

Jesus our Atonement

1 John 2:2

He is the propitiation (atonement) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

“Atonement is the payment for a wrong done – to make amends, to redeem, or to stand as a substitute. Dividing the word atonement into at-ONE-ment, we realize that to be “at one” within a marriage, a friendship, or a family means to be at harmony.” (Portals of Prayer April 25/ 25 – Mrs. Dianna Hitchler)

God’s holiness demanded punishment for man’s sin. The Father’s wrath needed to be propitiated (satisfied, appeased). Christ stepped in as the means of appeasement and by His atoning sacrifice brought about a favorable change in God. Jesus satisfied God’s demands for perfect obedience and perfect payment for sins. Through His life and death on the cross, Jesus became the means of forgiveness, the way of reconciling man to God. (TLSB) His wrath against the Christian’s sin was been turned away and directed toward Christ.

Jesus’ intercession consisted in this that He pointed God to His scarred hands and feet, which once and for all time were pierced on the cross for the sins of the whole world. Jesus came that “He might taste death for everyone” (Heb 2:9) – even for those who reject Him. Jesus made complete satisfaction for the sins of all mankind from the beginning of the world to the Last Day.

The atonement for the whole world includes us. Jesus’ perfect life, suffering, death was also for us and has made us saints in his eyes even as we are still in our sinful life. Even as we become separated from God, Jesus continues to make us one with with the Father. When we stand guilty before the Father, Jesus, who is one with the Father, is our advocate.

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for continually making atonement for me as I go through each day. Amen.