character.

He was holy. He could say, "Which of you convinceth me of sin?" The Roman governor, after hearing all the evidence, washed His hands, saying, "I find no fault in Him." And Judas said, "I have sinned, in that I have betrayed innocent blood." And in examining His fourfold biography we find Him free from all the faults of His times; free from the prejudices of His countrymen; free from the bigotry of sects; free from those peculiar weaknesses which men exhibit when exposed to special trials; free from sudden gusts of passion; free from every appearance of human pollution. There was the absence of all the vices; there was the presence of all the virtues.

3. The greatness of His work.

Though He was above the law, He made Himself subject to the law, and voluntarily undertook to fulfill all obediences. His work is so meritorious that God, on the ground of it, offers freely and abundantly, pardon, purity, peace, and paradise to every penitent and believing sinner of the human race.

II. Characteristics Of This Propitiation.

Concerning this divine propitiation, it is self-evident that:

1. It is complete.
The whole is completed forever.
2. It is final.
There is no possibility of any repetition.
3. It is sufficient.
Those who are saved by it are made partakers of a complete reconciliation. It is sufficient for all.
4. It is universal.
 - (1) Suited to the whole world.
Christ is the propitiation for the sins of all, without distinction, without restriction and without exception. Bread is not more suited to the hungry, nor water to the thirsty, nor light to the eye, nor music to the ear, than this propitiation is suited to the needs of every human soul.
 - (2) Sufficient for the whole world.
"The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth from all sin." Men of every age, nation, class and character have found it suited to them.
 - (3) Available for the whole world.
5. It is immutable.
It has lost none of its value or its virtues by the lapse of time, the course of the ages, the change of customs, the vicissitudes of nations, the neglect or the advancement of mankind.

III. Facts Concerning The Satisfying Saviour.

1. Christ seeks the sinner.
Jesus came to this earth to seek and to save the lost. Jesus spoke the parables--about the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son--to make it clear that He is the Saviour seeking lost souls. He rejoices when He finds the lost ready to accept Him.
2. Christ saves from sin.
This truth is emphasized again and again all through the New Testament. "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures." "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." He will save from the penalty, punishment, habit, dominion, and presence of sin.
3. Christ soothes in sorrow.
Jesus was "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." It is said of Him, "Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows." The experiences of Jesus make Him acquainted with every sorrow of the soul. His deity assures power sufficient to minister to every sorrowing soul. Just ask any soul that has gone to the Lord for comfort in time of sorrow and you will be assured of His power and willingness to soothe in sorrow.
4. Christ strengthens for service.
We cannot satisfactorily do the service of the Lord in our own strength. The Father knows this and has made it possible for us to have all the power we need for His service. This strength comes into a life through the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus says, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." After Paul gave ample test of this source of power for the Lord's service, he said, "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me." If this great apostle found in Christ all

the strength he needed to do all the mighty things he did for the Lord, surely all others can find sufficient supply in the same source. Depend on Christ for all strength needed in the service of the Lord.

5. Christ satisfies the soul.
The soul longs for security. It can be found in Christ. The same is true of peace, happiness, eternal life, and satisfaction. Christ satisfies every longing of the soul.