

## *The Atonement pt. 2 (2 Corinthians 5:19-20)*

### I. The Nature of the Atonement

#### A. In regards to the Nature of the atonement, we must consider two aspects.

1. Christ's obedience for us, in which he obeyed the requirements of the Law in our place, and was perfectly obedient to the will of God.
2. Christ sufferings for us, in which he took the penalty due for our sins and as a result died for our sin.
  - It is important for us to notice that in both the obedience of Christ and the suffering of Christ, the primary emphasis and influence of Christ work of redemption is NOT on us, but on the God the Father.
    - We understand that Jesus obeyed the Father in our place and perfectly and fully met the demands of the law.
    - We understand that that Jesus Christ suffered in our place, receiving himself the penalty that God the Father would have dropped on us.
  - In both cases, the atonement is viewed as something that has primary influence directly on God himself. Only secondarily does it have application to us.
  - It only has application to us , because there was a definite event in the relationship between God the Father and God the Son that secured our salvation.
  - We must not begin to think that we can and are able to live in the fullness of the works of the cross if we are not in christ. The covenant was not made with man but made with Jesus!
    - [Romans 5:10](#) "For if while we were enemies to God by the death of his son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.
    - [2 Corinthians 5:19-20](#) "That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
    - We must understand the reconciliation of man to God as secondary and the reconciliation of God to man as the primary influence! Once God was reconciled to man, Then the reconciled God, justifies the sinner, who accepts the reconciliation or has faith in Jesus Christ, and so operates in his heart

through the Holy Spirit, that the sinner lay aside his wicked works, and thus enter into the perfect atonement of Christ

## II. Christ's Obedience for us.

A. We must understand a fundamental principle of the atonement. If Christ had only earned forgiveness of sins for us, then we would not merit heaven or eternal life .

- Our Guilt would have been removed, but we simply would've been put in the same position of Adam and Eve Before Adam and Eve had done anything good or bad and before
- In order for them to have been established in righteousness forever and to have their fellowship with God made sure forever, Adam and Eve had to obey God perfectly over a period of time.
- Then God would have looked on their faithful obedience with pleasure and delight, and they would have lived in fellowship with him forever.
- Adam and Eve were in a covenant of works
- When God graciously enters into covenant with man/Adam he promised life for obedience. Thus now ensuring that the keeping of the law ensured or obtained eternal life
- In the Garden of Eden there were legally binding set of provisions that defined the conditions of the relationship between God and Man.
- The participation in the blessing of the covenant Adam and Eve had to do works or depend fully on their obedience to God
- If not capable of fully obeying or completion of works the punishment was death.
- For this reason, Christ had to live a life of perfect obedience to God in order to earn righteousness for us. He had to obey the Law for his whole life on our behalf so that the positive merits of his perfect obedience would be counted for us.
- We have to understand that that Christ had to complete both works the obedience of the law and the payment for sins had to be done together in order to ensure eternal life to us.
- Through the Law we saw in the garden of eden God required two things of man  
1. Either obedience to the law, or subjection to penalty for not obey/ or sinning.
- But the moment that Adam and Eve sin / or fall mankind entered into the penal subjection of the Law. God continued to ask for obedience to the law but also penalty or payment of sin
- When Jesus walked in perfect obedience he was able to fully fulfill the law and also become our payment for sin, so that we no longer need to live in a state of subjection to a law we can never complete but rather but made righteous through the faith in the righteous one.

