
IMAGES OF THE ATONEMENT – SUBSTITUTION

Introduction

On January 25, 1905, at the Premier Mine in Pretoria, South Africa, a 3,106-carat diamond was discovered during a routine inspection by the mine's superintendent. Weighing 1.33 pounds, and christened the "Cullinan," it was the largest diamond ever found.

The Cullinan was later cut into nine large stones and about 100 smaller ones, valued at millions of dollars all told. The largest stone is called the "Star of Africa I", and at 530 carats, it is the largest-cut fine-quality colorless diamond in the world. The second largest stone, the "Star of Africa II" is 317 carats. Both of these stones, as well as the "Cullinan III," are on display in the Tower of London with Britain's other crown jewels; the Cullinan I is mounted in the British Sovereign's Royal Scepter, while the Cullinan II sits in the Imperial State Crown.

We are going to pick up the heart of Africa and admire it! Turn it in our hands to examine its beauty.

Atonement:

- The atonement is the work Christ did in his life and death to earn our salvation.
- At-one-ment

⇒ POINT OF APPLICATION BEFORE WE START:

“Place no limit to your knowledge of Christ. Ever consider that you have but read the preface to the volume, you have but touched the margin of the sea.

Stretching far away beyond you, are undiscovered beauties, and precious views, and sparkling glories, each encouraging your advance, inviting your research, and asking the homage of your faith, the tribute of your love, and the dedication of your life...You shall see greater things than you have yet seen: greater depths of sin in your fallen nature shall be revealed; deeper sense of the cleansing efficacy of the atoning blood shall be felt; clearer views of your acceptance in the Beloved; greater discoveries of God's love; and greater depths of grace and glory in Jesus shall be enjoyed.”

- Octavius Winslow, *The Glory of the Redeemer*

This series is an opportunity to “place no limit to your knowledge of Christ”

Satisfaction and Substitution

Satisfaction

Satisfaction, as it pertains to the atonement, is the doctrine that God must be himself and act in accordance with his perfect nature in regards to sin. His nature—his holiness, justice, and righteousness—necessitate his action in regards to sin. The holy, just, and righteous response to sin is wrath and judgment. Therefore, to say God requires satisfaction in regards to sin means that in order to be true to who he is, God is wrathful towards sin and must judge it. That is the only appropriate (and necessary) response of God towards sin.

That was what Rand preached on so ably last week...

Substitution

How do we get to Substitution? *The answer to that comes by looking at the gospel narrative of the Bible*

Created by God to serve and love him in a relationship for ever.

Sin severed the relationship and the result was physical and spiritual death and eternal punishment.

God could have left it there: alienated from God and condemned for eternity.

But God desires to reconcile his people back to him.

1 Timothy 2:1-6 ESV First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, **who desires all people to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

A dilemma... God wants to save, but...

However, the glory of God and the gravity of sin necessitate God pursuing satisfaction. He cannot be God and ignore sin. The sins of people must be punished. God cannot remain true to himself-his justice, holiness, and righteousness—and ignore sin.

This is the problem with forgiveness: God in his great love and mercy desires to save people; but to save people, their sins must be dealt with ~~so God can forgive them~~, God must be satisfied in regards to the sin.

in THE CROSS OF CHRIST

John Stott addresses the problem with two questions: “How then can God express his holiness without consuming us, and his love without condoning our sins? How can God satisfy his holy love? How can he save us and satisfy himself simultaneously?”

John Stott answered those questions this way: “How then could God express simultaneously his holiness in judgment and his love in pardon? Only by providing a divine substitute for the sinner, so that the substitute would receive the judgment and the sinner the pardon.”

God would satisfy himself in regards to the punishment of sin by providing a substitute for the sinner. The substitute was Christ.

Substitution has been defined this way: “God gave himself in the person of his Son to suffer instead of us the death, punishment and curse due to fallen humanity as the penalty for sin.”

Satisfaction and Substitution

The foundational principle of the atonement is satisfaction through substitution; or more precisely, divine self-satisfaction through divine self-substitution.

Isaiah 53:5-7 ESV

⁵ *But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.*

⁶ *All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*

⁷ *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.*

Sacrificial Substitution

Isaiah 53:7 ESV

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

Ephesians 5:2 ESV And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Hebrews 10:12 ESV But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

▷ substitute in sports - don't like to come off
- unless PAT } the substitute in terms
of the atonement was a
sacrifice!

Jesus's substitution for us was as a sacrificial substitution that would atone for our sins.

We can see this in the Old Testament

An atoning sacrifice is seen in...

