ATONEMENT REQUIRED

S077 26 1101C

God has required atonement for sins by the shedding of blood from the very beginning; that is why the apostle wrote 1 Corinthians 2:2 NKJV *"For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."* The Bible clearly teaches that the punishment for any sin is death, so there has to be some way to atone for the guilt of the sinner. AV Romans 3:23 *"For there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"*—atonement must be made for our soul to be saved.

God said in Jeremiah 31:30 AV *"Every one shall die for his own iniquity;"* so God cannot ignore sin and rebellion. God's holiness and purity make any sin a serious offense to Him. Rebellion is as bad as witchcraft, God said, and the consequences of sin are as serious as they could be. Romans 6:23 AV *"For the wages of sin is death."* Sin is so serious that God had to deal with it in a most serious way—atonement is required for our soul to be saved, and Jesus had to die, so the gift of eternal life would be free for every repentant sinner.

The death penalty for sin is a serious sentence, but God is merciful, loving, and forgiving; therefore, the Lord says Jeremiah 31:31 NKJV *"Behold, the days are coming when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel."* The new covenant would be a new sacrifice of atonement for sin. Crucifixion is the worst form of punishment, but someone had to endure that suffering, so Jesus Philippians 2:8 AV *"humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."*

God had to deal radically with sin and rebellion for divine justice to be served. God is holy and righteous, so God cannot overlook iniquity and guilt. The sin issue must be dealt with, if we hope to escape its consequences, which is eternal punishment in a lake of fire. Atonement for our soul, by a blood sacrifice, is a must—it is required.

God cannot disregard or ignore sin—it has to be dealt with—and the requirement is only through the shedding of blood. Our sin crucified our Savior—atonement has a huge price. Leviticus 17:11 AV *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."*

Before God created the world, the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, was already part of the plan. The entire history of Israel, from Genesis to Revelation tells the story of God teaching His people about the seriousness of sin, and of God's plan to deal with their rebellion through faith and trust on a blood sacrifice of atonement. Millions and millions of animal sacrifices confirm the seriousness of sin and the cost of atonement. Without the offering of blood, there is no forgiveness for sin Hebrews 9:22.

When the New Testament was being written, thousands of animals were sacrificed day after day and week after week. It is a grim reminder of how deadly, and lethal sin really is. The seriousness of rebellion, and the endlessness of eternity, is why atonement for our soul has to be made. The holiness of God requires atonement for our sin.

Paul tells the Corinthians how the Lord's Supper was instituted in 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 NKJV *"I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me. In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do [ye AV], as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'"* Atonement has a steep price—but it has to be made if our soul is to be saved.

Prior to partaking of the Bread, we ask God to reveal any wrong attitudes in our heart; and that He check the sincerity of our confessions with the perfection of His Word. Any willful sin or rebellious attitude in us must be dealt with, by our confessing, repenting, and forsaking those ways of the past by the power of His Spirit. To partake of the Elements in a worthy manner, we must examine our own heart in the light of God's Word.

God commands and requires that we consider our own heart attitude and to deal with any sin, resentment, or rebellion toward His Word—by our confessing and forsaking those sins. 1 Corinthians 11:28-29 AV *"Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."*

We must not resist the Holy Spirit's conviction of our resentful attitudes, questionable activities, or any un-Christ-like treatment of others, because that would be resisting God and rebelling against His will. 1 Samuel 15:23 AV *"Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry."*

Jesus said Luke 10:16 NKJV *"He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me."* It is always our choice to accept or to reject, guidance of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 10:32 NKJV *"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven."* The Philadelphia church was told in Revelation 3:8 NIV *"You have kept my word and have not denied my name."*

Rebellion and unbelief are serious sins and must be confessed and repented of before God. When God makes His will clear to us, we should not delay in following through by making corrections and any changes that God reveals to us. It is our duty and our obligation to deal with our sins. 1 John 1:9 AV *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful*

and to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Being in the will of God, by confessing our sins to Him in prayer, is vitally important, because 1 John 3:4 *"Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness."* To ignore the Word of God is to live by our own standard of conduct. A defiant nature opposes the divine nature.

The apostle reminds that Israel 1 Peter 2:10-11 AV *"In time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. 11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul."*

Rebellion against the Word of God means something is an idol in our heart. If someone has first place, then God has second place, and we are in rebellion to His Commandment, *"You shall have no other gods before Me"* Exodus 20:3 NKJV. Only God has the right to be in first place, and only God has the right to say how we are to live our life—by faith in His Blood sacrifice of Atonement.

Our life is a product of the choices we make—and nothing is more important than choosing to read God's Word and being enlightened by His Spirit. Hebrews 3:12-13 NKJV *"Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing [turns away NIV] from the living God; but exhort [encourage NIV] one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."* Atonement must be made—sin is that deadly, deceitful, and fatal.

The scene is vividly portrayed in our mind—The sun has gone down, which means Passover has begun. Jesus and the disciples share the Passover meal. His words still fresh in their minds. He takes the bread, saying 1 Corinthians 11:24-25 AV, *"Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."* He then promises Atonement; *"This cup [He said] is the New Testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."*

They linger over the profound words from their Master—Matthew 26:28 AV *"For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins"*—they did not want the moment to end. They prayed, sang a hymn, and all went out into the night—walking in silence, and just thinking about and recalling the words of Jesus "My blood, the New Testament, shed for you."

The stream they cross is running red from the blood of so many animals being sacrificed for Passover—reminding them, and everyone ever after, that atonement has a serious price, because sin is a serious offense against God. Jesus knew all about the suffering that He was about to endure, but His love for us compelled Jesus to take our place, suffer the pain, and pay the price. Hebrews 3:15 NKJV *"Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."*

As they cross the stream and follow the Gethsemane path, and while doing so, they have the scene permanently etched in their memory—in the darkness the ominous shadows of the trees and the silence of the moment, all adds to the feeling of impending gloom—Jesus is about to face the destroyer of human souls alone.

A combat of this significance and gravity has never been waged before and never will be again. The destiny of every human soul depends on that final decision. The destroyer of our soul wants to ruin God's plan of 'salvation through faith in His Blood'.

The forces of evil come against the Savior of souls. Jesus defends with the weapon of prayer. In this moment of anguish, and with the sins of the world pressing on Him, the Son of God pours out His soul to the Father. John 12:27-28 NKJV *"Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name."* So deadly and destructive is sin that Atonement will have to be made.

Satan is prowling to oppress, deceive, and destroy, so everyone must be on guard—because anyone can be tempted, and anyone can fail. Matthew 26:42 AV Jesus *"went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done."*

Jesus knew that He had to go through with this, for us. Out of His great love and mercy, He knew that Atonement had to be made, and He was the only One who could pay the price. The sinless One, for the guilty many. John 8:29 AV *"He that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him."*

Within the shadow of the cross, Jesus warns us of the danger; Matthew 26:41 AV *"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."* Atonement has a price; Jesus was willing to pay it; so, confession and forgiveness are still free. Jesus paid it all.

The warning is urgent, and it echoes through the centuries to anyone who is listening and learning—"Watch and pray"—the danger is real, the enemy is evil, and our soul is eternal.

---

†††

www.fcgchurch.org
fcgchurch1@gmail.com
PO Box 143
Cheltenham, PA 19012
S077 26 1101C