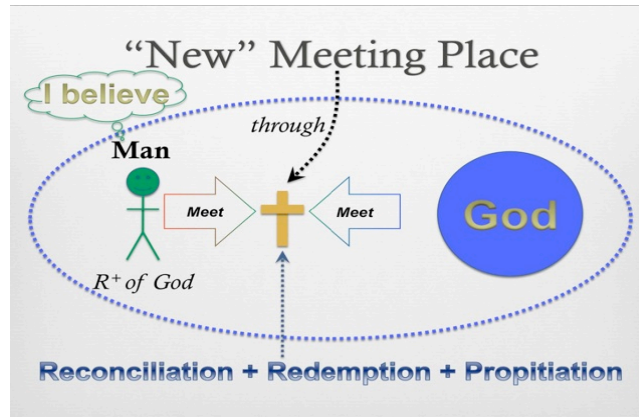


**NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH PREP SCHOOL LESSON**  
**WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW**  
**Part Seven**



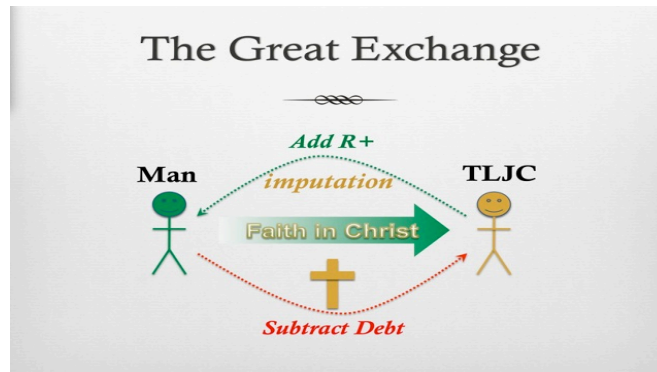
We have been learning about our “New Meeting Place” with God. Last time we talked about this “meeting place” in the Old Testament. God told His people to build a “meeting place”, an Ark, where the mercy seat of God would reside and He gave them specific instructions on how to build this wonderful Ark. There were also some strict instructions on who and when and how they could approach this Ark, or the Meeting Place of God. Do you remember what was in the Ark? It contained the tables of the Decalogue (10 commandments), Aaron’s rod that budded, and a container of manna. Do you remember what they represented? The many ways man rejects God’s plan!

The Law is the 10 Commandments. The law revealed the sin of man by defining what was right and wrong. The law represented freedom to Israel. If they all followed the rules they would live in freedom. But, since the law really brought about sin and crime (breaking of the law) the tables in the ark represented sin.

Aaron’s rod that budded represented the rejection of the authority of God’s chosen communicators. Aaron was chosen by God to be the High Priest of Israel and therefore mandated that they respect his authority. The people of Israel rebelled against Aaron, thus rejecting the authority that God had placed over them.

The jar of manna represents the rejection of the logistical grace blessings (food, clothing, shelter, transportation, doctrine) from God. The Exodus generation rejected this grace and didn’t want manna from God. They were not satisfied with the perfect food that God provided for them and they did not trust that He would provide for them every day, like He promised. So they complained and did not follow His instructions, therefore rejecting His provisions.

Jesus Christ has made it possible for us to always have a “meeting place” with God. Wherever we are we, can be WITH God. All because of what Jesus Christ accomplished in His lifetime and on the cross! The only sin that can keep someone from enjoying that meeting place is the unforgivable sin of rejecting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior!



We have learned that we could never be “good enough” or righteous enough to have fellowship with God on our own merits. When we believe in Jesus Christ, we receive God’s righteousness and that makes us able to fellowship with Him. Regardless of the period of time in history, believing in The Lord Jesus Christ is what makes us able to have a relationship with God. So, let’s get back to this amazing Ark. Let’s look at the “materials” God instructed His people to use when building this “meeting place”



The ark was made of acacia wood, which represented the humanity of Christ, which was covered with gold, representing the deity of Christ. There were two gold cherub angels on top the Ark, looking down on the "mercy seat". One of them represented God's righteousness and one represented God's justice. These two characteristics define the integrity of God. God is always right and God is always just (fair)! Once a year, God's people would acknowledge a "Day of Atonement". They would take a perfect lamb without a spot, kill it (YUCK!), and sprinkle its blood on the mercy seat. God then looks at the blood of this perfect lamb and is "satisfied" with the payment for the sins of the people. Does this sound familiar to you? Jesus, The Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.." Do you remember the word used for when God is "satisfied with the offering"? It's propitiation. It's a big word but you can learn it if you try. God turns away His wrath that He has for sin, and it is removed by the sacrifice made. Jesus Christ did this for us! These traditions and holidays were done as an example of Jesus Christ who was to come in the future, as far as these people were concerned. We as Church Age believers (the period of time, dispensation, after the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead until He returns again at the rapture of the Church) look back and remember His work on the cross.

Let's review our "BIG" words, shall we? Quiz yourself. Hide the definition and try to guess what the word means. OR, hide the word, read the definition and see if you can guess.

REDEMPTION - a payment for sin in accordance to the demands of the offended righteousness of God against sin. Jesus Christ is the payment (remember our coupon story)

JUSTIFICATION - To justify means to declare righteous. We believe in Jesus Christ who paid the price for all of our sins. We are then justified and God is free to bless us and have fellowship with us.

RECONCILIATION - To change one's state one mind from hostility to a state of peace, or to change from being enemies to being friends (remember our meeting place diagrams). God reconciled us TO Him!

Here's another word to add to our list:

EXPIATION- Refers to the payment for an offense. The Lord Jesus Christ propitiated the wrath of God by becoming the expiation for our sins. WOW that's a tough one. Read it again!

Jesus Christ was the acceptable sacrifice (EXPIATION) that satisfied God's standards (PROPITIATION) and turned His wrath away and now we can fellowship with Him! WOW! All I know is that all anyone has to do is admit they're a sinner (repent), and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and ALL that He did to give us a way to God. Thank God for Jesus!!