

The Doctrine of Propitiation

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1. Definition: The God-ward side of salvation whereby God's holiness (His righteousness and justice) is satisfied by Jesus Christ's payment for our sins on the cross.
 - a. Propitiation means "satisfaction." God the Father is satisfied with the work of God the Son on the cross. He is satisfied with His perfect Person and His perfect payment for our sins on the cross
 - b. Propitiation, translated from the Greek word *hilasterion*, means "mercy seat" (Rom. 3:25; Heb. 9:5), which relates this doctrine to the mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant.
2. Propitiation was communicated to Israel through the sacrificial blood sprinkled on the mercy seat.
 - a. The mercy seat covered the emblems of Israel's sin inside the Ark of the Covenant (Ex. 25:17-22; 37:6-9).
 - b. Two cherubs, representing God's righteousness and justice, gazed upon the sacrificial blood sprinkled on the mercy seat.
 - c. The blood covering the emblems of sin pictured the ceremonial satisfaction of God's righteousness and justice.
3. Propitiation is related to the work of Christ on the cross. The death of Christ covered or paid for our sins satisfying the righteousness and justice of God (Lev. 16:13-16).
4. Propitiation is appropriated by faith in Christ and is the basis for the imputation of divine righteousness (Rom. 3:25-26).
5. Propitiation is related to the work of Christ on the cross. The death of Christ covered or paid for our sins satisfying the righteousness and justice of God (Lev. 16:13-16).
6. Propitiation resolves the problem of the demands of God's righteousness and justice.
7. Propitiation resolves the problem for every member of the human race.