

Propitiation – Romans 3:25-31
James Muldoon - Carey Baptist Church – 3 May 2009

Introduction

- *Propitiation is the removal of anger through an offering. Pagans believed in propitiation: a helpless human would make an offering to a bitter “god” to appease him. The Christian understanding of propitiation is different. God offers a sacrifice to remove his wrath from us, and that sacrifice is his own Son.*
- Has propitiation always been a popular doctrine amongst Christians?
- What has Paul shown about the human condition in **Romans 1:18 – 3:20**?
- Why is **Romans 3:21** a turning point?

i Propitiation

- What is significant about the fact that God presented Jesus in **v25**?
- What two things does that mean to us?
 - (i)
 - (ii)
- God presented his Son as a propitiation. As he sees Christ, the perfect sacrifice, the perfect offering, what happens to his relationship with us?
- What does the fact that God sent his Son as a propitiation show about the way he regards us?
- What is another verse which shows that God loves us intensely?
- Why does **Romans 3:25** go even further than that verse?
- What should this intense love mean to us?
- What response does the fact that God presented Jesus as a propitiation demand from us?

ii Punishment

- *Paul shows how God’s character demanded that a propitiatory offering be made to turn aside his wrath.*
- When Paul talks about how God “**had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished**” in **v25-26**, what is that talking about?
- When did the punishment come, then?

- What does this show about God?
- What is God always intensely conscious of?
- In what two ways should that affect our attitude?

(i)

(ii)

iii Problems

- *Paul goes back into diatribe-mode here and starts to argue with an imaginary opponent. As he argues, he draws out the implications of the fact that all people are justified by faith, not by obeying the law.*
- In **v27-28**, Paul excludes boasting. Why?
- If we cannot boast, what should we do?
- In **v29-30**, Paul alludes to one of the most famous verses from the Old Testament. Which verse is it?
- Why does he quote it?
- What are some of the implications for us of the “oneness” of God?
- In **v31**, Paul shows that being justified by faith does not make us lawless. Which passage is going to elaborate on that?
- Who does Paul now start to point his opponent to?