

Question 48

Name _____

Q48. What is meant by the atonement?

A48. Christ's satisfying divine justice, by His sufferings and death, in the place of sinners.

Scripture Base: Rom 8:3-4, Heb 9:27-28

Doctrine: WCF 8:4,5; SC 25

Supplementary Questions.

1. What is justice?

2. Why did God's justice need to be satisfied?

3. How did Jesus pay/satisfy God's justice?

Songs: "When I survey" #252 "Rock of Ages" #500

Teaching Notes

Review Q47 How could the Son of God suffer? - *Christ, the Son of God, became man that He might obey and suffer in our nature.*

Scriptures: Isaiah 52-53, Matt. 27:46, Luke 23:46.

Questions

1. *Justice is getting what we deserve:* When the reward we receive is equal to the good we do. (*e.g.*, If your parents tell you that they will pay you \$10 to mow the lawn, you do it, and they pay you \$10, that is justice).

When the punishment we receive is equal to the wrong done. (If you break your friend's toy that cost \$10, and your parents tell you that you must pay \$10 to buy a new one to replace it, that is justice).

What is God's justice? It is what we owe God. God has given us everything we have: He made us and takes care of us (Ps. 103; 116:12-14). We owe Him ourselves, all we have, and whatever He would ask us to do (Rom. 12:1-2). It is what God owes us. God doesn't owe us anything *good* – since we have never earned anything good by what we've done – but gives us good things anyway because He is good (Cf. Ps. 104; James 1:17). But He does owe us *punishment* for our sins, because God is just and cannot overlook any bad thing we do (Rom. 3:21-26; 6:23; 2 Tim. 2:13).

2. God is just and cannot overlook any sin (Hab. 1:13). If He is to forgive anyone, His justice must be fully paid (the only payment that will satisfy His justice must be priceless/infinite).

3. He took the place of sinners on the cross (John 10:15). Their sins were imputed/credited to Him (2 Cor. 5:21), and He suffered and died for them. In doing so, He fully paid what they owed: He offered a payment that was infinite in value because He is God as well as man (Isa. 53:11).

Gospel: You came into the world guilty of Adam's sin. You've sinned every day of your life since. If even one sin deserves eternal punishment, how much do you owe God's justice for all the wrong things you've done? How will you pay/satisfy this debt? If you pay it yourself, you will have to suffer in hell for the rest of time. But if you trust Jesus to pay it through His suffering and death, you won't have to suffer – He will take away your sins and give you His obedience. God's justice will be fully paid, and you will then be able to enter heaven. Trust in Jesus as your Savior today.

Extras Worksheets: a) Memorize Rom 6:23 & Eze 18:4 b) Cross & heart. Annotate, cut & stick

Song "Rock of Ages" & "When I Survey"