

Gospel Dictionary Series

A ten part message series that defines big theological and doctrinal concepts using simple terms and familiar passages.

"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."

1 Corinthians 2:2 NIV

This series aims to do two things

1. To bring Jesus and the biblical Gospel into clear focus.
2. To bring us (our thinking and theology) into alignment with the biblical Gospel.

"There is more to know in the Bible than Jesus and the Gospel, but apart from them, nothing is worth knowing."

- Michael Horton

Only when we have a firm grasp on the *biblical* Gospel are we ready to talk about things like a). Who God is, b). How we know him, and c). How we are known by him.

Part one of this series is now on our YouTube channel.

PART TWO: Vicarious Blood Atonement

Definitions

Vicarious: In place of another. *Vicarious experience* happens when we try to give our children what we didn't have or when we watch reality TV.

Blood: That which gives **life** to the body.

Atonement: Reparation for a wrong. To be made one or at peace with God.

VICARIOUS: "JESUS DIED FOR OUR SINS."

Growing up in Sunday School we were often asked, "Why did Jesus die?" To which we responded, "For our sins." The teacher would reply, "Yes, he died for our sins. And what sins would those be?" We would then proceed to list the sins that Jesus died to forgive and then confess that we had committed those sins. But focussing on the individual sins Jesus died to forgive is putting emphasis on the wrong syllable. The emphasis should not be on the word *sins*, but the word *our*.

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

Isaiah 53:5

We are all individually guilty of sin and deserving of God's wrath. The wages of that sin is death. Jesus died vicariously for *our* sins by taking *our* guilt upon himself and nailing it to the cross and providing atonement.

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Colossians 2:13-14

OT TYPOLOGY OF VICARIOUS DEATH

Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son.

Genesis 22:13

NT FULFILLMENT OF THE TYPE

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, (Raised Lazarus) believed in him, but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. Nor do you understand that it is better for you that **one man should die for the people**, not that the whole nation should perish." He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that **Jesus would die for the nation**, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

John 11:45-53

FURTHER FULFILLMENT OF THE TYPE

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for (for the benefit of) the sheep."

John 10:11

"Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for (on behalf of) many." (Those who would put their faith in him)

Matthew 20:28

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for (in place of) us."

Romans 5:8

Christ didn't die for **sins**, he died for **us**.

BLOOD: WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED (BLED AND DIED)

Christ's death on the cross should have been ours. From birth we are accountable to God for our sin against Him/His law and the payment for our sin is our own death.

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

Romans 3:19

Q: Why did Christ have to suffer and die? Why did he have to bleed?

A: Christ had to shed his blood (the source of life itself) for the forgiveness of our sins.

Blood is the only cleansing agent for sin, making us pure.

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.

Leviticus 17:11

11-14 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, (the new covenant) then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) (himself) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an **eternal redemption**. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works (sin) to serve (worship) the living God.

15 Therefore he is the mediator (go between, advocate) of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, (salvation) since a death has occurred that redeems them (pays their debt) from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

22-28 Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. Thus it was necessary for the copies (tent, altar, vessels, furniture) of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God **on our behalf** (vicariously). Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for (vicariously) all at the end of the ages to **put away sin** by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to (vicariously) bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Hebrews 9:11-28

ATONEMENT: VICARIOUS BLOOD SHED RESULTS IN ATONEMENT (PEACE)

Atonement for sin is an OT requirement (Lev 16) fulfilled in Christ resulting in justification. Having been washed in Christ's blood shed on our behalf a). our sins have been removed (*not covered*), b). we have been restored to God (*the wrong has been righted*) and c). We are now at one with Him (*we have peace with God*); having been justified or rendered innocent by the cleansing blood of Jesus.

Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from *our* sins in His own blood.

Revelation 1:5

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 5:1 NKJV

You see, because of sin we are separated from God and at war with Him. There is no neutral position with God. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Romans 8:7 ESV

But, the finished work of Jesus restores peace with God and removes the barriers that separated us from Him. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

Ephesians 2:14 ESV

SUMMARY PASSAGE

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (sin renders all people guilty before a Holy God, this is a terrible threat without the Gospel) and all are justified (rendered innocent) **freely** by his grace through the redemption that came by (vicariously) Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of **atonement, through the shedding of his blood**—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance (patience) he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished (overlooked, passed over, covered)— he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just (holy) and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Romans 3:23-26

CONCLUSION:

What did we see?

Our sin resulted in separation from God.

Death is the only penalty for sin.

Sin cannot be forgiven apart from shedding of blood.

Christ shed his blood and died on our behalf that we might live to God and be at peace with Him.

I hope you found this helpful in an effort to see Jesus more clearly and to align your thinking and theology with the *biblical* Gospel. Next week we will be looking at “Substitutionary Propitiation” and the following week Pastor Richard will be speaking on “Adoption and Baptism.” Until then...

1. **Adoption and Baptism (Richard):**
2. **Substitutionary Propitiation:**
3. **Covenant and Law:** F4F Rebuilding the temple. Hebrews 9 and 10.
4. **Grace and Mercy:** Pilgrim theology. Grace is God's merciful action.
5. **Discipleship and Good Works:** shaping our way of living in the world.
“We tend to give an unbeliever just enough of the gospel to get him or her to pray a prayer to receive Christ. Then we immediately put the gospel on the shelf, so to speak, and go on to the duties of discipleship. The grace that brought salvation to you is the same grace that teaches or disciplines you. But you must respond on the basis of grace, not law.” Jerry Bridges
6. **Imputed Righteousness:** Philippians 3
7. **Repentance and Forgiveness:**
8. **Redemption and Salvation (Richard):**
9. **Justification, Sanctification, Glorification:** Colossians 6:9