
Grace Fellowship Church
*Delighting in God's Sovereign Saving Grace,
to the Glory of God!*

The Doctrine of the Definite Atonement

Part 1: The Work of Atonement

Jesus died in the place of His people to obtain their salvation; his righteous life and sacrificial death enables God to be just and to justify the ungodly who believe.

What is God's Wrath?

God's wrath is his intense hatred of all sin. Because God is holy and because God is just, his response to that which denigrates his holiness and righteousness is to feel and to enact retribution.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. (Rom 1:18)

God is *holy*. He is pure from sin and he is devoted to cherishing and manifesting that which is most noble and precious, his glory!

“And my holy name I will make known in the midst of my people Israel, and I will not let my holy name be profaned anymore. And the nations shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel.” (Ez 39:7)

God is *righteous* and *just*. He always acts in accordance with what is right, and is himself the final standard of what is right.

...all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he. (Deut 32:4)

What is God's Deliverance?

God in love decided to save some of those rebelling against him. It was not necessary for him to do so, but he sovereignly chose to do so.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

God in his justice cannot overlook sin; the penalty for sin – eternal separation from God – must be exacted so that he may remain righteous.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 6:23)

God sent his Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty (to atone) for his people so that they could be forgiven. .

... Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Rom 3:24c-26)

How Did Jesus Atone for His People?

So what has Jesus done to pay the penalty for all who put their faith in him? He lived a perfectly obedient life for our sake, and he suffered to pay our penalty.

1. His Perfect Obedience

Jesus lived his life in complete obedience to his Father. He perfectly obeyed, and thus fulfilled, the Law. As a result, God imputes his righteousness to us, just as he imputes our sinful guilt to Jesus.

...not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith (Phil 3:9)

2. His Suffering

Jesus suffered the penalty for our sin both in living in our fallen world and in suffering on the cross.

2a. Lived in this Fallen World

He left his glorious home, and walked among us, suffering the consequences of this fallen world, including hunger, fatigue, grief, temptation and intense opposition.

He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; (Is 53:3)

2b. Physical Pain and Death

He suffered beatings, a scourging, the crown of thorns, and crucifixion because the wages of sin is death.

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— (Gal 3:13)

2c. Bore the Guilt of Sin

He accepted the guilt of our sins, all that he hated most deeply being poured out on him, that our sins might be punished in his punishment.

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor 5:21)

2d. Abandoned by His Father

He who had lived countless eons in perfect fellowship with his Father was for a time abandoned, since God's eyes are too pure to look on the sin which was poured out on his Son.

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matt 27:46)

2e. Bore the Wrath of God

All the righteous wrath of God, stored up for millenia, was unleashed on Jesus. He bore all of the furious wrath deserved by the sins of his people, until no wrath remains for those who repent and believe.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, ... he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (John 19: 28a, 30)