

PROPI TIATION

PRESENTED BY

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GREEN LAWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

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IN OUR STUDY OF BIBLE DOCTRINES, WE COME TONIGHT TO THE DOCTRINE OF PROPITIATION. GENERALLY WHEN WE COME TO THAT WORD IN THE N.T. WE READ OVER IT RATHER RAPIDLY. WE READ OVER IT RATHER RAPIDLY BECAUSE WE DO NOT KNOW HOW TO PRONOUNCE IT, MUCH LESS WHAT IT MEANS. IN FACT, I WAS GROWN AND HAD BEEN PREACHING AWHILE BEFORE I LEARNED THAT IT WASN'T PRONOUNCED "PRO-PITCH-IATION" BUT RATHER "PRO-PISH-IATION." I THINK THIS IS TRAGIC, BECAUSE THIS WORD, WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT, AND WHILE IT MAY TAKE STUDY TO UNDERSTAND JUST EXACTLY WHAT IT MEANS, WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND IT BECOMES ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND ONE OF THE MOST MEANINGFUL WORDS IN ALL OF THE WORD OF GOD. SO I TRUST THAT WHEN THE LESSON COMES TO A CLOSE TONIGHT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND SOMETHING MORE OF AND HAVE A GREATER APPRECIATION FOR THIS GREAT DOCTRINE OF PROPITIATION.

I WANT TO READ IN THE BEGINNING FOUR PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE EACH OF WHICH RELATES THIS WORD "PROPITIATION" TO THE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST. FIRST, ROMANS 3:25. SPEAKING OF CHRIST IT SAYS, "WHOM GOD HATH SET FORTH TO BE A PROPITIATION THROUGH FAITH IN HIS BLOOD, TO DECLARE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS THAT ARE PAST, THROUGH THE FORBEARANCE OF GOD." SECOND, HEBREWS 2:17. "WHEREFORE IN ALL THINGS IT BEHOVED HIM (THAT IS, CHRIST) TO BE MADE LIKE UNTO HIS BRETHREN, THAT HE MIGHT BE A MERCIFUL AND FAITHFUL HIGH PRIEST IN THINGS PERTAINING TO GOD, TO MAKE RECONCILIATION (PROPITIATION, A.S.V.) FOR THE SINS OF THE PEOPLE." THIRD, I JOHN 2:2. "AND HE IS THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS; AND NOT FOR OURS ONLY, BUT ALSO FOR THE SINS OF THE WHOLE WORLD." AND FINALLY, I JOHN 4:10. "HEREIN IS LOVE, NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD, BUT THAT HE LOVED US, AND SENT HIS SON TO BE THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS."

