

NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH PREP SCHOOL LESSON

WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW

Part Eight

Romans 1:17 *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."*

In *Romans 1:17* the Apostle Paul talks about God's righteousness as the reason for why both justification of man and condemnation (punishment) of man are fair and just. What this means is that Jesus proves that God is fair in all of His actions towards mankind. In order for us to understand what God has done for us, we must understand God and His standards of perfect righteousness.

Proverbs 21:30 *There is no wisdom and no understanding and no counsel against the LORD.*

To "justify" means to declare someone righteous/free from sin. In God's eyes this righteousness must be perfect. The only perfect righteousness that exists is God's. So, we must be given that righteousness to meet God's standards, and we are given this righteousness when we believe in Jesus Christ. This is all accomplished by God's GRACE. We do not earn it or deserve it! God designed this perfect plan to satisfy HIS desire to have fellowship with us. He had to honor our free will and, also, not go against His perfect justice. This was not easy kids! It took a perfect genius to design this plan. We learned that there is only ONE sin that is not forgiven! That is the sin of not accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It is this one sin that stops the perfect righteousness of God from entering that person and, therefore, prevents God from having fellowship with them.

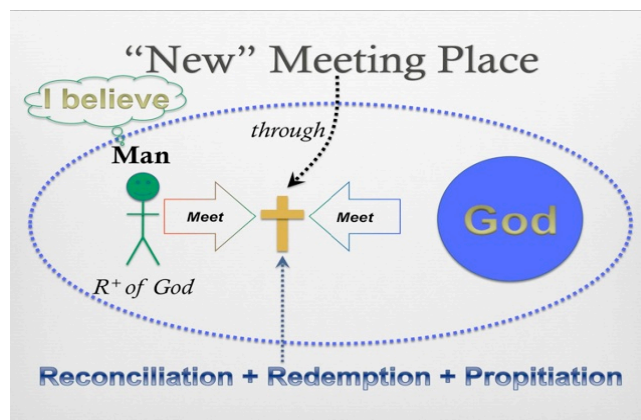
Remember how we learned that the Old Testament sacrifices were a "visual or teaching aide" regarding the cross to come? Let's discuss the ark again, shall we? It represented a "temporary meeting place" for Israel. It was a shadow of the new meeting place that would be established on the basis of Christ's work on the cross. It was made of acacia wood covered with gold, which represented both the humanity and deity of Christ. The ark's "lid" was called the mercy seat, which had 2 cherubs on either side representing God's righteousness and justice. These two characteristics define the integrity of God. Inside the ark, there were the tables of the Decalogue (10 commandments), Aaron's rod that budded, and a container of manna, all which represented the sin of man.

Every year, during the Feast of Atonement, the people would bring a perfect animal to the High Priest who would kill it and sprinkle its blood on the mercy seat. God accepted this blood as payment for their sins for the year. Does this sound familiar to you? It

should because that was a visual aid of what Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ would do for us years later.



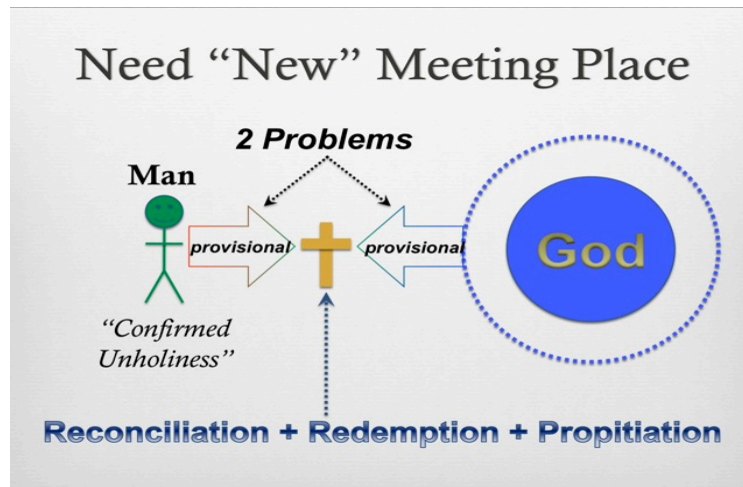
The sin inside the ark is a picture of sin being poured out on Jesus Christ on the cross! God's temporary satisfaction with the animal sacrifices on this altar provided a suitable "temporary" meeting place where His wrath was removed and He could fellowship with His people. All of this is a "SHADOW" of the cross, the ultimate new meeting place.



1 John 2:2 He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, not for ours only but those of the whole world.

Jesus Christ is the propitiation (suitable sacrifice) for ALL SIN!! Once again, the only sin that is not paid for is the sin of not accepting The Lord Jesus Christ and all He did to on our benefit. When it says the WHOLE WORLD it means THE WHOLE WORLD! Both

believers' and unbelievers' sins are paid for. Again, rejection of Him is the only thing that makes a person spend all eternity apart from God.



The Lord Jesus Christ NEVER became a sinner. He only took the judgment for all sins as our substitute! He was perfect throughout the entire process! In the Latin there are two phrases that describe Jesus Christ as the unique God/Man. He was non-*posse peccare*, not able to sin. This means that His God nature could NOT sin. This also means that in the eternal state, in Heaven, man will be godly and not be able to sin. Then, the second phrase is *posse non-peccare*, able not to sin! This refers to Christ's humanity only. NO other human can say this about themselves. His human flesh was tempted in every way and, yet, He chose to never sin!! WOW!!!

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

In the eternal state we will possess the righteousness of God, which is different than Adam's righteousness in the Garden. We will not be able to sin, as we will have God's righteousness forever. God's love is the great motivating factor behind His plan. Grace is the divine policy to express His love towards us. You see kids, without grace it would all be over! We can't get involved in this plan in any way or it becomes IMPERFECT. A perfect plan demands that a perfect person design it and a perfect person execute it. If we get in the middle, being imperfect, the plan becomes imperfect. Did you get that?

Romans 3:25 whom God displayed publicly as a 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;