- **Leviticus 17:11 ESV** For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.
- Three things to note from this verse:
 - Blood represents or symbolizes ~~blood~~ **life**
that its shedding
 - The blood—and the end of life ~~it~~ represents—makes atonement: it covers and removes sin
 - This is the purpose God gave for blood

An atoning sacrifice is one that results in the shedding of blood resulting in death

Jesus's sacrificial substitution was therefore the sacrifice of himself—dying on a cross—to atone for sins

Application:

- In regards to the sacrificial nature of Christ's substitution, are we prepared to sacrifice ourselves? *living a cruciform life*
- **1 Peter 2:5** - you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, **to offer spiritual sacrifices** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. *→ participate in life of the church*
- **Hebrews 13:16** - Do not neglect to **do good and to share what you have**, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *→ doing good and sharing*
- **Hebrews 13:15** - Through him then let us continually offer up a **sacrifice of praise to God**, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. *→ praise*
- **Philippians 4:18** - I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus **the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice** acceptable and pleasing to God. *→ financial support for ministers*
- **Ephesians 5:2** - And **walk in love**, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a **fragrant offering and sacrifice** to God. *→ loving the body*
- **Romans 12:1** - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present **your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. *→ a whole life lived*
- What sacrifices will you make having been saved by the sacrifice of Christ?

Sin-bearing Substitution

Isaiah 53:6 ESV

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

1 Peter 2:22-25 ESV ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he

did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Jesus's substitution for us was a sin-bearing substitution

Jesus did not sin himself—he was without sin—but our sins were placed on him

But he didn't actually carry the sin physically, so what does it mean to bear sins?

Again, we can look to the Old testament to see what this means:

- In Leviticus¹⁶ there is the ritual of the annual Day of Atonement
- The high priest was to 'take two male goats for a sin offering' in order to atone for the sins of the Israelite community as a whole (Lev. 16:5)
- One goat was to be sacrificed and its blood sprinkled in the usual way
- Verse 21 and 22 explain what occurred with the other goat: **Leviticus 16:21** **ESV** And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area ...
- The first goat pictures the means of atonement: a sacrifice
- The second goat pictures the results: atonement of sins; they are covered; they are removed; they are expiated ⇒ *the goat bears the sins*

This is a shadow of what Christ would do.

Jesus's substitution was a sin-bearing substitution in which our sins are removed from us and put on him

In his death our sins are removed

Application:

Application 2 – In regards to the sin-bearing we see in Christ's substitution, are we willing to bear burdens for our brothers and sisters?

Colossians 3:13 - bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Ephesians 4:2 - with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

1 Corinthians 13:7 - Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Romans 15:1 - We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

In light of Christ bearing your sin, what are you prepared to bear for others?

Christ bore our sins by receiving the penalty for them

Penal Substitution

Isaiah 53:5 ESV

But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5 CSB

But he was pierced because of our rebellion,
crushed because of our iniquities;
punishment for our peace was on him,
and we are healed by his wounds.

Jesus's substitution for us is a substitution in which he took our place and bore our sins in order to endure the penal consequences of our sin, to undergo their penalty on our behalf.

• hockey suspensions

What is the penalty for sin? What is the punishment for sin?

Well there are many: separation from God, pain, suffering, wrath of God, futility in life, ultimately death-physical and spiritual

Romans 6:23 ESV The wages of sin is death ...

Romans 5:8 ESV but God shows his love for us in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us

Jesus's substitution was a penal substitution in that he was penalized or punished for us; the penalty we deserved, he received.

Caution!

Stott: "The concept of substitution may be said, then, to lie at the heart of both sin and salvation. For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man. Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be; God sacrifices himself for man and puts himself where only man deserves to be. Man claims prerogatives which belong to God alone; God accepts penalties which belong to man alone."

Implication and Application

Implication 1 – Only Christ could save us!

Only Jesus as a man would suffice as a substitute.

Only Jesus as God could pay the penalty that are atonement required.

Implication 2 – Pride will damn us!

We recoil at substitution because our pride forces us to insist on paying for what we have done.

To allow someone else to pay the price for our sin is humiliating.

We cannot admit we're wrong; when we come to the conclusion we are in the wrong, we are too proud to accept the gracious gift of Christ's substitutionary work on our behalf

The gospel insists that we repent, humble ourselves, and trust Christ

Pride is trying to cover ourselves with the fig leaves of our own, self-justifying works instead of availing ourselves of the robes of Christ's righteousness that come to us through his self-satisfaction and self-substitution.

Application – In light of Christ's penal substitution

Consider this quote by John Stott: "The doctrine of substitution affirms not only a fact (God in Christ substituted himself for us) but its necessity (there was no other way by which God's holy love could be satisfied and rebellious human beings could be saved). Therefore, as we stand before the cross, we begin to gain a clear view both of God and of ourselves, especially in relation to each other. Instead of inflicting upon us the judgment we deserved, God in Christ endured it in our place. Hell is the only alternative. This is the 'scandal', the stumbling-block, of the cross. For our proud hearts rebel against it. We cannot bear to acknowledge either the seriousness of our sin and guilt or our utter indebtedness to the cross."

Get a clear view of yourself and a clear view of God!

Augustus Toplady in his immortal hymn 'Rock of Ages':

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to your Cross I cling;
Naked, come to you for dress;
Helpless, look to you for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Saviour, or I die.