

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 5- The Call to Holiness

43. Our Advocate and Propitiation- Part 8

WAOY Friday/Monday 06/22-25/07; WOSM Wednesday 11/30/22

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1 John**, and today I want to continue to look at what the Apostle John taught about "The Call to Holiness". So, let's read **1John 2: 1&2** again together:

1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world*.

Now on the last broadcast- we were continuing our examination of the word propitiation that is found here in verse 2 and today I want to examine a little further what it means for Jesus to be our Propitiation.

As we have seen- Jesus Himself is the Propitiation and it is by virtue of his being our Propitiation that he can also be our Advocate. But unlike many advocates today- Jesus does *not* go before God to plead our "innocence"- because that would be untrue. We are not innocent. We are all guilty sinners, and we deserve God's just Wrath against our wickedness. So, Jesus doesn't try to con God into letting us go by saying that we are innocent- but rather Jesus acknowledges our guilt before His Father and then presents His Own bloody Sacrifice as the only grounds for our acquittal.

Many today think that because they are sorry for what they have done that that alone is grounds for God to forgive them. But it isn't. God would never forgive anyone based only on their sorrow for their sins. Frankly, our being sorry for sin is not very reliable- because most of the time the only reason that people are sorry that they sinned is because they got caught. If they had gotten away with their sin- they

probably wouldn't have been very sorry at all- in fact when we get away with our sin- we tend to think that we can do it again.

No- human sorrow is *not* the basis by which God forgives sin. God forgives us when we sin for the same reason that He saved you to begin with. It has absolutely nothing to do with you or anything that you have or have not done. God forgives you based upon the horrific Death and Sacrifice of Jesus Christ- period.

The Bible teaches that people have tried to get forgiveness and yet they never attained it. Look with me at **Hebrews 12:16&17:**

16 that *there be* no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a *single* meal.

17 For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

The Bible says here that Esau sought for repentance carefully with tears and yet did not find any forgiveness at all. And yet to seek after repentance carefully with tears seems to be the standard today to describe somebody who is serious and sincere. And yet Esau did not receive any forgiveness. And this is a sober warning to all of those who sin with impunity- thinking that they can always run to God later and receive forgiveness. Esau tried that and he failed. So, the next time you want to go out and paint the town red- you might want to look up Esau and ask him how that worked out for him.

"Oh Brother Blair- you're just using an Old Testament example to try to scare us. We live under the Grace of Jesus Christ today and God would never move like that now." Is that a fact? Well turn with me to **The Book of the Acts of the Apostles 8** and read about a man named Simon who saw the Apostles moving and operating in the Power of the Holy Spirit and tried to buy the gift of the Holy Spirit with money. Here are the recorded words of Peter as he confronted Simon about his sin in **The Acts 8:22-23:**

22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

23 "For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity."

Peter never told Simon that God would forgive him- there was absolutely no guarantee of forgiveness given by Peter here- but only that, if possible, God would forgive him. Simon then tried to get Peter to pray for him. Let's read verse **24**:

But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

But when you read verse 25- there is no mention anywhere that Peter did what Simon asked him and actually prayed for him. The point that I am making here is that many today sin with abandon under the false impression that they can always get forgiveness later and I am proving to you by Scripture that that kind of thinking is very foolish and is not true.

Some have responded by saying that Jesus said in **John 6:37**:

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.

But this verse is talking about the certainty and assurance of Salvation in that 100% of those whom God has chosen before the foundation of the world and 100% of those who God has given to Jesus will come to Jesus and be kept by Jesus and will not be thrown away.

This verse has nothing to do with those who sin with impunity thinking that they can always go to God and get forgiveness when they finish with their sin even without genuine repentance and change of heart.

The fact that Jesus is our propitiation is not a license for people to go and sin without fear of ever being lost. No, when we really comprehend that Jesus is our propitiation- we will be so grateful and so thankful for all that Jesus has done for us that we will not desire to displease Him in any way.

And when we do fall short in our effort to serve God; and when we do fail- as we are endeavoring to walk with Him- we know that we can go to Jesus and Jesus will plead with Father God to let us pas through God's wrath – not based upon our own merits- but based only on the fact that Jesus is our sinless spotless righteousness and that His death and sacrifice satisfied God's just wrath against our sin.

