**Atonement**

***Definition:*** *The appeasing of the holy hostility of God toward man because of man’s sins.* ***Synonyms:*** *pardon, cleanse, cover*

1) Atonement was accomplished imperfectly by the Old Testament sacrificial system.

A) Leviticus 16 and Old Testament Sacrificial System

God created a system by which sincere worshipers could appease His holy hostility by offering a sacrifice for their sins.

-Atonement required humility and faith of the sinner. -Atonement required the death of an innocent substitute. -Atonement was a prerequisite to fellowship and worship. -Atonement resulted in acceptance by and access to God.

B) Hebrews 9-10 on the Old System

The old system was designed to be temporary and preparatory.

The old system was not actually effective.

2) Atonement was accomplished perfectly by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

A) Hebrews 9-10 on Jesus’ Sacrifice

- Jesus was the sacrifice maker and His body was the sacrifice.

- His sacrifice was so valuable that He only needed to make it once.

- It was sufficient to appease the holy hostility of God against all the sins of all God’s people of all time: past, present and future.

- The result was eternal acceptance by God and open access to God for His followers.

B) Atonement is central to the identity and legacy of Jesus: the Lamb of God (John 1:29, Revelations 5:11-12)

C) The main purpose of Christ’s death was penal substitutionary atonement.

*Penal*- Jesus was taking the penalty from God the Father against sin.

*Substitutionary*- Jesus was taking the penalty as a substitute for sinners: you and I.

*Atonement*- Jesus’ death appeased the holy hostility of God toward us because of our sin

**Homework**

Prepare: Read Chapter 12 on Election

Go Deeper: Study chapters 9 and 10 of Hebrews and learn more about the atonement made by Jesus.

D) Results of the Atonement:

Debt Paid- Forgiveness of our sins

Credit Added- Imputation of Christ’s Righteousness

Fellowship- Acquittal, Acceptance, Access