

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY



LAST TIME

- Two nature of Christ-
 - His humanity
 - His deity
- Christ has two complete natures. He is fully human and fully divine.
- Possible model for the incarnation.

THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

- The person of Christ.
- The work of Christ.

THE WORK OF CHRIST

- The Death of Christ
 - The cross
- The Atonement
 - The resurrection

SCRIPTURAL DATA

- Jesus' Own Teachings
- Paul's Teaching
- Jesus' Death as a Sacrifice

JESUS' OWN TEACHING

- Jesus had a strong sense of his own death.
- What was his attitude towards it?

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

MARK 10:45

ESV

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

MATTHEW 26:26-29

ESV

Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

LUKE 24:26-27

ESV

JESUS' OWN TEACHING

- He thought of his death as a ransom for many.
- It is a sacrificial death, blood shed for the forgiveness of sins.
- Part of the role of the messiah.

PAUL'S TEACHING

- Paul had a lot to say about this.
- The cross is the central theme.

For I decided to know nothing among you except
Jesus Christ and him crucified.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:2

ESV

who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

ROMANS 4:25

ESV

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I
also received: that Christ died for our sins in
accordance with the Scriptures,

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3

ESV

For while we were still weak, at the right time
Christ died for the ungodly.

but God shows his love for us in that while we were
still sinners, Christ died for us.

ROMANS 5:6,8

ESV

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-15

ESV

JESUS' DEATH AS A SACRIFICE

- Part of the sacrificial law.
- An offering.

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and
said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away
the sin of the world!"

JOHN 1:29

ESV

And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

MARK 14:22-25

ESV

Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

1 CORINTHIANS 5:7

ESV

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) 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. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

HEBREWS 9:11-14

ESV

PROPITIATION AND EXPIATION

- Propitiation is the idea of meeting the demands of God's justice.
- Expiation is the idea of a death that removes some offense to God. It takes away the offense.

WHICH ONE?

- Both!
- “In Christ’s death we have both an expiation of sin- a removal of sin- but also a propitiation -or meeting the demands- of God’s justice and, hence, turning aside his wrath.”

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven
against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of
men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the
truth.

ROMANS 1:18

ESV

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

ROMANS 5:9

ESV

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in 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.

ROMANS 3:21-26

ESV

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 JOHN 1:7

ESV

THOUGHTS

- Old Testament sacrifices never achieved expiation.
- Only Christ's sacrifice could accomplish that.

THEORIES OF ATONEMENT

- Christus Victor- Ransom Theory
- Satisfaction Theory
- Moral Influence Theory
- Penal Theory
- Existential Theory

CHRISTUS VICTOR- RANSOM THEORY

- Earliest theory.
- Man was in bondage to Satan through sin.
- Christ became incarnate to rescue man from Satan.
- Christ ransomed himself for us.
- PROBLEM: Satan has no power over Christ

SATISFACTION THEORY

- St. Anselm
- Sin dishonors God by denying him what is rightly his.
- There must be compensation for infinite offense of sin.
- Christ's death was an infinite "treasury of merit" to compensate for the offense.

PROBLEM: Think of indulgences

MORAL INFLUENCE THEORY

- The death of Christ was an example of how far God was willing to go to redeem us.
- That act should so move us to love God and come to him.
- The cross reveals God's love and draws us to him.
- PROBLEM: Can deny deity of Christ.

PENAL THEORY

- Differs from Satisfaction Theory in that God did not get satisfaction but rather substitutionary punishment.
- Christ got what we deserved.
- Satisfaction of God's justice.

EXISTENTIAL THEORY

- Liberal, 20th century thought.
- The crucifixion is just an illustration of giving up one's self for others.
- Nothing to do with eternity, forgiveness, no need for a resurrection.

THE GOOD AND THE BAD

- Christus Victor-
- that Christ is victorious.
- No concept of moral guilt.

THE GOOD AND THE BAD

- Satisfaction Theory
 - It is God directed
 - Shows the ethical dimension of sin
 - No substitutionary aspect
 - Treasury of Merit

THE GOOD AND THE BAD

- Penal Theory
 - Closest to what we see in NT.
 - Christ suffers for us.
 - Removes sin and reconciles us with God.
 - How can one pay for the sins of another?

THE GOOD AND THE BAD

- Moral Influence
 - Self-giving love of God.
 - Nothing about God's justice or judgement.
 - Nothing about Christ's punishment for our sins. No debt that is paid.

THE GOOD AND THE BAD

- Existential Theory
 - Nothing good.
 - **ALL BAD**

THOUGHTS ON PENAL THEORY

- Idea of imputation is key to answer objections.
- Think of Christ as our proxy or our representative.
- Penal Substitutionary Atonement Theory

FINAL THOUGHTS

So I think our full theory of the atonement will embody elements from all of them – well, not all of them! – but from many of these different theories: the victory and triumph of the Christus Victor model, the infinite debt that we owe God, the God-directedness of the Satisfaction Theory, and then the notion of Christ's substitutionary, vicarious death on our behalf of the Penal Theory and the motivating love of God from the Moral Influence Theory. And all of these would be facets of this single diamond, which is the Christian doctrine of the atonement.

QUESTIONS

The background is a deep blue with a wavy, undulating texture that resembles water or a nebula. It is sparsely populated with small, bright white and light blue dots, giving it the appearance of a starry night sky or a distant galaxy. The overall effect is serene and cosmic.

NEXT TIME

- Next Week
- Read:
 - Defenders 2-6- The Doctrine of Christ- Pages 95-124

QUESTIONS?