Now I want to look closely again at **1John 2:2**:

and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world*.

Some have said that when John says here that Jesus is the propitiation not only for our sins but for the sins of the whole world that John actually meant that Jesus paid for everyone's sins and that in fact everyone is already saved by virtue of the fact that Jesus paid for the sins of the whole world.

That belief is called, "Universalism" and it is simply not true. Everybody is not going to be saved. Some people are lost now, and they will remain lost. The Christian Church has rejected universalism since it first reared its ugly head some 1800 years ago.

But when people read what John wrote here in verse 2- they could come across with the wrong interpretation and think that John is saying that Jesus died to pay for everyone's sins and that by virtue of that- everyone is already saved- and that is *not* what John is teaching here.

The Apostle John believed very strongly in hell. And John believed very strongly that lost people who die in their sins go to hell and they stay in hell forever. John wrote that and he believed that and so should we. So, John was not a universalist. He did not teach that everyone was going to be saved. John, like Paul and like Peter and like James and like Jude and like the writer of Hebrews and like Jesus Himself all believed and taught that hell would be filled with people.

In **Isaiah 5:14**, the prophet says that in the last days- that there would be so many more people go to hell than at the beginning that hell itself would have to be enlarged to accompany all of those who enter into its eternal flames.

Some of the most descriptive language in the entire Bible about hell is found in those books that John wrote- especially in The Book of the Revelation. So don't ever let anyone try to teach you that John believed that everyone would be saved- he didn't.

But upon a very quick look at verse 2- it appears that this is exactly what John is saying- when John writes:

and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also

for *those of the whole world*.

But what John is saying here is not that Jesus died so that everybody is already saved- but that there is no sin that any man in any country under any culture at any point in time in history can ever commit that has not already been paid for by the death, burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ- the Lamb of God. That is what John means here.

Some universalists have even gone so far to say that not only are all people going to be eventually saved- but that satan himself will also be saved at the end- but God's Word specifically says that that is not true. Turn with me to **The Revelation 12:7-9:**

7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,

8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

So, we can see that God's Word says that there is not found any more place in heaven for satan or his demon army.

Now when reading the Bible, beloved, we must understand that this Book was written from Gods' perspective and not Man's. This Book tells us what God says about things and how God saves the human soul and How God punishes the guilty. Our puny sense of human fairness and or fallen emotions never come into play win Scripture. So, there is much about Scripture that runs counter intuitive to human reasoning. So, when you are developing Church Doctrine or when you are deciding what side of an issue to be on- you must go by what the Scripture says and what the Scripture says alone.

Men have erred all throughout history. Good men have erred. Church leaders have erred. Church Councils have erred. Popes and Bishops and Deacons and Elders and pastors have all erred horribly over the 2,000year history of the Church. Many of them were not trying to make a mistake- err but were honestly trying to do the right thing- but nevertheless with all our good intentions given due respect- we are fallen human beings whose righteousness is filthy rags who are not

infallible and not inerrant and not inspired. No man is inspired by God- no man.

Even the men who wrote the Bible were not inspired- that is not what Scripture teaches us at all- it was their *words* which were exhaled by the very Mouth of God- not the men. And it was not all of their words- only those words which are recorded in the canon of Scripture – those specific words alone are the only words that these men spoke and wrote which are without error and which came from God’s own Mouth.

No man on earth can make that claim today and no man should make that claim today. When you hear anyone for any reason tell you that they hear directly from God and get new, fresh revelation and Truth directly from God- run- don’t walk- run from that person.

The only source of Divine Truth that exists on earth today is the sixty- six Books of the Holy Bible. So, when we are formulating what to believe; when your Church is going through the process of hammering out a Doctrinal statement; when you are trying to comprehend what God says about an issue- we must consult Scripture and Scripture alone. That is the Doctrine of Sola Scriptura.

Universalists teach that all men and even satan will eventually be saved precisely because they do not go by what Scripture teaches. And if they don’t go by Scripture- it really doesn’t matter what else they do go by.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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