THE WORD "PROPITIATION," AS YOU MAY WELL SEE FROM THESE PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE, RELATES TO THE ATONING WORK OF JESUS CHRIST. THERE ARE SEVERAL WORDS, AND WE DISCOVERED THIS IN OUR LESSON ON REDEMPTION, WHICH BEAR PECULIARLY UPON THE DOCTRINE OF THE ATONEMENT. ONE OF THEM IS THAT WORD "REDEMPTION" WHICH SPEAKS OF THE SIN-WARD ASPECT OF THE ATONEMENT. A SECOND WORD IS THE WORD "RECONCILIATION" WHICH SPEAKS OF THE MAN-WARD ASPECT OF THE ATONEMENT, OR OF THE DEATH OF CHRIST. THE THIRD SPEAKS OF THE GOD-WARD ASPECT OF THE DEATH OF CHRIST, AND THIS IS THE WORD THAT WE ARE STUDYING TONIGHT, THE WORD "PROPITIATION." NOW WHEN WE SAY THAT THE WORD "PROPITIATION" RELATES TO THE GOD-WARD ASPECT OF THE DEATH OF CHRIST, WE ARE NOT INDICATING THAT THERE IS SOMETHING IN GOD WHICH NEEDS TO BE CHANGED. SURELY WE REALIZE THE TRUTHFULNESS OF THE STATEMENT OF GOD WHEN HE SAID, "I AM THE LORD, THY GOD, I CHANGE NOT." FROM ETERNITY EVEN UNTO ETERNITY GOD IS ONE AND THERE IS NO CHANGEABLENESS IN GOD. YET, WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT GOD DOES NOT CHANGE, IT IS TRUE THAT THERE ARE SOME THINGS WHICH MUST TRANSPIRE BEFORE THIS UNCHANGING GOD CAN DO FOR MAN THAT WHICH HE DESIRES TO DO. FOR INSTANCE, WHEN JOHN SAID THAT "GOD IS LOVE," HE DID NOT INTIMATE THAT GOD BECAME LOVE AT THE TIME OF THE DEATH OF CHRIST, BUT THAT GOD HAD BEEN LOVE FROM THE BEGINNING EVEN UNTIL NOW. WHAT IS BEING SAID IS THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING WHICH TRANSPIRED IN THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST WHICH ENABLED GOD TO OPEN UP HIS LOVE AND TO EXPRESS THAT LOVE TO MANKIND, TO SAVE MAN UPON THE BASIS OF LOVE. WHAT WE ARE SAYING, THEN, IS THAT PROPITIATION DOES NOT CHANGE THE ATTITUDE OF GOD, BUT IT DOES FREE GOD IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT LIFT MAN BY HIS LOVE. I THINK THIS IS INDICATED IN ROMANS 3:25,26 WHERE WE READ, "WHOM GOD HATH SET FORTH TO BE A PROPITIATION THROUGH FAITH IN HIS BLOOD, TO DECLARE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS THAT ARE PAST, THROUGH THE FORBEARANCE OF GOD: TO DECLARE, I SAY, AT THIS TIME, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS: THAT HE MIGHT BE JUST, AND THE JUSTIFIER OF HIM WHICH BELIEVETH IN JESUS." NOW NOTICE IN THIS 26TH VERSE OF CHAPTER 3 THAT GOD HAS SOUGHT SOME WAY WHEREBY HIS JUSTICE MAY BE MAINTAINED, YET WHEREBY HE MAY ALSO BECOME THE JUSTIFIER. GOD MUST EVER BE JUST, BUT IF A WAY CAN BE FOUND WHEREBY HIS JUSTICE CAN BE SATISFIED THEN GOD CAN ALSO BECOME THE JUSTIFIER OF HIM THAT HATH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.

WHEN WE SPEAK OF THE DOCTRINE OF PROPITIATION, WE ARE SPEAKING OF THE WRATH OF GOD. WERE WE TO DEFINE THIS GREEK WORD WHICH IS TRANSLATED "PROPIIATION," WE WOULD DISCOVER THAT IT MEANS "TO PACIFY, TO CONCILIATE, TO MAKE PROPITIOUS." IT PRESUPPOSES THAT THE PERSON WHO IS PROPITIATED IS ANGRY. IT PRESUPPOSES THAT THE PERSON WHO IS PROPITIATED IS CHARACTERIZED BY WRATH AND THIS MEANS THAT IF CHRIST PROPITIATES IT MUST BE GOD WHO IS PROPITIATED. THIS MEANS THAT GOD HAS IN HIM SOME FORM OF WRATH.

NOW IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE UNDERSTAND SOMETHING CONCERNING THE WRATH OF GOD. WE ARE PRONE TO MISUNDERSTAND HIS WRATH, FOR WE ARE PRONE TO ASSOCIATE THE WRATH OF GOD WITH THE WRATH OF MAN. WE ASSOCIATE THE WRATH OF GOD WITH THAT ANGER WHICH WELLS UP IN THE BREAST OF MAN WHEN HE IS UNABLE TO CONTROL HIS PASSIONS AND EXPRESSES HIS VEHEMENCE AND WRATH UPON HIS FELLOW MAN. THIS IDEA WAS COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANCIENT HEATHEN GODS. BASICALLY, WHEN SACRIFICES WERE OFFERED UNTO HEATHEN GODS IT WAS BECAUSE IN SOME WAY THOSE WHO BELIEVED IN THE HEATHEN DIETIES BELIEVED THAT THESE DIETIES HAD EXPRESSED THEIR WRATH AND IF THEY COULD JUST OFFER SOME SACRIFICE, PERHAPS EVEN THE DEATH OF A CHILD, THEN THE WRATH OF THIS HEATHEN DIETY WOULD BE PROPITIATED, WOULD BE APPEASED, AND PEACE COULD BE RESTORED BETWEEN MAN AND HIS HEATHEN DIETIES. BUT THIS IS NOT WHAT THE BIBLE MEANS WHEN IT SPEAKS OF THE WRATH OF GOD. INDEED, IT SEEMS THAT THIS IS NOT REALLY A GOOD WORD IN RELATIONSHIP TO GOD, BUT IT SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY TERM THAT WE HAVE, AND WE USE THE TERM "WRATH," WE USE THE TERM "ANGER" IN RELATIONSHIP TO GOD, IN ORDER THAT WE MIGHT NOT STAND SILENT, IN ORDER THAT WE MIGHT SOMEHOW GET ACROSS THE IDEA THAT GOD NEEDS TO BE PROPITIATED IN SOME SENSE OF THAT TERM. NOW, WE NEED TO REMEMBER IN THIS CONNECTION THAT OUR BASIC CONCERN IS WITH FACTS AND THE FACTS WITH WHICH WE ARE CONCERNED HERE IS THAT IN THE VERY NATURE OF THINGS, IN AND BY GOD'S VERY NATURE AS A HOLY GOD, THERE MUST BE AN ABSOLUTE, AN ETERNAL RECOIL ON HIS PART FROM THAT WHICH IS UNHOLY AND SINFUL. WHEN GOD RECOILS FROM THAT WHICH IS UNHOLY, WHEN HE SEPERATES FROM HIMSELF THAT WHICH IS SINFUL, THIS IS THE FACT THAT WE ARE SEEKING TO DESCRIBE BY THE EXPRESSION, "THE WRATH OF GOD."

