



# ATONEMENT

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## THIS READING PLAN IS FOR YOU

To make atonement literally means to repair a wrong or injury. In a biblical context, atonement refers to the reconciliation of God and man through the work of Jesus Christ. Therefore, this week we will unpack some of the ways the cross of Christ has repaired our relationship with God. As you read, ask God to open your eyes to see these various aspects of atonement. Consider the shame that sin casts over us, then behold how Christ exchanged our shame for his righteousness through his crucifixion. Consider the power that sin has over us, then behold how Christ has broken the power of sin and freed us from slavery to it through the redemption of our souls. Consider the penalty that sin demands, then behold how Jesus satisfied God's wrath on our behalf and received our wages of death by dying in our place as our substitute. Consider the fatal wounds that sin has caused, then behold the expiatory death of Christ; for by His wounds we are healed. Then take a step back and behold how all of these things enable sinful man to be reconciled to our holy God. We pray that this study will help you hold fast to your great salvation, run the race with perseverance, and trust Christ, for He is worthy.

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## THE FORMAT OF THE READING PLAN WILL BE AS FOLLOWS—

### READ—

When we read the Bible, we are not just reading man's thoughts about God. Neither are we merely reading what God said (a few thousand years ago). Rather what we are reading is what God says in the present tense (Hebrews 3:7). For the Word of God is living and active, and when we read it God Himself is speaking to us (Hebrews 4:12). Therefore, read each passage slowly, carefully, and attentively to every word acting as if the most important being in the universe is speaking to you, because He is.

### REFLECT—

Simply reading the Word is like briskly walking by a warm fire on a cold night. But meditation is like sitting by the warm fire so that it lights up your face and warms your bones. (Don Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*). Therefore, pick a verse from each section to meditate on. What does it mean? What does it say about God? What does it say about you? You can pick any verse. But we will suggest a verse each time in case you have trouble picking one.

### RESPOND—

We do not want to just be passive readers of the Word and allow what God says to go "in one ear and out the other." Rather we want to be like the blessed man from psalm one who delights in God's word and meditates/chews on/murmurs to himself/thinks over what God has said day and night (Psalm 1:3). These discussion questions are designed to help us think over what the Lord has said, and as we think and discuss the Lord will give us understanding (2 Timothy 2:7).

### PRAY—

Pray to your Father that the Holy Spirit would empower the Word of Christ to become true in your hearts, your lives, this church, and this world as it is in heaven. Pray the Word back to God. For he always answers us when we pray according to his will (1 John 5:14). And the best way to pray according to his will is to pray His Word!

# DAY 01

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## STUDY ON ATONEMENT

### READ—

Genesis 2:15-16, 25 & Genesis 3:6-24 & Isaiah 61:10

### REFLECT—

“And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.” — Genesis 3:21

### RESPOND—

What is the relationship between sin and shame? What are their consequences? How does the LORD respond to our sin and shame?

### PRAY—

Heavenly Father, you are a holy and righteous God who dwells in unapproachable light. Would you open our eyes to see the brokenness and depravity of our souls? May you impress upon our hearts the weight and costliness of our sins. Father, please forgive us of our sins and wicked rebellion. We praise you and thank you, for from the beginning, you have shown that you draw near to the sinner. From the beginning, you have pursued us and extended mercy and grace to us. Thank you for making Him, your only begotten Son, who knew no sin, to become sin so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. Amen.

# DAY 02

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**STUDY ON  
ATONEMENT**

**READ—**

Leviticus 16:1-34

**REFLECT—**

“He shall make atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tent of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly.” Leviticus 16:33

**RESPOND—**

How was atonement made according to the Law? How does the crucifixion of Christ accomplish, fulfill, and supersede the Law’s requirements for atonement?

