

“ATONEMENT FOR SIN”

The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia S18A (Ref #2014 NAC/#8 Rdg) 1003 21C

We are told in Romans 3:23 that *“all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* Therefore, we need an atonement for sin. Many sacrifices for sin were made throughout the Old Testament, but they were not a permanent sacrifice. There was only one way for a perfect sacrifice, to be made, to atone for sin. It had to be the sinless One.

2 Corinthians 5:21, *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*

Jesus came out of His great love for us to atone for our sins on the cross. All we need to do is to place our faith on that Atonement Blood that He shed for us. That Atonement produces righteousness; gives us peace; provides health and healing; offers protection; supplies daily needs; and grants every other gift God has for us. The Atonement Blood of Christ is the full payment for sin—for everyone. It means compensation was given for this sin debt, and that debt has been paid in full.

It is of utmost importance that we understand what the Atonement for sin did for us. We must know what Jesus did for sinners, so that we can claim and receive all the blessings and Atonement privileges that we have waiting for us as true believers in that great work that Jesus died to give to us on Calvary’s Cross.

. We need enlightenment on AV Ephesians 1:19 *“the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe”*—And then Ephesians 3:20, *“He that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, and then we need to trust on what the shed Blood of Christ has done for us.*

AV Isaiah 53:1 *“Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?”* Or who has believed what God has to say about that great sacrifice, or the shedding of the Blood and breaking of the Body of His Son?

The very moment we really believe and accept that plain statement that God tells us about His Son dying on the Cross and what that Blood should mean to us, then that very moment, God’s Almighty love and power is moved in our behalf, to give us the benefits of that great work.

It is a choice, if there is anyone willing to use their power of choice to believe what God has to say about atonement for sin, then He will be able to enlighten them to the meaning of the blood sacrifice.

When we make a choice to believe the Word of God, then the Spirit of God will enlighten us, and the arm of the Lord will do marvelous things for us. AV 1 Corinthians 1:18 *“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but to us which are saved it is the power of God.”* God can work in our life when we believe in His Son.

Hebrews is a Book on Atonement that defines the promises of God. Jesus was willing to suffer death on a cross so we could be as Hebrews 10:10 tells us, *“Sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ”*—by our willingness to trust in faith on what that Atonement for sin accomplished. We now have access to all we need from God. This Atonement sacrifice in the New Testament is correctly understood when we know about the first sin in the Old Testament.

Genesis 3:13-14 NIV *“The LORD God said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’ So, the LORD God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, ‘Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals!’”* When we know about the curse, then we can understand atonement.

God requires blood to atone for sin, which is why Abel in Genesis 4:4, *“brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering.”* When we understand the definition of atonement, then the Lord is ready to work in our life.

Hebrews 10:12, when Jesus *“offered one sacrifice for sins forever, [He] sat down on the right hand of God.”* The Son of God accomplished what the Father required. God was pleased when animal blood atoned for sins. NKJV Hebrews 11:4 *“By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.”*

Abel’s sacrifice of a lamb symbolized Christ’s sacrifice on the cross—this shedding of blood made Abel righteous in the sight of God. Abel did not have to plead to be forgiven, but only to follow instructions, and to make a right offering of blood to atone for his sin. The blood of an animal is all God required for Abel’s cleansing, and the blood of His Son is all God requires for ours today.

We are required to accept God’s Word and believe in faith that the shed Blood of His Son accomplished all that is needed to atone for our sins. His sacrifice forgives us, when we ask in faith, and believe in our heart that full compensation has been made. It is not anything we have done, but everything is based on faith in what Jesus has done. He has made a perfect sacrifice to atone for many sins.

We are to believe that; accept His forgiveness by faith and know that we are righteous before God—only because of Jesus’ Blood that was shed for us and not anything else. Hebrews 9:13-14 NIV *‘The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are*

outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death!" Abel's animal sacrifice granted forgiveness, so God's Son's sacrifice grants the same today.

In the book of Acts 8:32-33 NIV The Ethiopian was reading from the book of Isaiah. *"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth."* The official was an educated man with a high government position, but he did not understand what this atonement for sin really meant.

The apostle explained Jesus was the Son of God, who gave His life to forgive our sins. He ministered for 3½ years; explained the Scriptures to anyone who would listen, and then went to the Cross to shed His Blood, willingly, to atone for the sins in our life. If anyone will believe Jesus actually did that, they will repent of and forsake their sins, and then trust in faith on that Atonement.

When they came to some water, the official asked to be baptized Acts 8:37-38 NKJV. Philip said, *"If you believe with all your heart, you may."* And he answered and said, *'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.'* So, he commanded the chariot to stand still. *And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him."* The man truly believed in his heart, on what Jesus accomplished on the cross, so he was baptized.

Unbelieving Jews were told AV Acts 2:38-39 *"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."* Whoever will believe what atonement for sin means, will be justified—YLT Acts 10:43 *"through his name every one that is believing in him doth receive remission of sins."*

Believing what the atonement accomplished—is what matters. 1 John 5:6-8 NKJV *"This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one."*

Cornelius was willing to believe God's testimony about Atonement, so he was ready to do whatever the apostle said—but he was told to just believe the truth about what Jesus did for him on the cross, and then put his trust on the Blood. 9 NKJV *"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son."* If Cornelius would believe, God would forgive.

So, he listened to the apostle's message about true repentance and believing faith in Christ. He did not have to beg for mercy, but to just believe in his heart that Jesus died for his sins, and then trust in faith on His Name. If he would believe the testimony of God about the shedding of blood for remission of sins, he would be free from them.

God required a blood sacrifice, so Cornelius just had to believe what the Atonement did, a true pardon from sin and a changed heart within. Unbelief is the root of sin—and belief is the source of life—true righteousness. We just need a willing heart that trusts in faith and God does the rest.

We have the perfect offering and sacrifice; therefore, with that willing heart, we can enjoy perfect righteousness, peace, health, and protection. The Blood of Jesus Christ has done all this for us. God has declared it and Satan cannot harm us when we take full advantage of this perfect Sacrifice.

Jesus and His Disciples ate the meal together before He went away; Matthew 26:26-28 NIV *“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’ Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and offered it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the [new AV] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”*

Eating meals together with close friends and sharing good food, always had special meaning. One did not seek the company of sinners, so the Pharisees criticized Jesus for eating meals with tax collectors. They ignored their own sin of hypocrisy, and pride. Jesus came to forgive sinners, which everyone is, until they repent, forsake those sins, and accept what His Atonement did. That will give us a changed heart that will now believe in faith.

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