

“The Answer is Propitiation”
Romans 3:25-26
December 6, 2020

I. Propitiation Shows Us that our Sin is Grave and Ugly (v. 25a)

- A. “Propitiation” refers to something that appeases or removes wrath.
- B. Christ’s death on the cross propitiated God’s wrath against sin.
- C. Many these days are squeamish about propitiation.

- 1. Some claim it smacks of paganism or the abuse of an “unwilling” Christ. But see...

John 10:17–18 - ¹⁷ “For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. ¹⁸ “No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”

- 2. Our discomfort with the need for propitiation often comes from not realizing how vile and evil even one of our sins is.

II. Propitiation Shows Us that our Sin Has Been Truly Dealt With (v. 25b)

- A. Christ’s death is what truly took care of the sins of Old Testament believers.

Hebrews 10:3–4 - ³ But in those [OT] sacrifices, there is a reminder of sins year by year. ⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

- B. Christ’s death has truly removed and dealt with the guilt of all our sins, which is why we can be confident even in confession.

Hebrews 4:16 - Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

III. Propitiation Shows Us that our God is Just in our Justification (v. 26)

- A. The torturous death of the Divine-Human Jesus really did exhaust the just recompense for which our sins called out.
- B. Thus, when God declares us innocent of all charges, it’s not a legal fiction.
- C. This is one reason believers are commanded to always and quickly forgive one another, fully and freely.
- D. Who are we to bring a charge against God’s elect? (Rom. 8:33)