**PRAY—**

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, who perfectly fulfilled all of the law and the prophets. Thank you for cleansing us from all unrighteousness and washing away our sins through the blood of Jesus Christ. Help us to grasp the burden of our sin, that we would not take lightly the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, who paid the penalty we could never pay, appeasing your wrath and reconciling us to you. Use your Word to help us behold the glory of our salvation. Amen.

# DAY 03

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**STUDY ON  
ATONEMENT**

**READ—**

Isaiah 53:1-12

**REFLECT—**

“He was pierced for our transgression; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.” — Isaiah 53:5

**RESPOND—**

How and why did Christ suffer for your sins? What is your response to him?

**PRAY—**

Heavenly Father, thank you for laying my iniquities upon your Son, Jesus. I am deeply grateful that it was your will to crush your Son so that I might be saved, redeemed, and reconciled to you. May I never take Christ's suffering and sacrifice for granted. May I ever live to sing your praise and lift high the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

# DAY 04

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## STUDY ON ATONEMENT

### READ—

Genesis 14:17-24 & Hebrews 7:1-28

### REFLECT—

“For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.” — Hebrews 7:26-27

### RESPOND—

In what ways is Jesus Christ a superior priest? What are the implications of Jesus’ “once for all” sacrifice regarding our salvation?

### PRAY—

Heavenly Father, we rejoice today in knowing that our Great High Priest, Jesus, has offered up once for all His sacrifice to pay for, cover, and cleanse us from all our sins. Thank you that we are not under the law, that would require us to make atonement repeatedly for every sin, but all of our sins for all time have been atoned for. And this is not through a mere spotless lamb or goat, but through the holy, innocent Lamb of God. May we rest in the fullness of Christ’s sacrifice, knowing that the work of the cross is sufficient and completed. Amen.

# DAY 05

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## STUDY ON ATONEMENT

### READ—

Hebrews 9:1-28

### REFLECT—

“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.” — Hebrew 9:12

### RESPOND—

Why is the blood of goats and calves insufficient to cover our sins? How is Jesus’ blood effective to fully and finally take away the guilt of our sins?

### PRAY—

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your Holy Word that shows us the seriousness of sin and the necessity of reconciliation. We thank you for how the sacrificial system helps us understand the significance of Christ Jesus, who gave himself for our sins, and shed his own blood for us. We confess that by choosing to sin on a daily basis, we do not hold the sacrifice of Christ with the proper reverence that we ought. Help us to remember the great love with which you have loved us and the costliness of the cross of Christ that we might die to ourselves and live unto you. Amen.

# DAY 06

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**STUDY ON  
ATONEMENT**

**READ—**

Hebrews 10:1-18

**REFLECT—**

“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws (teachings/instructions) on their hearts, and write them on their minds,’ then he adds, ‘I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.’”

— Hebrews 10:16

**RESPOND—**

How does the promise of the New Covenant established by Christ give you freedom from sin and power to obey?

**PRAY—**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your faithfulness throughout the ages to keep your covenant promises despite the sinfulness and rebellion of your people. We thank you for providing a new and better covenant that brings full and final forgiveness of sins, and we thank you for treating us according to Christ’s righteousness and not our own. We confess that though we have the power to obey your Holy Word through your Holy Spirit, we often choose our sinful desires instead. Help us to live in light of the freedom from sin that you have given us that we might freely and fully worship and serve you. Amen.

# DAY 07

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## STUDY ON ATONEMENT

### READ—

Hebrews 10:19-38 & Isaiah 61:10

### REFLECT—

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” — Hebrews 10:24-25

### RESPOND—

How does the hope of Jesus’ future return give us purpose and urgency to serve one another in the present?

### PRAY—

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of your church and uniting us to other believers as we eagerly await the return of Christ. We thank you for the opportunities you have given us to love, serve, and encourage one another through your Word in the context of the local church. We confess that we do not live in light of eternity as we ought. Help us to remember your eternal plan of redemption and put our hope in your sure and final return, and help us to be all the more diligent to stir one another up to love and good works—all for your glory and the good of your people. Amen.