WHEN WE REALIZE THAT THE WRATH OF GOD MAY BE TURNED AWAY, WHEN WE REALIZE THAT THE WRATH OF GOD MAY BE APPEASED, THEN WE COME TO REALIZE THAT THE BASIC NATURE OF GOD IS THAT HE IS A GOD OF LOVE. HIS LOVE CAN NEVER BE TURNED AWAY. GOD'S LOVE EXTENDS TO EVERY MAN. GOD'S LOVE EXTENDS EVEN TO THAT MAN WHO IS IN THE VERY DEPTHS OF SATAN'S GRASP--NOT THAT GOD WILL SAVE HIM IN HIS SINS, BUT IN THAT GOD LOVES HIM AND WILL SAVE HIM IF THAT MAN WILL REPENT AND TURN TO HIM THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. SOME SUGGEST THAT IF THE ACT OF THE ATONEMENT, IF THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST, IS THE EXPRESSION OF THE LOVE OF GOD, IF THE DEATH OF CHRIST IS A PROVISION OF GOD'S LOVE, IS IT NOT THEN A CONTRADICTION TO MAINTAIN THAT THAT WHICH IS THE EXPRESSION OF GOD'S LOVE ALSO APPEASES GOD'S WRATH. IN OTHER WORDS, THE QUESTION IS, IF THERE IS INVINCIBLE LOVE, THEN WHAT ROOM IS THERE FOR THE PACIFYING OF WRATH? TO SET THE WRATH AGAINST THE LOVE OF GOD IS A DENIAL OF GOD'S HOLINESS IN RELATION TO SIN. WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN THAT GOD MUST RECOIL FROM SIN BY HIS VERY NATURE. GOD MUST TURN AWAY FROM THAT WHICH IS EVIL. TO RECOGNIZE GOD'S NATURE AND TO RECOGNIZE THE NATURE OF SIN IS AT ONCE TO RECOGNIZE THAT SIN MUST EVOKE THE WRATH OF GOD, BUT TO REALIZE THIS IS NOT TO LIMIT THE LOVE OF GOD, IT IS TO MAGNIFY GOD'S LOVE. THIS IS THE WONDER OF GOD'S LOVE. THIS IS THE GREATNESS OF GOD'S LOVE. INDEED, THIS IS THE HEART AND CORE OF THE DOCTRINE OF PROPITIATION, THAT GOD LOVED THE OBJECTS OF HIS WRATH ENOUGH THAT HE WAS WILLING TO SEND HIS SON TO DIE ON THEIR BEHALF. IS NOT THIS THE TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE? IS THIS NOT WHAT PAUL SAID IN ROMANS 5:8 WHEN HE SAID, "BUT GOD COMMENDETH HIS LOVE TOWARD US, IN THAT, WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US." IS THIS NOT WHAT PETER SAID IN I PETER 2:24 WHEN HE SAID, "WHO HIS OWN SELF BARE OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BODY ON THE TREE, THAT WE, BEING DEAD TO SINS, SHOULD LIVE UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS: BY WHOSE STRIPES YE WERE HEALED." IS THIS NOT WHAT THE PROPHET ISAIAH PROPHEGIED IN ISAIAH 53:6 WHEN HE SAID, "ALL WE, LIKE SHEEP, HAVE GONE ASTRAY; WE HAVE TURNED EVERY ONE TO HIS OWN WAY; AND THE LORD HATH LAID ON HIM THE INIQUITY OF US ALL." THIS THEN IS TO MAGNIFY, IT IS TO SEE THE DEPTH OF GOD'S MARVELOUS LOVE IN THAT WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US. WHAT WE ARE SAYING HERE, WHAT IS BEING SAID TO US BY INSPIRATION, IS THAT IT WAS CHRIST'S WORK TO DEAL WITH THE WRATH OF GOD. IT WAS CHRIST'S WORK

