

The Atonement

The Necessity and Nature of the Atonement

(Part Four)

1

The Atonement: Necessity

Premise:

God cannot forgive sin without adequate atonement, namely, the death of Christ

Question:

Why can't God chose, according to His great mercy, simply to forgive repentant sinners?

2

The Atonement: Necessity

Answer: The Holiness of God

1. God's wrath/anger is the inevitable or necessary response of His holiness to sin
2. The execution of God's wrath against sin is His retributive or punitive justice

3

The Atonement: Necessity

"Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?"

(Genesis 18:25)

4

The Atonement: Necessity

Psalm 7:11 – God is a righteous judge, and a God who has indignation every day.

Psalm 9:7-8 – ...He has established His throne for judgment, And He will judge the world in righteousness; He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity.

Psalm 94:2 – Rise up, O Judge of the earth, render recompense to the proud.

Psalm 96:10 – ...He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in faithfulness.

Psalm 97:2 – ...Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

5

The Atonement: Necessity

Duet. 32:4 – ...For all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.

Romans 3:5-6 – ...The God who inflicts wrath is not unrighteous is He? May it never be! For otherwise how will God judge the world?

Acts 17:31 – He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a man whom He has appointed...

Matt. 25:31 – But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

Rev. 20:11 – And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away...

6

The Atonement: Necessity

2 Thessalonians 1:6-9:

For it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,
 ...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,
 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
 And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

7

The Atonement: Necessity

Justice of God

➤ God is absolutely and necessarily just

- His justice is not relative, but perfect
- He cannot but be just

8

The Atonement: Necessity

Justice of God

1. He will never leave the guilty unpunished

➤ Exodus 34:7

- in accordance with His justice, He must punish all sin
- in the ultimate sense, "the guilty" is everyone

How is that God "forgives" the guilty and yet never leaves the guilty unpunished?

9

The Atonement: Necessity

Justice of God

2. He will render to every person what is due

➤ Romans 2:5-6

- His judgment is individual and impartial
- His punishment is never too light or too severe
- His just punishment has an infinite quality seen in its eternal duration

10

The Atonement: Necessity

Question:

Knowing that God is necessarily just and cannot but punish sin, what hope is there for any to be saved?

Answer:

Only if God provided a just and sufficient means for removing His wrath and making sinners righteous

11