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## The Need For Propitiation and Divine Wrath

### Introduction

By the propitiation provided by Christ there are a number of truths brought into focus:

- a) The Holy perfection of God in propitiation:
  - i) God is perfection personified and anything less than perfection will never satisfy Him. Since it is He who was offended and His Son rejected, hated and killed, what could be provided to perfectly satisfy God's righteousness?
- b) In the trespass offering the offender had to not only make up the damage done, but a fifth part must be added, so in what way could the damage done by man in depriving God of His glory be restored to Him again and God "better" off than before? God can never be better off but the magnitude of His abilities are made more abundant.

It is dreadful beyond words or illustration to grasp the solemnity of the biblical statements such as, "under condemnation", "perish", "Hell", "everlasting condemnation", etc. As we are living in the midst of the Corona infection, thousands are making time and earnestly seeking to get the vaccine. It is a just-in-case attitude, yet when it comes to eternity and the assurance of Heaven or Hell for eternity and never knowing when their time on earth will end, this is treated as "big deal", "sometime when I am dying". How foolish!

### What Were The Qualifications of The Propitiator?

- 1) He had to provide a work which satisfied God the Judge
- 2) He had to provide a work that was satisfying to Himself
- 3) He had to provide a work that was satisfactory to the Holy Spirit

God is exceedingly particular in everything and unless He is perfectly satisfied, there is no such blessing as salvation. There are some things which, when deprived of, can never be restored or any recompense fully satisfying. Illustration: I had a beautiful all chrome racing bicycle which was stolen. Had the person come to me and offered an old rusted single geared bike to make up for it, that would never have satisfied me. If he had even offered the same sort of bicycle with the same gears and chrome, I would be glad to get that but it would never fully satisfy. The stolen one was precious to me for I had saved for a long time to get it. Changing from a bike to one of my children, if a drunk driver killed one of them, what could he offer that would satisfy me? Nothing.

Propitiation can only be secured by divine persons for only God knows the depth of sins and depravity in each of our lives. He also knows the loftiness of His moral character for He is holy, and the moral sufficiency and excellency of the sacrifice of Christ in expiation and propitiation.

God was slighted and belittled. His gloriousness was degraded, His laws were ignored, His statutes belittled, His Son rejected and killed, His gospel spurned. What sort of a sacrifice would be sufficient to meet such needs, not only for one individual, but for every human being?

The proprietary work of Christ must be more than sufficient for my needs and more than sufficient to satisfy the justice of God removing the wrath of God. If God had just restored the individual to the Adamic situation presinning, would that have been good enough? If Christ restored to God the loyalty Adam took away from God and that of His descendants, would that have been enough?

Question: If Christ had simply given back to God the deserved glory He was due, would that have been enough?

According to the trespass offering in Leviticus 5:16 the guilty one had to add a fifth more, in other words, the offended had to be better off than before. If this is so, how could God be better off after man sinned. We cannot use how the word (propitiation) was used among the Greek for their concept of God was in error. Being pagans they saw the gods as angry, and for good fortune they had to be appeased by the gifts and devotions of their

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followers. In sharp contrast we see the kindness and mercy of God exhibited in propitiation in that God, through Christ, propitiated His justice and character. Sinful man cannot please the Holy God. He was a failure at keeping the law which only condemned him. God was the one who was despised, hated, rebelled against, and He alone knew the fullness and multiplicity of man's wickedness and transgressions, and no one else other than He could provide propitiation, which He did through the Lord.

Because of the full justice of God by the work of Christ righteously fulfilled, God can now:

- a) Forgive the sinner (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14)
- b) Put the individual under a new Headship with its multiple blessings (Rom. 5:12-19)
- c) Provide reconciliation (Rom. 5:10)
- d) Make us children of God (1 Jn. 3:2). (John never uses the Greek word for sons when speaking of the saints, "Son" is a term he uses exclusively for the Lord)

The chronological developing of salvation and the expiatory work of the Lord is the foundation for propitiation which proffers humanity redemption, justification, reconciliation, liberation, peace, acceptance, forgiveness and approachability etc. Blessed with such, we have approachability and acceptability before the Almighty.

### The Words God Uses:

In two verses, Romans 5:10 and 2 Corinthians 5:18, the English word "reconciliation" and "reconciled" is used to translate the Greek word, "Katallassō". The Greek word "Katallagē" is used in Romans 5:11 and 2 Corinthians 5:19.

### The Questions To Be Considered:

- 1) What is meant by propitiation?
  - a) The justice of God was perfectly and fully satisfied by the expiatory sufferings of the Lord. The result is God's justice was satisfied. Not a charge can be laid against the child of God (Rom. 8:33; 2 Cor. 5:19).
- 2) How was it provided?
  - a) By the Lord being made a curse for us (Gal. 3:13).
  - b) By the Lord becoming our sin offering suffering outside the camp (Heb. 13:11, 13).
  - c) By the Lord having viewed as me with all my sin and executing His judgment on Christ instead of me. Putting on Him the iniquity of us all (Isa. 53:6).
  - d) The Lord endured the chastisement due to me, the stripes I ought to have endured for all eternity (Isa. 53:5).
  - e) He was an outcast:
    - i) Rejected by His own nation (Jn. 1:11)
    - ii) Rejected by His own city (Matt. 23:37)
    - iii) Rejected by the religious leaders (Matt. 27:12)
    - iv) He was despised and was not held in any esteem (Isa. 53:3)
- 3) What were his qualifications?
  - a) In His entire life He glorified God in every aspect of life, in every role of life (Jn. 17:4)
  - b) In providing propitiation, the Lord in His vicarious sufferings must please God:
    - i) In why He suffered (1 Pet. 3:18)
    - ii) In His attitude in the sufferings (Isa. 53:7)
    - iii) Fulfil the responsibility God committed to Him, fulfill the work given Him to do without wavering irrespective of the reproach He endured:
      1. Before the cross (Psa. 69:12; Matt. 26:67; 27:28-31)
      2. By men when on the cross (Matt. 27:40)
      3. By men after He suffered and died (Matt. 27:63)

. . . . Rowan Jennings