TO DEAL WITH THE WRATH OF GOD SO THAT THOSE WHOM GOD LOVED WOULD NO LONGER BE THE OBJECTS OF GOD'S WRATH, AND LOVE COULD ACHIEVE ITS GREAT AIM OF MAKING THOSE WHO WERE THE CHILDREN OF WRATH THE CHILDREN OF GOD'S GOOD PLEASURE. IT WAS CHRIST WHO, ON THE CROSS, BORE THE FULL STROKE OF GOD'S JUDICIAL WRATH. IN FACT, IT ^{IS} ONLY WHEN WE COME TO UNDERSTAND THIS TRUTH--THAT OUR STRIPES WERE LAID UPON HIM AND THAT JESUS IN HIS PERFECTION BORE THE INIQUITY OF US ALL-- THAT WE CAN EVEN BEGIN TO COMPREHEND THAT MOST MYSTERIOUS OF UTTERANCES WHICH CAME FROM THE LIPS OF CHRIST ON CALVARY'S CROSS WHEN HE CRIED OUT, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?" THE ANSWER IS THAT GOD FORSOOK CHRIST BECAUSE THE WRATH OF GOD WAS DIRECTED UPON THE SINS--MY SINS AND YOUR SINS--THAT JESUS CHRIST BORE IN HIS BODY UPON THE TREE. THIS IS WHAT WE SPOKE OF A MOMENT AGO WHEN WE READ I JOHN 4:10. "HEREIN IS LOVE, NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD, BUT THAT HE LOVED US, AND SENT HIS SON TO BE THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS."

HOW IS THIS PROPITIATION ACCOMPLISHED? FIRST OF ALL, WE MUST REALIZE THAT IT IS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST. THE BLOOD HAS BEEN THE ELEMENT OF PROPITIATION FROM O.T. DAYS EVEN INTO N.T. EXPERIENCE. IN THE O.T. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF THINGS CONNECTED WITH THE TEMPLE AND ITS WORSHIP, BUT THAT WHICH PROPITIATED WAS NOT THE INCENSE BURNED, NOT THE GOLD AND SILVER WHICH WAS CONTAINED IN THE TEMPLE, NOT THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, NOT THE GOOD WORKS OF THE PEOPLE. IT WAS THE SACRIFICIAL BLOOD WHICH WAS OFFERED. HEBREWS 9: 13, 14. "FOR IF THE BLOOD OF BULLS AND OF GOATS, AND THE ASHES OF AN HEIFER SPRINKLING THE UNCLEAN, SANCTIFIETH TO THE PURIFYING OF THE FLESH; HOW MUCH MORE SHALL THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, WHO THROUGH THE ETERNAL SPIRIT OFFERED HIMSELF WITHOUT SPOT TO GOD, PURGE YOUR CONSCIENCE FROM DEAD WORKS TO SERVE THE LIVING GOD?" IN THE O.T. IT WAS THE BLOOD OF GOATS AND BULLS AND CALVES LOOKING FORWARD TO THE COMING OF CHRIST. NOW THAT THE BLOOD OF JESUS HAS BEEN SHED, HOW MUCH MORE SHALL THE BLOOD OF JESUS WHO OFFERED HIMSELF TO GOD WITHOUT SPOT CLEANSE YOUR CONSCIENCE FROM DEAD WORKS TO SERVE THE LIVING GOD. COME DOWN INTO THE 22ND VERSE OF HEBREWS 9 WHERE WE READ. "AND ALMOST ALL THINGS ARE BY THE LAW PURGED WITH BLOOD; AND WITHOUT SHEDDING OF BLOOD IS NO REMISSION." AND SO IN THE O.T. THAT WHICH ACCOMPLISHED THE PROPITIATION OF GOD TO DO AWAY WITH HIS WRATH TOWARD THE SINS OF MAN, WAS THE BLOOD THAT WAS OFFERED IN SACRIFICE.