- So our impossible task to fulfill the law and the horrible feat to be under the wrath of God, were both completely satisfied in the life and death of Jesus Christ. This is why he is our savior.
- God fully understanding that he can not make the pact with a man who's nature is too sin, but in order to be reconciled back to us, he must make the covenant not with man but with the perfect lamb.
- Last sermon I made it a point to say the saving works Christ did was not just on his death but throughout his life. Him fully being obedient to the will of God and walking blamelessly is part of the saving works of Christ.
- Galatians 4:4-5 “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we may receive adoption as sons.”
  - “Born under the Law refers to the fact that Jesus knew what it was to live under the mosaic law.
  - Jesus perfectly kept the law, which no other human could do.
  - All people are actually spiritual slaves to sin, which was made clear by the law, thus making it necessary for Jesus to die without sin in perfect obedience and fulfilling the Law so that we may be set free by purchase. (the blood of Jesus)
- Romans 10:3-4 “For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
  - Here we see Christ is the end of the law in being both its fulfillment and its termination so that salvation is no longer based on performance.
  - In order for the Law to be fulfilled Christ had to walk in perfect obedience through his life on earth.
- Romans 8 3:4 “For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh could not do. By sending his Son in likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh.
  - Jesus fulfilled the law's demands in his life and in his death and broke the power of sin in a human body on the cross.
- Paul says in Philippians 3:9 “and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the Law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness of God that depends on faith.”
  - To be found in him mean to abide in Christ to leave a life hidden and united to Christ, and therefore found not guilty before God.
  - When he speaks of “righteousness of my own” he speaks on striving for right standing with God through obedience of the Law.

- We must know and understand that God attributes the lifelong record of perfect obedience of Jesus Christ to the person who put their faith in him/ Jesus.
- Paul understands that he needs more than just a clean slate or a forgiveness of sin, but he needs a righteousness that only comes from Jesus, that now enables the believer to walk not according to law but through life in Jesus.
- Understand that that righteousness can not come from the obedience of the Law because as humans we all fall short and we all sin.
- Therefore the saving work that Christ did in his obedience to God now enables us to receive salvation, but to also stand innocent before the divine judge through our faith in Jesus Christ who is the believers righteousness before God.
- 1 Corinthians 1:30 says “And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.”
- Jesus knew his assignment while on Earth was to be righteous by fully obeying the will of the father and living blameless. We see this in his conversation with John the Baptist, when John wanted Jesus to baptize him, instead we hear this response from Jesus in Matthew chapter 3:15 “ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now , for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”
- The consequence of just forgiving our sins and nothing else would be no record of obedience in which we would not merit God’s favor and merit eternal life with him.
- This puts us back into the works covenant of the Garden, where I had to rely on my perfect obedience to gain favor if not the punishment was death.
- Christ could not only walk sinless but in full obedience. The length of obedience was necessary, if it were just sinless there was no point in waiting an extensive time before dying on the cross. The plan of God is perfect but we must not only take portions but embrace all of the redemptive work of Christ in this case we saw his obedience.

### III. Christ’s Suffering for us

- A. In addition to obeying the Law perfectly for his whole life on our behalf, Christ also took on himself the suffering necessary to pay the penalty of our sins.
- B. Christ as the Mediator also entered the penal relationship of the Law
  - 1. Suffering in his whole life
    - In a broad sense the penalty Christ bore in praying for our sins was suffering in both his body and soul.

- We know that the culmination of Christ suffering was the cross, but he suffered throughout his whole life while living in a fallen world.
- We see The sufferings of Christ body and soul throughout his whole life
  - The temptation of the wilderness ([Matthew 4:1-11](#)) when he was assaulted for forty days by the attack of satan.
  - We see his suffering in growing in maturity . [Hebrews 5:8](#) tells us “ Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.”
    - Jesus firsthand understood what It means to be obedient through suffering.
  - He also knew suffering through the intense opposition he felt from Jewish leaders throughout most of his ministry. [Hebrews 12:3-4](#) “Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or faint hearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your own blood.”
  - Suffering he felt in his soul when losing his friend Lazarus, [John 11:35](#) “Jesus Wept”
  - The prophet Isaiah said that he would be “a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief” [Isaiah 53:3](#) “He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we not esteemed him not.”
    - This shows us that Jesus experienced sorrow and grief of various sorts throughout his whole life.

## 2. The pain of the cross

- The sufferings of Jesus intensified as he drew near to the cross.
  - In [Matthew 26:38](#) he tells the disciples what he is going through “Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.”
  - Jesus sorrow was a result of his anticipation of his physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering on the cross.
- It is at the cross where the suffering of Jesus would reach the climax
- It is at the cross where he bore the penalty for sin and died in our place.