

ATONEMENT NOW

A MYSTERY TRUTH FOUND IN ROMANS 5:11

“And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

~ Romans 5:11

1. “In What Sense Did Christ Atone?” – P. Sadler

- a. Sent to me, and represents a great opportunity for covering multiple subjects
- b. “*necessary to consult the original languages*” – i.e. I want to change this word.
- c. “*the Greek word katallage or reconciliation*” – where does he get the meaning?
- d. Others say, “every other place it is used it is reconciliation”, as if they didn’t know
 - i. Bishops, Geneva, Coverdale, and Tyndale use atonement in their NT
- e. “*KJV translators...in their day*” – definition taken from a dictionary in the 1800s!
- f. “*contemporary language*” – modern dictionaries have the same meaning

2. Defining Atonement

- a. “Hebrew word kaphar...meant to cover” – not once is it used this way.
- b. Atonement appears 70x in the Bible – 1x in the NT.
- c. Lev 1:4, 4:26, 5:16, 6:30, 17:11, 16:30; Eze 43:20, Nu 8:21, 35:33, 1Sa 3:14, Heb 9:22-23, 2 Chron 29:24
- d. Def. ~ a complete satisfaction for sins through a just reparation.
- e. Atonement reconciles, purges, cleanses, sanctifying, forgives people of sins
- f. “merely covered the sins...” – but the Bible says it removes them – Ps 103:12
- g. “*the blood of Christ doesn’t atone...*” – the problem with defining words outside Bible
- h. *Substitutionary atonement is a fundamental of Christianity!*

3. Blood of Bulls and Goats

- a. Not possible for the blood of bulls and goats - Heb 10:4,11
- b. Why was it not possible? They were offered continually – by mandate! Lev 16:30, 34
- c. Yom Kippur = day of atonement, once a year every year... in the fall.
 - i. On that day all the sins are confessed and placed on the Lamb – 1 John 1:9?
- d. Israel was promised a final reconciliation a final sacrifice – Dan 9:24
- e. Peter pointed towards it – Acts 3:19
- f. Paul pointed towards it – Rom 11:26-27
- g. Israel is waiting for the completion of their new covenant, their day of atonement
- h. They endure to the end to be saved - Mark 13:13

4. The Mystery of Atonement

- a. Israel is promised things but don’t yet have them. We have all spiritual blessings
- b. Romans 5 is about what we have much more and what we have now
- c. “atonement” in Romans 5:11 draws our attention to the work of Christ done now!
- d. Rom 5 deals with a new man, a new creature, made in Christ not Adam – Ro 5:12-18
- e. Sin is no longer your problem, you are dead in Christ and risen already!
- f. Christ is your atonement now, you are not waiting.

The below article is reproduced for the sake of critique in the lesson. It's conclusion that "the blood of Christ doesn't atone for our sins" is **wrong**. Christ DID atone for our sins, and we should still hold to the fundamental doctrine of the substitutionary atonement of Christ through his death, blood, burial, and resurrection.

In What Sense Did Christ Atoner?

Posted By *Pastor Paul M. Sadler*

On November 15, 2016 @ 3:21 pm (*resent to their email list May 2nd, 2017*)

"Paul states in Romans 5:11: 'And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.' In what sense did Christ atone for our sins?"

This passage is one of many in our English translation of the Scriptures where it is necessary to consult the original language to ensure we have the proper sense of what the apostle was seeking to convey. When we do so, we find that the Greek word *katallage* or "reconciliation" is used. It is understandable that the KJV translators used the term atonement because in their day the term meant "agreement, concord, or reconciliation after enmity or controversy."

For the sake of clarification, in contemporary language the word atonement obscures the meaning of the passage. The emphasis of Paul's special revelation here is on reconciliation, not atonement, as confirmed by the Greek text. The Hebrew word *kaphar*, translated "atonement" in the Old Testament meant "to cover." Hence, the blood of bulls and goats merely covered the sins of those in Old Testament times; it didn't have the efficacy to remove them.

"And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins" (Heb. 10:11).

Through the forbearance of God those sins that were atoned for in time past are now removed on the basis of the shed blood of Christ (Rom. 3:25). Today, Paul teaches us that we are freely justified and forgiven by the blood of Christ: "Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him" (Rom. 5:9). In other words, the blood of Christ doesn't atone for our sins, it actually cleanses them forevermore.

In the context of the above passage, the apostle was instructing the Romans that it is a source of joy to know that we are at peace with God (Rom. 5:1), seeing that we have accepted His gracious offer of reconciliation (II Cor. 5:18). The subject of Romans 5:11 is reconciliation, not atonement.

<https://www.bereanbiblesociety.org/in-what-sense-did-christ-atone/>