

# Connecting Minds

"These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31)

## The Gospel of John

Chapter 19:18,30

**"They crucified Him... He said, 'It is finished!' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."**

We have seen that we are sinners. We have straddled ourselves with sin as a debt, we have acted in unrighteous behaviour, we have broken God's law and have expressed hatred of God for His holy and righteous ways and Person. We started to look at the character of God's holiness and how He cannot look upon sin with His pure eyes. That is not all the scripture teaches concerning God's attitude towards our sin. We would be glad, in fact, if that were all it said.

Paul tell us in Romans that God's wrath is upon us because we are continually breaking His holy law - "the law brings wrath..." (4:15) and we are storing up wrath for the Day of Judgment (2:5). We are piling up the reasons for God's judgment to come upon us. Each sin is added to the previous and God's wrath mounts with each day. Oh, if we could only stop our sinful ways today. But even then we would still have the sin of our life to today.

The writer to the Hebrews says these things to those of us who willfully sin (and who doesn't willfully sin) – there remains "a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries..." (10:27; 12:29). Our God is a consuming fire to those who are His adversaries. His anger against sin, because of His pure holiness, burns hot and is certain to be carried out.

Perhaps Leviticus speaks most clearly and graphically of God's attitude towards sin when we read "You shall therefore keep all My statutes and all My judgments, and perform them, that the land where I am bringing you to dwell may not vomit you out. And you shall not walk in the statutes of the nation which I am casting out before you; for they commit all these things, and therefore I abhor them..." (20:22,23). Jesus Himself says to the lukewarm church of Laodicea "I will vomit you out of My mouth..." (Revelation 3:16). God, in His holiness, is so repulsed at our sin that He is said to vomit us out in abhorrence of the taste we leave in His mouth.

Someone might say, "Surely our situation is hopeless. What can anyone do?" But having looked at this we come to consider gospel of Jesus Christ. We consider why the atonement is necessary if we are to be saved... and it is because it is impossible for us to just be forgiven our sin. A satisfaction for sin is required before God can forgive anyone. There are several biblical ways of describing this satisfaction that is made, all of them dealing with our sin and the character of God.

John Stott says "Satisfaction is an appropriate word providing we realize that it is He Himself in His inner being who needs to be satisfied."<sup>1</sup> What Stott means is that God is not satisfying something outside of Himself - such as the Law, or some moral order. God is satisfying Himself, His own nature, His own holiness.

If we take the definitions of sin in the bible we will find in the atonement of Jesus Christ and the work of God to deal with them. For our debt of sin God has provided redemption. For our sin as unrighteousness God has provided propitiation, or appeasing of anger. For our sin as a breaking of the law God has provided substitution for paying the penalty of the law. And for God's hatred of sinners, due to our vile sinful nature, God has provided reconciliation through the death of Christ.

## TableTalk

Read 1 Timothy 6:16. Paul speaks of God as dwelling where?

Paul says of God, "to whom be honour and everlasting power. Amen." The only way we can ever speak of God, in all His blessed and majestic holiness, desiring to give Him hour and power, is by the atonement of Jesus Christ.

Take a moment to think of Jesus and the redemption, the appeasing of anger, the substitution and the reconciliation He has provided for believers so we can stand in the "unapproachable light" of God's glorious presence to worship our Triune God for all eternity.

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<sup>1</sup>The Cross of Christ, John Stott, pg. 123