



Propitiation

Propitiation: We are no longer under _____.

“In light of Scripture’s witness to God’s holiness, justice, and love, we must ask: How can God save sinners while keeping his moral integrity intact and satisfying his justice? The answer lies in these verses. In his forbearance, his clemency, God did not bring immediate judgment on sins committed before Christ came. Instead, he ‘passed over former sins’ (Rom 3:25 ESV). He forgave OT saints on the basis of final atonement to be made in the future. He forgave them ultimately based on the work of Christ to come and immediately based on the OT saints’ response to the gospel message in the OT sacrifices. Although it was ‘impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins,’ they depicted the gospel (Heb 10:4). But God still had to deal with sin; he had to make atonement once and for all with a sacrifice whose efficacy would extend to OT saints (v. 9:15). God did this when he ‘put forward [Christ] as a propitiation by his blood’ (Rom 3:25 ESV).” (Thomas Schreiner, *Salvation*)

Why did (do) we need God the Son to propitiate the wrath of the Father?

- God is absolutely _____ (Isaiah 6:1-7, Revelation 4:8).
- We are _____, wicked, rebellious people (Ephesians 2:1-3).
- God is a righteous Judge who feels _____ toward sinners (Psalm 7:11-16).
- The Old Covenant sacrifices could _____ deal with sin (Hebrews 10:4).
- The sins of Old Covenant believers were _____ (Romans 3:21-26).
- As sinners, we do not _____ God on our own (1 John 4:10).

How did God the Son propitiate the wrath of the Father?

- Jesus died on the cross as our _____.
 - Genesis 3:21, Exodus 12, Leviticus 16
 - Romans 3:25, Hebrews 2:17, 1 John 2:2, 4:10
 - Matthew 26:36-46, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 3:13

How should the truth about propitiation change us as the people of God?

- _____ – if you are no longer a child of wrath, you should be _____ (Ephesians 2:3).
- _____ – you should _____ God if you have been delivered from wrath (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10).
- _____ – you should be willing to warn unbelievers about God's _____ (Colossians 3:6).
- _____ – the work of Jesus on the cross ought to be _____ to our worship (Revelation 5:12).

“God himself is at the heart of our answer to all three questions about the divine propitiation. It is God himself who in holy wrath needs to be propitiated, God himself who in holy love undertook to do the propitiating, and God himself who in the person of his Son died for the propitiation of our sins. Thus God took his own loving initiative to appease his own righteous anger by bearing it his own self in his own Son when he took our place and died for us. There is no crudity here to evoke our ridicule, only the profundity of holy love to evoke our worship.” (John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*)