THE PLACE WHERE THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED WAS, OF COURSE, THE MERCY SEAT. COMING DOWN INTO HEBREWS 10:3. "BUT IN THOSE SACRIFICES THERE IS A REMEMBRANCE AGAIN MADE OF SINS EVERY YEAR." AS THE SACRIFICIAL BLOOD WAS BROUGHT TO THE MERCY SEAT, THE SINS OF THE JEWS WERE ROLLED FORWARD AND THERE WAS A REMEMBRANCE OF THESE SINS YEAR BY YEAR. BUT, YOU SEE, THIS REMEMBRANCE OF SINS YEAR BY YEAR WAS IN ANTICIPATION OF THE SHEDDING OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS AS THE TRUE PROPITIATION WHICH HAD BEEN TYPIFIED IN THE SHEDDING OF THE ANIMAL SACRIFICES. LET US READ AGAIN ROMANS 3:25. "WHOM GOD HATH SET FORTH TO BE A PROPITIATION THROUGH FAITH IN HIS BLOOD, TO DECLARE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS THAT ARE PAST (YOU SEE, GOD PASSED OVER THE SINS DONE AFORETIME. GOD ROLLED THEM FORWARD THOUGH HE REMEMBERED THEM YEAR BY YEAR.), THROUGH THE FORBEARANCE OF GOD: TO DECLARE, I SAY, AT THIS TIME, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS; THAT HE MIGHT BE JUST, AND THE JUSTIFIER OF HIM WHICH BELIEVETH IN JESUS." SO THE SHEDDING OF THE BLOOD AND THE SPRINKLING OF THE BLOOD AT THE MERCY SEAT TYPIFIED THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST AND THE SHEDDING OF HIS BLOOD. WHEN JESUS CHRIST WENT TO CALVARY'S CROSS, HE GATHERED IN HIMSELF, HE GATHERED IN HIS OWN BODY, ALL OF THOSE NOTES THAT ISRAEL HAD RENEWED EVERY YEAR, AND WHEN HE SHED HIS BLOOD, BY THE OFFERING UP OF HIS BLOOD AS A SACRIFICE TO THE HOLY GOD, JESUS MADE FINAL AND COMPLETE SETTLEMENT FOR ALL OF THOSE NOTES WHICH ISRAEL HAD AMASSED IN THEIR NATIONAL HISTORY.

WHEN WE LOOK IN THE N.T. WE DISCOVER THAT THE PLACE OF PROPITIATION IS NOT AT THE MERCY SEAT. IT IS NOT AT ANY ALTAR. IT IS NOT IN ANY MANMADE BUILDING. IT IS NOT THROUGH ANY MAN-DEvised SACRIFICE, BUT RATHER, THE PLACE OF PROPITIATION IS IN THE BODY OF JESUS CHRIST ON CALVARY'S TREE. HEAR AGAIN, I PETER 2:24. "WHO HIS OWN SELF BARE OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BODY ON THE TREE, THAT WE, BEING DEAD TO SINS, SHOULD LIVE UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS: BY WHOSE STRIPES YE WERE HEALED." YOU SEE, JESUS IN ESSENCE IS SAYING, "I AM THE MERCY SEAT." JESUS IS SAYING THAT ALL OF THE BROKEN LAW OF

