

Theme: When we sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus the Righteous One, who has provided authentic atonement for us - bearing the wrath of God and purifying us from sin, allowing us to freely come before the Father.

I. Intro - A Limerick on CH Dodd

- A. Dodd disagreed with how most had understood this text
- B. He said propitiation was sub-Christian rubbish
- C. A rival wrote a limerick about him & his last name
 - I think it exceedingly odd
 - That a divinity professor named Dodd
 - Should spell, if you please,
 - His name with two d's
 - When one is sufficient for God.
- D. Was Dodd right or was he dangerously wrong?
- E. What is the authentic understanding of atonement?

II. The Authentic Response To Sin

- A. John dealt with the problem of sin - and false responses
 - 1. God is light - so sin is a problem!
This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5
 - 2. Inauthentic responses to sin: "If we claim" (v6,8, 10)
 - ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.
 - ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
 - ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. 1 John 1:6, 8, 10

- a. All of these deny sin is a problem - but it is!
 - b. Some define sin down - no problem - I am good!
 - c. Some said it did not matter - God would not judge
- B. Sin can not be handled in this manner
 - 1. We can not deny our sin & hope it goes away
 - 2. We can not act as if God does not care about sin
 - 3. God is holy, and we are sinful

III. An Authentic Desire & An Authentic Problem!

- A. The authentic desire - do not sin!
My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. 1 John 2:1
 - 1. Note how tender & pastoral he is - my dear children
 - 2. Remember God's forgiveness is not a license to sin!
 - 3. He wants them to walk free of sin - for their good!
- B. Believers continue to struggle with sin
My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. **But if anybody does sin**,... 1 John 2:1
 - 1. John knows people will sin - "if anybody does sin..."
 - 2. And he told us sinlessness was impossible (1:7,9)
 - 3. We will continue to struggle with sin until death
 - 4. So how can we approach the holy God of light?
 - 5. How can we have assurance in our current state?

IV. Authentic Advocate & Atonement

A. Assurance through an authentic advocate

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, **we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.** 1 John 2:1

1. Assurance does not come from us but from Jesus!
2. Jesus is our Advocate - speaks in our defense
 - a. Advocate/speaks in defense - Paraclete
 - b. Used 5x NT - all by John (John 14:16, 26; 15:26, 16:7; 1 John 2:1)
 - c. Other 4 times refers to the Holy Spirit
 - d. Paracletos - someone who testified in defense; intercessor; mediator
3. Jesus is our Advocate before the Holy Father
 - a. Satan, the world, our sins come to accuse us
 - b. But Jesus speaks in our defense as our Advocate Friend
4. Same concept all over NT with other terms
Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Romans 8:34
 - a. Accusers try to condemn - but Christ speaks for us

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Hebrews 7:25

- a. Section speaks of Christ as High Priest
- b. He saves completely - never stops interceding

B. The basis - Christ's work of atonement

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:2

1. Atoning sacrifice - expiation or propitiation
 - a. Expiation - to remove our guilt and sin
 - b. Propitiation - to appease wrath of God against sin
 - c. Dodd said propitiation is rubbish - is he right?
 - d. How did Christ deal with our sin problem?
2. Expiation - sin and guilt removed and cleansed
 - a. This is clearly biblical - sin is removed
 - b. John has talked about this as well
But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin...**⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and **purify us from all unrighteousness.** 1 John 1:7, 9
 - c. Christ clearly removes our sin and guilt!
3. Propitiation - God's righteous wrath appeased
 - a. Meaning of word hilasterion - to appease wrath
 1. Even Dodd says this was how Greeks used it
 2. In LXX these words used for kipper - atonement
 3. But Dodd thought this was a pagan idea - God did not have wrath that needed to be appeased

b. God's wrath against sin a biblical idea

The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished... Numbers 14:18

God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses his wrath every day. Psalms 7:11

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." ¹⁸ **The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men** who suppress the truth by their wickedness, Romans 1:16–18

c. This is the main meaning here in 1 John 2:2

4. Propitiation - from a loving God

a. Not the nice Son is saving us from the Father

b. The Father loved us and gave the Son to atone!

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:10

1. Atoning sacrifice - same word - hilasterion

2. The Father loved us and gave the Son (John 3:16)

c. We are loved by the Trinity - Father Son & Spirit

d. We're saved by the Trinity - Father Son & Spirit

C. The extent - sufficient for the whole world

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and **not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.** 1 John 2:2

1. John does not mean everyone is saved

a. To be cleansed we must confess to Christ (1:7,9)

b. John speaks often of world being condemned

2. He means Christ's atonement is sufficient for all

a. Sufficient for all, efficient for God's people

b. In fact, His atoning work has cosmic implications (see Colossians 1:15-20; Romans 8:18-25)

3. He means we are not to be exclusive like Gnostics

a. Gnostics restrictive 'private' club of 'secret' knowers

b. We are open, inviting group with 'public' knowledge

4. We are to proclaim Christ's atoning work to all

a. Not all will believe - but we proclaim to all

b. We never know who will come - so offer to all!

VI. Applying the Authentic Word

A. Do we see what Christ has done for us?

1. He has provided atonement for us
2. He has removed our sin and guilt - we are free!
3. He has quenched God's righteous wrath against our sin - and we are free!
4. He has removed every barrier - we can freely come to God
5. He offers full, free pardon and cleansing - look to Him today
6. Christian - do not labor under guilt - confess and receive free pardon!

B. The Table of Authentic Forgiveness

1. Here we are reminded of the atoning work of Christ
2. His body was broken - so you might be made whole
3. His blood was spilled - so you might be forgiven
4. He died - so you might live
5. Come, remember, give thanks, and rejoice in Grace!

Authentic Atonement

1 John 2:1-2
April 26, 2015
Communion
Psalm 79:9

Teaching keywords: atonement, sin, forgiveness, God's character, law and gospel

May God our Savior help us, for the glory of His name; may He deliver us and forgive our sins for His name's sake. Psalms 79:9

1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:1–2