

// AT-ONE //

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Few doctrines are more important – and *no doctrine* is more challenged today – than the Atonement.

Leviticus 4:27-31 → ²⁷ “If anyone of the common people sins unintentionally in doing any one of the things that by the Lord's commandments ought not to be done, and realizes his guilt, ²⁸ or the sin which he has committed is made known to him, he shall bring for his offering a goat, a female without blemish, for his sin which he has committed. ²⁹ And he shall lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and kill the sin offering in the place of burnt offering. ³⁰ And the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering and pour out all the rest of its blood at the base of the altar. ³¹ And all its fat he shall remove, as the fat is removed from the peace offerings, and the priest shall burn it on the altar for a pleasing aroma to the Lord. And the priest shall make atonement for him, and he shall be forgiven.”

‘Oops’ sins:

New Perspective(s) on Paul:

Deuteronomy 27:26 → “Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.”

Purpose of Law:

Romans 3:19-20 → “¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.”

The greatest humanitarian problem:

Martin Luther (1483-1546)



Romans 1:17 → “The righteous shall live by faith” (OT quote from Habakkuk 2:2-4).

Atonement

Hebrews 9:11-12 → ¹¹ But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.”

Eternal Atonement and the River of life:

C.H. Spurgeon: “He has done all that was necessary to be done, to make an atonement and an end of sin. He has done so much, that it will never be needful for him again to be crucified. His side, once opened, has sent forth a stream deep, deep enough, and precious enough, to wash away all sin; and he needs not again that his side should be opened, or, that any more his hands should be nailed to the cross.”

John 4:13-14 → ¹³ Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’”

Questions:

1. Back to the question asked earlier: What is the greatest problem facing humanity? Why does this matter? What are some other possible answers you will expect to hear? Why the difference of opinion? Will we then avoid serving the needy and those affected by natural disasters? Why not?
2. During a conversation, you ask your friend whether they hope to enter heaven one day. They respond by saying “Of course” because they think of themselves as a pretty good and nice person. How will you respond?
3. Please share one instance when you sinned “unintentionally” recently? Does it sound bad? Why does unintentional sin carry guilt along with it? Read Hosea 4:1-6 and note what God says about “forgetfulness.” In light of the Law, how should we view our “oops sins”? In light of the Atonement of Jesus on the Cross, how should we view our “oops sins”?
4. We are not only saved by the Great High Priest, we also find our daily provisions, eternal joy, life, and strength in Him. How can we be reminded daily of our dependence upon Him (i.e. living the Cross-centered life)?
5. Will a Christian wake up tomorrow with new sins to atone for? How do we know?
6. Although Christians have been redeemed from the Law and are adopted into God’s family, the accusations of Satan challenge the sufficiency of the Atonement made for the sinner. What lies are we commonly told about our own sin? How do we confront these lies?