

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying
Message Nine : Appreciating Christ as the Reality
of the Trespass Offering

I. Overview :

Christ died on the cross as the Lamb of God to deal with sin and sins and to take away sin from the human race. As the reality of the trespass offering, Christ died for our sins, the righteous on behalf of the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God and we might live to righteousness. The Lord Jesus Christ is the propitiation for our sins to appease God. Christ gave Himself for our sins that He might rescue us out of the present evil age. The Lord Jesus said, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for forgiveness of sins." Christ, "having made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."; because Christ offered Himself to God through the eternal Spirit, His offering of Himself was once for all.

II. Truth and Enlightenment :

Day 1 --

A. What effect has in Christ as the Lamb of God fulfilling all the offerings?

Through Christ as the Lamb of God fulfilling all the offerings we may enter into God and participate in the divine life and nature. . Because of Christ as the Lamb of God, we are well able, even enabled, to enter into God. We may boldly come into God. We have full redemption in Christ, and therefore we are enabled to enter into God to enjoy all that He is.

B. What does it imply to be foreknown by God in 1 Peter 1:20?

To be foreknown by God means to be foreordained by God. This means that in eternity past God approved Christ and appreciated Him. God also ordained Christ to be His anointed One, the One commissioned to have been planned by God for the accomplishment of His eternal purpose. In particular, Christ was foreknown, foreordained, to be the Lamb of God to accomplish redemption.

Day 2 --

A. Explain that Christ, the righteous One, died "on behalf of the unrighteous" and His death was for redemption, not for martyrdom.

On the cross Christ was our Substitute, bearing our sins, the righteous One judged on behalf of us, the unrighteous, by the righteous God according to His righteousness, that He might remove the barrier of our sins and bring us to God. This was to redeem us from our sins back to God, from our unrighteous manner of life back to the righteous God.

B. What does it mean in 1 Peter 2:24 "having died to sins" ?

When Christ carried up our sins onto the cross and died, that death accomplished many things. The death of Christ terminated us, and this termination can keep us away from sin. Through Christ's death we can be kept away from sins so

that we may live to righteousness. Christ's death has drawn a separating line between us and sins. Now through His death we are being kept away from sins.

Day 3 --

A. How does Christ heal and enliven us on the cross?

As fallen human beings, we were dead and full of sin. But Christ put our sins upon Himself and bore them on the tree, the cross, where He suffered God's righteous judgment for all our sins. Christ's death on the cross was a bruise, and that bruise, that death, has healed our death. Now we have been made alive. On the one hand, Christ's bruise that heals us keeps us away from sins through His death; on the other hand, this healing enlivens us so that we may live to righteousness.

B. How is Christ Himself the propitiation for our sins?

In 1 John 2:2 and 4:10 the Lord Jesus is the propitiatory sacrifice for our sins. The Lord Jesus Christ has offered Himself to God as a sacrifice for our sins (Heb. 9:28) not only for our redemption but also for God's satisfaction. In Him as our Substitute, through His vicarious death, God is satisfied and appeased. Hence, Christ is the propitiation between God and us.

Day 4 --

A. What is the goal of Christ's crucifixion although He is for our sins?

The goal of Christ's crucifixion is to rescue us out of the present evil age. An age is a part of the world as the satanic system. An age refers to a section, an aspect, the present or modern appearance, of the system of Satan, which is used by him to usurp and occupy people and keep them away from God and His purpose. The world system of Satan has different ages, different sections.

B. What does the present evil age in Galatians 1:4 refer to?

The present evil age in Galatians 1:4 refers to the religious world, the religious course of the world, which at Paul's time was the Jewish religion. Paul emphasizes that the purpose of Christ's giving Himself for our sins was to rescue us, to pluck us out, from the Jewish religion, the present evil age. This is to release God's chosen people from the custody of the law.

Day 5 --

A. Explain Matthew 26:28, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for forgiveness of sins."

The Lord's blood was required by God's righteousness for the forgiveness of our sins. Without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin. Without forgiveness of sin there is no way to fulfill the requirement of God's righteousness so that the new covenant may be enacted. But Christ's blood was poured out for the forgiveness of sins, and the new covenant has been enacted with His blood. In this new covenant God gives us life and all heavenly and divine blessings.

B. What is the view of in Luke 22:20, "Christ's blood being poured out"?

From the human point of view, the Roman soldiers pierced the Lord's side, and His blood came out. But from Christ's point of view, He poured out His blood for redemption. The pouring out of the Lord's blood spoken of in Luke 22:20 refers to the blood that poured out of His side, not to the blood that issued from the wounds in His hands and feet. The latter was related to persecution, and the former, to redemption. He poured out His blood for the accomplishing of redemption.

Day 6 --

A. How do we say that He sat down forever on the right hand of God?

Christ has put away sin by offering Himself to God as the unique sacrifice for sin. He sat down forever on the right hand of God. His sitting in heaven is a sign and proof that the taking away of sins has been accomplished. His sitting down forever after having offered one sacrifice for sin is in contrast with the priests' standing daily, offering the same sacrifices again and again.

B. Explain Heb. 9:14, He offered Himself to God through the eternal Spirit.

On the cross Christ offered Himself to God in a human body, which body is a matter of time. But He did this through the eternal Spirit, who is of eternity, without any limit of time. His offering of Himself was once for all, and the redemption accomplished through His death is eternal, having an eternal effect.

III. Conclusion :

The peace between us and God is that Christ did everything for us; He Himself is the propitiation for our sins. In 1 John 2:2, the Greek word for propitiation is hilasmos. Paul says in Romans 3:25 regarding the propitiation-cover: "Whom God set forth as a propitiation place through faith in His blood, for the demonstrating of His righteousness." The Greek word for propitiation-cover is hilasterion. This word is different from hilasmos and hilaskomai in Hebrews 2:17. Hilasmos is "that which propitiates," that is, a propitiatory sacrifice. In 1 John 2:2 and 4:10 the Lord Jesus is the propitiatory sacrifice for our sins. The Lord Jesus Christ has offered Himself to God as a sacrifice for our sins not only for our redemption but also for God's satisfaction. In Him as our Substitute, through His vicarious death, God is satisfied and appeased. Hence, Christ is the propitiation between God and us.