**Atonement & Redemption**

**Blood Atonement**

**Leviticus 17:11** – 11 For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make ***atonement*** for your souls; for it *is* the blood *that* makes ***atonement*** for the soul.

Sin keeps man from being united with God. An innocent life blood was to pay for sin. This is known as ***blood atonement***; it is that which satisfies and pays the debt of sin. There is no other way for man to atone for his sin and to be saved from separation from God. Blood is life. Life is blood. When blood is shed, a life is shed. Jesus came for one reason, to shed His blood. ***How does blood atone or satisfy the debt of our sins?*** Blood was holy, set apart. Blood could not be handled except in sacrifice. God made it off limits so that everyone would treat it with reverence. Blood (innocent life) is the bridge that rejoins us to God where sin has separated us from God. ***Atonement*** is when something reconciles or makes satisfaction for a wrong or injury. It is the blood (innocent life) that takes the place of, or covers over the sin. Under the sacrificial system of the Law of Moses, the blood of innocent life would cover over specific and individual sins that had been committed. At that point, man could be united again with God. Every time man would sin, he would again need to make another sacrifice to take the place of his sin.

The Day of Atonement was the holiest day of the year under the Law of Moses. Even today Jews observe Yom Kippur. "Yom" means "day" and "Kippur" means "atonement".

**Jesus is our atonement, our payment and perfect sacrifice for our sin**

· Hebrews 9:11-12, 24 - the sacrifices symbolized what Jesus would actually do

· Hebrews 10:1-2 - the Law was only a shadow of the good things to come and repetitive nature of the sacrifices did not make the worshippers perfect

· Hebrews 10:3 - every day and annually there was the constant reminder of sins

· Hebrews 10:4 - it was not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins

· Hebrews 10:5, 6 - God provided the perfect sacrifice

· 1 John 4:10 - this reminds us that atonement for sin was provided by God, not man

· Hebrews 10:7-9 - our atonement was freely offered by Christ since He came to do the will of God

What animal sacrifices could not accomplish, God did by sending His Son who freely offered Himself for sin. Jesus was the perfect Lamb of God. (John 4:29)

**Redemption from sin**

**Hebrews 4:14-16** -14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are, yet* without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Jesus now redeems us and buys us from spiritual death with a New Covenant!**

· Hebrews 9:11-12 - Christ entered the "Most Holy Place" (heaven)

· Hebrews 10:10-12 - Jesus did not take the blood of goats and calves, but His ***OWN*** blood!

Jesus entered "once for all", not once a year and He "obtained eternal redemption"

This is also why the New Covenant, the church, is superior, because it is:

· Hebrews 8:7-13 - based upon better promises

· Hebrews 9:1-28 - based upon a better sanctuary

· Hebrews 10:1-18 - based upon a better sacrifice

· Romans 5:6-11 - Christ reconciles us to God died for us by taking our place

· John 1:29 - He is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"

· Ephesians 1:7 - In Him we have "redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins"

· Ephesians 2:13 - The blood of Christ ***redeemed*** us from sin! He ***bought*** us!

Jesus is our ***atonement*** because he ***paid*** the debt for our sins. Jesus ***redeemed*** us from death because he ***bought*** us with his blood! What a wonderful and glorious gift of God!

**Simple Definitions of Grace & Mercy**

**God’s great love for us**

God’s love for us is the beginning point of salvation, not because of who we are or what we do, but is because of who ***God*** is. Everything flows from God’s great love. God did not love us because we were lovable, but because God is loving!

**Grace** – The unearned and undeserved favor of God. When we get what we ***don’t*** deserve.

Ephesians 2:4-9 - 4But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8***For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9not by works, so that no one can boast.***

**Mercy** – The undeserved forgiveness and compassion of God. When we ***don’t*** get what we deserve.

Titus 3:3-7 - 3At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

**Our salvation is by grace through faith**

We are dead in trespasses and sins - Ephesians 2:1

We walk with the world and the devil - Ephesians 2:2

We fulfill the desires of our flesh and mind - Ephesians 2:3

Before we became Christians, we were truly "sons of disobedience" and "children of wrath"!

The grace and mercy that God shows us is founded on the fact that God has a great love for us - John 3:16

Jesus plainly shows the grace and mercy of God’s love in the story of the prodigal son - Luke 15:20-24

We should also love one another because God’s love moved Him to offer His Son - 1 John 4:7-10

We must heed the warning of the unmerciful servant - Matthew 18:23-35

**The rich mercy of God**

The word “mercy” comes from the word "*eleos*" and is defined by Vine's Expository Dictionary "the outward manifestation of pity". Mercy, then, is compassion that one has for those in trouble. God’s great love makes Him rich in mercy. His great love for us as sinners enables God to be filled with compassion toward us.

The riches of His mercy reach out to all who will accept it.

· God is rich in mercy - Ephesians 2:4

· God wants ***ALL*** men to be saved - 1 Timothy 2:3-4

· God wants ***EVERYONE*** to come to repentance - 2 Peter 3:9

· God’s saves us according to His mercy - Titus 3:5

· God’s love for us is why He sent His son - John 3:16

**The wonderful grace of God**

While we were dead in our sins, God makes us alive through and together with Christ because of His unmerited favor, His grace. His grace is based on faith and not by our works. Salvation is first and foremost by the grace of God. It was God’s love, mercy, and grace which made salvation possible.

· God makes us alive and raises us up - Ephesians 2:5-6

· There is nothing compared with God’s grace and mercy - Ephesians 2:7

· Truly, salvation is not from us, it is the gift of God - Ephesians 2:8

· We ***cannot*** earn God’s grace since we are ***HIS*** workmanship - Ephesians 2:9-10