GOD HAS BEEN GATHERED TOGETHER IN HIS BODY. HIS BODY WAS THE PLACE WHERE ALL THE INDEBTEDNESS OF SIN WAS ACCUMULATED, AND JESUS OFFERED HIMSELF AS A PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS. HE POURED OUT HIS BLOOD. HE TURNED HIS EYES TO HEAVEN AND SAID, "FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO." NOW, I KNOW THAT THAT STATEMENT FOUND ITS IMMEDIATE APPLICATION IN THOSE RAILERS, ACCUSERS, AND UNBELIEVERS WHO SURROUNDED THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST. YET THAT STATEMENT HAS A MEANING THAT REACHES OUT FROM THEN EVEN UNTIL NOW, AND IT WAS BECAUSE THERE IN HIS BODY JESUS BORE OUR SINS THAT HE CAN SAY TO GOD CONCERNING US, "FATHER, FORGIVE THEM." YOU SEE, GOD HAD WITHIN HIM A WELL OF MERCY, GOD HAD WITHIN HIM PLENTIFUL LOVE. GOD HAD WITHIN HIM MARVELOUS GRACE TO DISPENSE TO MAN IN MAN'S MISERY AND IN MAN'S NEED. JESUS LOOKED, AND HE SAW THAT BEFORE THIS LOVE, THIS GRACE, AND THIS MERCY COULD BE DISPENSED TO ALLEVIATE THE MISERY OF MAN, THAT SOMETIME MUST BE FOUND TO SATISFY THE JUSTICE OF GOD. SOME WAY MUST BE FOUND TO SATISFY THE JUSTICE OF GOD BEFORE SINNERS COULD BE REDEEMED BEFORE GOD. THEREFORE, JESUS OFFERED HIMSELF WITHOUT BLEMISH AND WITHOUT SPOT SO THAT HE MIGHT PROPITIATE GOD, THAT GOD'S ANGER, GOD'S WRATH AGAINST SIN MIGHT BE REMOVED AND THE SINNER MIGHT BE RECEIVED INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

NOW THIS SHOULD TELL US SOMETHING. IT SHOULD TELL US THAT GOD MUST DEAL WITH US IN JUDGMENT. IT MUST TELL US THAT THIS GOD WHO IS JUST, THIS GOD WHO BY HIS VERY NATURE MUST PUT AWAY SIN, MUST DEAL WITH US IN JUDGMENT, AND HE MUST DEAL WITH US IN JUSTICE FOR OUR SINS IN THAT JUDGMENT UNLESS, UNLESS SOME WAY CAN BE FOUND WHEREBY THE WRATH OF GOD AGAINST THE SIN OF MAN CAN BE PROPITIATED. NOW THE GREAT QUESTION IS, HOW SHALL IT BE DONE? HOW SHALL WE PROPITIATE GOD?

IT WILL NOT BE DONE, GOD'S WRATH WILL NOT BE REMOVED, BECAUSE MAN HAS SECURED SOME OFFERING OF HIS OWN THAT HAS SO IMPRESSED GOD THAT GOD FORGETS HIS JUSTICE AND RECEIVES MAN. ANYTHING WHICH PROPITIATES GOD MUST OF NECESSITY COME FROM GOD BECAUSE EVERYTHING THAT HAS TO DO WITH MAN IS STAINED BY SIN. IT HAS EVER BEEN SO. IT WAS SO EVEN IN THE O.T. DISPENSATION. HEAR LEVITICUS 17:11. "FOR THE LIFE OF THE FLESH IS IN THE BLOOD; AND I HAVE GIVEN IT TO YOU UPON THE ALTAR, TO MAKE AN ATONEMENT FOR YOUR SOULS; FOR IT IS THE BLOOD THAT MAKETH AN ATONEMENT FOR THE SOUL." HEAR VERY CAREFULLY THIS LANGUAGE: "I HAVE GIVEN IT TO YOU UPON THE ALTAR, TO MAKE AN ATONEMENT FOR YOUR SOULS." GOD SAID, "IT IS MY GIFT." IF THIS WAS TRUE IN THAT DAY AND AGE WHEN GOD WAS NOT FORGIVING, BUT WAS PASSING OVER AND REMEMBERING YEAR BY YEAR, THEN HOW MUCH TRUER IS IT THAT GOD MUST PROVIDE THE ATONEMENT, THAT GOD MUST PROVIDE THE PROPITIATION, WHEN WE COME TO THAT GREAT MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND WHEN SINS AREN'T ROLLED FORWARD ANYMORE, BUT ARE REMOVED.

NOW, WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO OFFER TO GOD? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO BRING TO GOD TO RENDER YOURSELF ACCEPTABLE TO HIM? ARE YOU GOING TO BRING YOUR PRAYERS? AND BECAUSE YOU HAVE OFFERED A THOUSAND PRAYERS, YEA, A THOUSAND TIMES TEN THOUSAND SAY, "NOW, GOD, BE PROPITIATED TO ME." ARE YOU GOING TO BRING OUTWARD DEMONSTRATIONS? ARE YOU GOING TO BRING REPENTANCE? ARE YOU GOING TO BRING YOUR SACRIFICE? ARE YOU GOING TO BRING YOUR SUFFERING? THE ANSWER MUST BE, "NO, A THOUSAND TIMES NO!" FOR THESE THINGS GOD HAS NOT PROVIDED.

