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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
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Series: 2013 Basic Doctrines

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2013 Basic Doctrines (17) **(Doctrine of Propitiation)**

Twentieth century theologians began substituting others theological words for PROPITIATION (hilasterion) like “expiation” and “atonement.”

Many thought that these words fit the Hebrew word and concept (kapporeth) as used in the Old Testament.

They also wanted to switch the conversation away from a presumed negative concept of the wrath of God regarding Adam’s Original Sin (AOS) to a more positive presumed concept of the sacrificial offering for this sin. They wanted to focus on the idea of “good news” of the gospel of Jesus Christ. C.H. Dodd, the Welsh/English NT scholar, gained wide support for this change in 1935.

Therefore modern English translations changed the word PROPITIATION to “atonement or expiation” such as (NIV) but not the **KJ or NAS Bibles**. The **Amplified Bible** translated (1 John 2:2):

“And He [the same Jesus Himself] is the propitiation (the atoning sacrifice) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for [the sins of] the whole world.”

Definition: “Propitiation is the act of appeasing the wrath of God of Adam’s Original Sin (AOS) through the perfect sacrificial offering of Jesus Christ on the cross.”

This lesson will study six aspects of Christian doctrine of Propitiation.

1. Propitiation is a New Covenant doctrine that is rooted in Old Covenant shadow Christology (Heb.8-10) and (Heb.2:17).

“The Greek word for propitiation, hilasterion, in (Rom.3:25) and (Heb.9:5) and the Hebrew word, kapporeth, in (Ex.25) and (Lev.16), both literally mean, ‘lid or cover,’ and refer to the mercy seat over the Ark of Covenant.” (Blood of Christ by Thieme, pg.20) (Gen.2:24; Ex.25:17-22; 26:31-34)

These words are associated with the Mercy Seat on top of the Ark of the Covenant where propitiation took place on Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). In shadow Christology of the Old Covenant (OC), it taught that Christ would be the substitute atoning sacrifice for sin to appease the wrath of God towards Adam’s Original Sin (AOS).

2. The wrath of God has to be appeased by the Justice of God being satisfied by a perfect sacrificial offering for sin, because the wrath of God is 1 of 13 judicial charges of AOS.

(John 3:36) “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (Rom.5:8-9; 1 Thess.5:9-10)

Propitiation is how we know that the wrath of God has been removed as a judicial charge of AOS at moment of salvation (Rom.3:20-25) [Amplified Bible]. (Heb.9:5-8, 11-15, 22-28; 10:5-10; Rom.10:4)

3. Therefore the propitious work of Jesus Christ on the cross is offered to all members of the human race on the basis of grace gospel salvation (Matt.27:51; John 19:30; Heb.9:5; Rom.10:4; Matt.5:17).

This is how God can be merciful or propitious to all sinners – (Parable of the Publican and Sinner in) (Lk. 18:9-14) “God, be merciful (hilaskomai) [propitious] to me, a sinner.” (18:13b)

Propitiation is a key doctrine to the doctrine of Unlimited Atonement (1 John 2:1-2). “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men.” (Titus 2:11)

Point: Unlimited by grace on God’s side, but limited to faith on man’s side (John 3:36; Eph.2:8-9).

4. “The doctrine of propitiation is precisely this that God loved the object of His wrath so much that He gave His Son to the end that His blood should be make provision for the removal of this wrath.” (The Atonement by John Murray, pg.18)

Point: God does not love us because Jesus Christ died for us. But Christ died for us because God loves us.

(1 John 4:10) “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:19; Rom.5:8-9)

Point: We are not saved because we initiate and God responds. But we are saved because God initiates and we respond (John 6:44; 12:32; Rom.1:16).

(Rom.3:24-25) “Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed.”

5. Propitiation delivers us from the wrath of God that is to come to those who reject the gospel of grace salvation through Jesus Christ (John 3:36; 2 Thess.1:8-9).

(1 Thess.1:9-10) “For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is **Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.**”

At the Great White Throne of Judgment (GWTJ):

(Rev.20:14-15) “And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” (Rev.20:11-15)

6. Propitiation is 1 of 9 factors of communion with Jesus Christ represented in the cup of the Eucharist.

(1 Cor.11:25) “In the same way, he took the cup after supper, ‘this is the cup of the new covenant in My blood, do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Propitiation	(1 John 2:1-2)	Cleansing	(1 John 1:7-9)
Reconciliation	(Col.1:20-22)	Forgiveness	(Eph.1:7)
Redemption	(1 Pet.1:18-19)	Victory in angelic conflict	(Rev.12:11)
Justification	(Rom.5:9)	New Covenant	(1 Cor.11:25)
Sanctification	(Heb.13:12)		