

## **8. Learning More about What Jesus Did: Atonement**

### **John the Baptist — prepare for Jesus**

“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)

Important verse to help us understand what actually happened when Jesus died on the cross

“Atonement”

### **“Lamb”**

#### **Not a cute farm animal**

Jesus is the sacrificial lamb

Leviticus explains — sacrificial animal — sin; forgiveness — 1:10-13

#### **Two principles**

1. Sin against a holy God is a very serious thing — punished by death

Message comes through loud and clear — slit/hack

2. God is a merciful God who will accept the death of a sinless substitute in our place — forgive our sins

#### **Help us understand what it means Jesus to be sacrificial lamb of God**

Our sin must be punished by death — Rom 3:23

God in his mercy will accept the death of Jesus in our place

“Substitutionary Atonement” — Isaiah 53:5-6

## **“Takes away the sin of the world”**

On the cross God took our sin away from us and laid it on Jesus

2 Cor 5:21

So that Jesus’ sacrificial death would pay the penalty of my sin

### **Somewhat of a review — first talk**

Two ramifications are especially significant

#### **#1: Only the Lamb of God can take away sin — only acceptable sacrifice**

Not by being a good Muslim or Hindu — Buddhist or Baptist

Not by being a nice / religious person

Not doing certain things — attend church; confessing to priest; baptized

Sin can only be removed one way — sinless, substitutionary sacrifice of the Lamb of God

Jesus: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

Peter: “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

Runs contrary to American culture — not many other cultures

As a new Christian, you will see this soon enough

Denial of absolute truth — everyone’s “truth” is just as valid

Only one way

Only one Lamb of God did something about sin

All roads, except for one, lead to hell

## #2: "Sin of the world" — all of the sin of the world

"He himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for our sins but also for the whole world." (1 John 2:2; NIV).

Jesus' death is *sufficient* to cover all of the sin of all of the world

For all who ask for forgiveness will receive

"Sufficiency of the cross"

Definition: Jesus' work on the cross is *sufficient* to forgive all the sins of all who believe

*Jesus* did everything that needs to be done in order to remove our sins

He doesn't need our help — priest; church

Sufficiency of the cross is illustrated at least two ways

### 1. "It is finished" (John 19:30)

What? Work that God sent me to do.

Work? "For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:40).

"It is finished" — *my* work is *sufficient* to give eternal life to all who believe

### 2. Temple veil was torn

"Holy of Holies" — God's presence — High Priest — 6" curtain

God's presence and our separation

Died — sufficient to guarantee direct access — torn

Not partial tear — Jesus death was sufficient to "take ..."

**Much of religion has been busy ever since sewing that curtain back together**

Jesus' death wasn't quite enough — he needs a little help from us

Add on religious activity to “earn” God's favor — witness for Jehovah

Can't come into God's presence — confess to a priest

Not finished — kill Jesus every day in Mass (“sacrifice”)

When we try to sew it up — thumb our nose at work of Christ — not sufficient

**Jesus died as the lamb of God to take away the sin of the world**

There is forgiveness of sins in no one / thing else (unique)

Jesus did all that was needed to do (sufficient)

**Just as true now as when you first believed**

We are tempted to forget the uniqueness and sufficiency of the cross

**Atonement does no good unless you respond — Not universalists**

**John 6:40 — response**

Acts 2:38 “repent and be baptized”

“For by grace you have been saved through faith” (Eph 2:8).

“Grace” is God's gift of the Lamb

“Faith” is our necessary response to God's grace — “It is finished”

**This is why your conversion is such a crucial step**

No one is born a Christian — baptized as infant — no family plan — each individual must respond

## **Wonderful teaching tool — Communion**

“Lord’s Supper”; “Eucharist”

Ritual — teach us, and remind us — atonement

## **When the Jewish nation were slaves in Egypt (1400 B.C.)**

God saved them through a series of plagues

“Exodus” — greatest act of salvation in their history

Instructions to prepare for the tenth and most horrible plague

Exodus 12:3b-4, 6b-8, 11-13 — “Passover” the house — not kill

Yearly festival

Family time of instruction (vv 25-27a)

## **On the night Jesus was betrayed — celebrating the Passover**

1 Cor 11:23-26 — reinterprets the Passover

Cross is now the greatest act of God’s salvation

Passover bread now points to Jesus’ body, broken on cross

We don’t believe it becomes flesh — represents death

Unleavened — crackers that break — bread that tears

Passover cup now points to Jesus’ death, blood spilt on the cross — dark liquid

## **Jesus, Lamb of God,**

Only one who died for sin — death sufficient to cover all your sin — Proclaim in communion