WHAT HAS GOD PROVIDED? MAY WE, WITH SCRIPTURE, POINT YOU TO JESUS CHRIST? MAY WE, WITH SCRIPTURE, POINT YOU TO THE SHED BLOOD OF THE SAVIOR? MAY WE POINT YOU TO JESUS WHO IS YOUR MERCY SEAT, TO HIS BLOOD WHICH PROPITIATES AND THE GOD, THE FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO IS WILLING AND ABLE TO RECEIVE ANY SINNER THAT WILL COME UNTO HIM BY THE BLOOD OF HIS SON.

THERE IS, I BELIEVE, A MOST SIGNIFICANT STATEMENT IN LUKE 18. WE MISS THE MEANING OF IT IN OUR ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS, BUT IT IS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL STATEMENT. REMEMBER THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE WHO WENT INTO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY? THE PHARISEE LIFTED UP HIS HANDS AND THANKED GOD THAT HE WAS NOT AS OTHER MEN, BUT THE PUBLICAN WOULD NOT SO MUCH AS LIFT HIS EYES. HE SMOTE HIS BREAST AND SAID, "LORD, BE MERCIFUL TO ME A SINNER." DO YOU KNOW HOW THAT LITERALLY TRANSLATES? "BE PROPITIATED TO ME A SINNER." JESUS SAID, "I TELL YOU THAT THAT MAN WENT DOWN TO HIS HOUSE JUSTIFIED RATHER THAN THE OTHER." IT UPSETS ME WHEN I HEAR MY BRETHREN SAY, "YOU KNOW THAT MAN COULDN'T HAVE BEEN SAVED. JESUS WASN'T SAYING HE WAS SAVED, HE WAS SAYING, 'IF I SAVE EITHER OF THEM, I'LL SAVE THE PUBLICAN BEFORE I SAVE THE PHARISEE!'" THAT IS DOING VIOLENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD. THAT IS NOT WHAT IT SAYS. JESUS SAID, "I TELL YOU THAT MAN WENT DOWN

TO HIS HOUSE JUSTIFIED." WHY? HE DIDN'T CALL UPON GOD THROUGH THE PROPITIATING BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST, BUT HE DID CALL UPON GOD BY ALL OF THE SACRIFICIAL BLOOD THAT WAS ACCEPTABLE IN THAT JEWISH DISPENSATION, THAT WAS BEING SHED THERE IN THAT TEMPLE, AND WHICH TYPIFIED THE COMING OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS. BASED UPON THAT WHICH HE HAD, HE SAID, "LORD, BE PROPITIATED TO ME A SINNER. TURN YOUR WRATH AWAY FROM ME."

IF YOU AND I TONIGHT ARE TO BE ACCEPTED WITH GOD, IT IS NOT GOING TO BE BECAUSE WE HAVE BROUGHT A THOUSAND GIFTS INTO HIS PRESENCE. IT IS GOING TO BE BECAUSE WE HAVE HUMBLED OURSELVES IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND WE HAVE CALLED UPON AND RELIED UPON THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST, BECAUSE WE HAVE BOWED OUR HEADS AND WE HAVE SAID, "GOD BE PROPITIATED TO ME A SINNER." REST ASSURED THAT UNTIL GOD SEES YOU THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST, THE WRATH OF GOD MUST EVER ABIDE UPON YOUR SINS. WHEN YOU COME UNTO JESUS THROUGH THE BLOOD, THE WRATH OF GOD IS TURNED AWAY. THAT WHICH HAS DAMNED UP THE LOVE OF GOD SO THAT IT CANNOT POUR FORTH ITS WONDERFUL BENEFITS UPON YOU IS RELEASED AND YOU ARE RECEIVED INTO THE BOSOM OF THE FATHER. ARE THERE NOT THOSE HERE TONIGHT WHO WANT TO PRAY WITH THAT PUBLICAN OF OLD, "BE PROPITIATED UNTO ME, GOD!" CALL UPON THE ATONING BENEFITS OF JESUS CHRIST. COME IN FAITH TONIGHT, REPENTING, CONFESSING THE NAME OF JESUS, BEING BURIED IN THE WATERS OF BAPTISM THAT THROUGH THESE THINGS THE BLOOD OF JESUS MAY CLEANSE YOU FROM EVERY SIN AND GOD MAY RECEIVE YOU UNTO HIMSELF.