

Romans 5 - Atonement

The Atonement teaches us how we are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.

The problem of sin and death:

1. Man was condemned to death because of sin. All die: **Rom 5:12**
2. Sin and death came into the world because of Adam: **Rom 6:23**
3. Our nature is prone to sin ie. inclined towards evil: **Job 5:7**

What could God do about it?

- Ignore the problem and let sinners go unpunished
- Destroy Adam and Eve (an admission of failure)
- Provide a solution (which He did through Jesus Christ)

Jesus defeated sin for us. To achieve this victory, Jesus overcame sin on its home territory (in the human mind).

Even though we are sinners, God looks on us as if we are righteous, for Christ's sake: **Eph 4:32**. Christ is our representative. Using a sporting analogy, a representative wins the victory for those he represents. Jesus has won the victory for those who believe the gospel and who are baptised "into Christ": **Gal 3:26-27**

CHAPTER 5.

^x Being justified by faith, we have peace with God, ^y and righteousness and life by Jesus Christ.

THEREFORE ^abeing justified by faith, we have ^bpeace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

² By whom also ^vwe have access by faith into this grace ^bwherein we stand, and ^crejoice in hope of the glory of God.

³ And not only so, but ^dwe glory in tribulations also: ^eknowing that tribulation worketh patience;

⁴ And patience, ^vexperience; and experience, hope:

⁵ And ⁱhope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

⁶ For when we were yet with-

v1 "justified" = made righteous. God sees us as righteous even though we are not.

v2 Our Hope is to be perfect like God in His Kingdom, with God's Nature and Character. God's glory will be revealed in the Saints.

God's Word was written by men under inspiration of the Holy Spirit: **2 Pet 1:21**. Through His Word, we come to appreciate His love for us.

v10-11 "reconciled" - We are no longer separated from God. But it is the LIFE he lived that saves us. His life is our example. Also, his resurrection to eternal life means we have a faithful mediator through whom we are forgiven. Through him, we are now **at one** with God.

Atonement = reconciliation.

v12 As a result of Adam's sin, we inherit Adam's dying nature. We also die because we are sinners.

Why did Jesus Christ have to die?

1. Jesus inherited Adam's **mortal** dying nature through Mary: **Rom 8:3; Gal 4:4**.

2. Jesus had to defeat **sin** on our behalf. By living a perfectly sinless life to the point of death on the cross, he overcame sin in the most difficult of circumstances: **Rom 6:6-7; Phil 2:8-9; Heb 2:14**. In doing so he voluntarily **gave up his mortality** with all its lusts: **1 John 2:16-17**.

3. Jesus overcame **death**. The only way is to actually die and be resurrected to immortality: **Acts 2:24; 1 Cor 15:55**.

4. To have a **fellow feeling** for all those he came to save. This includes those persecuted and killed for their faith. No-one can say Jesus doesn't understand: **Heb 2:14-15**.

Also, Jesus learnt obedience by the things that he suffered **Heb 5:7-9**. Through the very process of trial and suffering, he developed a personal relationship with his brothers and sisters. He was therefore **not detached** from those he came to save.

Jesus "declared God's righteousness" in his life, death and resurrection: **Rom 3:25-26**. He voluntarily gave up his life: **John 10:15-17**. This was not done in a corner: **Acts 26:26**.

He willingly submitted to God's will rather than his own, right to the point of death: **Matt 26:39**. His death on the cross was the last act of obedience in a whole life of perfect obedience: **Rom 5:19; Phil 2:8**. An appreciation of his life should have an **emotional** and **motivational** effect upon us: **Gal 2:20**.

Reconciliation by Christ. ROMANS

out strength, ²in due time ^aChrist died for the ungodly.

⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, ^bwhile we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Much more then, being now justified ^bby his blood, ^cwe shall be saved from wrath through him.

¹⁰ For if, ^vwhen we were enemies, ^hwe were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by ^hhis life.

¹¹ And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the ^aatonement.

¹² Wherefore, as ^aby one man sin entered into the world, and ^odeath by sin; and so death passed upon all men, ^ofor that all have sinned:

² Or, according to the time.
Cp. Tit. 1. 3.
^a ch. 4. 25.
³ Or, by one offence.
⁴ Or, by one righteousness.
^b ch. 3. 25.
^c Heb. 2. 9.
^d ch. 4. 25.
^e 1 Thes. 1. 10.
Cp. ch. 1. 13.
^f ch. 4. 15.
^g Col. 1. 21.
^h 2 Cor. 5. 18-20.
ⁱ ch. 5. 1.
^j 1 Tim. 1. 14.
^k John 1. 4.
Cp. 2 Cor. 4. 10, 11.
^l John 1. 17.
^m ch. 2. 7.
ⁿ Or, reconciliation.
ch. 11. 25.
^o Gen. 3. 6.
Ps. 51. 5.
^p Gen. 2. 17 & 3. 19.
^q 1 Cor. 15. 21, 22.
James 1. 15.
^r ver. 15.
ch. 3. 8.

dance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

¹⁸ Therefore as ³by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so ⁴by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon ^call men unto ^ajustification of life.

¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

²⁰ Moreover ^jthe law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, ⁱgrace did much more abound:

²¹ That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might ^lgrace reign through righteousness unto ^meternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christ's mortality: He was made like us to experience temptation and to ultimately defeat sin: **Heb 2:14-18; 4:15**. Jesus is unique because he is the shepherd and one of the sheep: **John 10:1-15**. Jesus was human with real feelings like us: **John 4:6; 11:35; 12:27; 19:33-34**.

Christ's Divine origin: This was fundamental to him overcoming sin. It was not possible for other men to be perfectly sinless: **Isaiah 41:28; 59:16; 63:5; 1 Jn 1:10; Rev 5:3-4**. God sent his own Son to make sinlessness possible: **Psa 80:17; Rom 8:3**. Glory goes to God.

Christ's Resurrection vital: He was raised so we could be justified: **Rom 4:24-25**. Jesus did not die as a 'substitute' as taught by many churches. A substitute does not benefit by giving their life. But Jesus did benefit. God highly exalted him by resurrection: **Phil 2:8-9**. It was impossible for the grave to hold him: **Acts 2:24**. He is also our **mediator** and **future King** of the world.