

Project 78

Part 2

Review:

- Asaph is wanting to **grab the readers ears** to hear what teachings, words and parables he has heard from old...from what their fathers have taught them.
- He tells the readers to **rehearse these stories** over and over to their **children**, their **children's children** and to the **unborn**.
- **Tsunami:** In the months following the devastating Asian tsunami of **December 2004**, an amazing story of survival emerged from Simeulue Island, the closest inhabited land to the epicenter of the earthquake.

A news report said that **only 7 of the remote Indonesian island's 75,000 inhabitants died when 30-foot waves struck just half an hour after the quake**. For decades, the people had heard stories told by their grandparents of giant waves that killed thousands on this same island in 1907. So when the ground shook and the sea retreated from the shore, the people recalled their grandparents' warnings and fled to high ground.

First Corinthians 10 describes a spiritual disaster we can avoid. After the people of Israel were delivered from slavery in Egypt, they continued to turn away from the Lord. Recounting their recurring self-indulgence and its disastrous results, Paul wrote: "Now these things became our examples And they were written for our admonition" (vv.6,11). The story of their failure has been preserved so we can avoid the same disaster of disobedience.

¹For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ²They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert."

*⁶**Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.** ⁷Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry." ⁸We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. ⁹We should not test the Lord, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. ¹⁰And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. ¹¹**These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. ¹²So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!** ¹³No temptation has seized you*

except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

I Corinthians 10:1-13

- **Asaph tells us HOW to tell our children:**

Share the Power of God, (Truth) and the Wonders of God, (Love) (vs. 4) and they will accept the Commands of God (vs. 5)

- **Asaph tells us WHY to tell our children:**

So four things would take place (vs. 7-8):

- 1. They would put their trust in God.**
- 2. Would not forget His deeds.**
- 3. They would keep His commands.**
- 4. They would not end up like their fathers and forefathers, stubborn and rebellious, who were not loyal or faithful.**

- **Verses 12-72:**

- He shares **more than 15 miraculous works of what God had done** for Israel in their **freedom** from slavery and **provision** in their desert journey.
- On **six** occasions he tells us that in the middle of God miraculous provision they **continued to sin against God**, rebelling against Him and refused to believe. (vs. 17, 32, 36, 37, 40-42, 56-60)
- On **four** occasions he tells us that **they would remember God** and God was quick to **return to their aid**. (vs. 34, 35, 38, 39)

The Men of Ephriam- There seems to be an odd reference to Ephriam like a passing thought. It's like reading something and then Asaph goes off on this tangent, Ephriam got afraid and turned back. It's a great example for us to review.

"The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows, turned back on the day of battle; they did not keep God's covenant and refused to live by his law."

Psalm 78:9-10

Three Things Happen To Ephraim That Caused Them To Turn Back:

- 1. Didn't keep God's covenant***
- 2. Refused to live by God's law***
- 3. Forgot the power and wonders of God***

"They forgot what he had done, the wonders he had shown them."

Psalm 78:11

Then, out of nowhere, in verse 67, after telling all the stories of what God has done, Asaph comes back and pulls verse 9-11 and brings those thoughts together with 67.

"Then he rejected the tents of Joseph, he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim; but he chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, which he loved."

Psalm 78:67-68

George Barna conducts research regarding the identity and impact of influences on our children, they revealed that the leading influencer's in American society are movies, television, the Internet, books, music, public policy and law, and family. The Christian church, the research shows, isn't among the top dozen influences these days—a far cry from the way things used to be. Who is telling your kids about God?

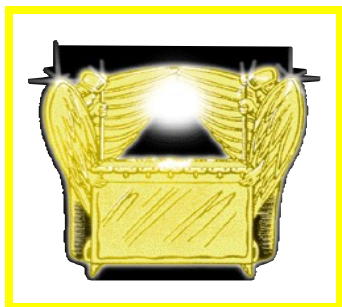
The Responsibility To Tell

Ephriam

- Joshua was from the tribe of Ephraim, and probably on account of this, the **ark of God** was first placed at **Shiloh**, the land of Ephraim.
- **I Samuel 4-**
 - Israel fights the Philistines in Aphek and was soundly defeated losing 4,000 soldiers. (Vs. 1-2)
 - Elder's gather to see why they were defeated and decided to bring the Ark of the Covenant from Shiloh to assist them and along came Eli's two evil sons with the Ark, Hophni and Phineas. (Vs. 3-4)
 - The army of Israel celebrated so loud when the Ark came into the camp that fear came upon the Philistines but eventually one of the Philistines stood up and rallied them back into a warrior mindset. (Vs. 5-8)
 - The Philistines did fight:
 - **30,000 Israel foot soldiers died in the battle.**
 - **The Ark was taken.**
 - **Eli's sons, Hophni and Phineas were slain**
 - **The children of Israel fled.**

The Ark- In the Old Testament God told the children of Israel to build the Ark which consisted of two pieces of furniture fitting together that will **represent God's nature**. What would you build?

- Lazy-boy Recliner?
- Candy Shop?
- Service Station?
- A Vacation Resort?
- What would you build that would represent God's nature?
 - It's like God was saying, "I want you to build it out of gold because I'm beautiful, my love is beautiful. I want you to cover it and place two angel's on top of it and I want the angels facing each other with their wings outstretched touching each other over the Mercy seat. I want you to build a golden Mercy Seat right where the angel's wings touch each other and once a year and call it the "Day of Atonement", I want the priest to come in and sprinkle lambs blood on it seven times to forgive people, because I'm a



forgiving God. Even though I have truth, I am a forgiving God when that truth is broken. And I am a merciful God and when you see perfect love and perfect truth, authority and faithfulness combined you are looking at me. Put that in the Holy of Holies and when you look at that you are looking at Me!”

- God calls Moses to build this piece of furniture of two pieces. It was five feet long, three feet wide and tall. The furniture was to be built in a way that he will be looking at God's nature. He said I want you to start by building a container, an Ark, and in that container I want you put three things:
 1. **The Ten Commandments**- The absolute truth that I represent.
 2. **Aaron's Rod** that budded- The rod of God's anointed authority
 3. **The Pot of Manna**- God wanted them to remember God's provision and that He never forgot who they were for one day. This Manna would be a continuous miracle because unlike the manna that was leftover to the next day in the camp would have all kinds of maggots in it, this manna would remain in complete form never changing its consistency.
- In these three things God was saying that I represent:
 - **Absolute Truth**
 - **Absolute Authority**
 - **Absolute Faithfulness**
 - This is my nature but it is incomplete because in order to have me completely represented, you have to have another piece of furniture covering that container.

The Mercy Seat- Kapporet- This is the lid of the ark. Wood covered by gold with two angels sitting face to face with their wings spread and touching. This is called the Mercy Seat or Seat of Atonement. It was upon this "**mercy seat**" that the High Priest would sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice once each year on the **Day of Atonement** (described in Lev16), which corresponds to the modern day Jewish holiday of **Yom Kippur** that is held on the tenth day of the seventh month, Tishri (7th month of the Jewish year corresponding to September/October). On that day only would the high priest enter within the inner veil bearing the blood of the sin offering (cf. Heb 9:7).

- **Hilasterion** is the Greek equivalent to **kapporet** and is applied to Christ in Romans 3:25. It means a sacrifice that bears God's wrath to the end and in so doing changes God's wrath toward us into favor.

Responding To God's Truth

²⁵God presented him as a sacrifice of **atonement**, through faith in his blood..."
Romans 3:25a

- **A WORD OF CAUTION REGARDING "Propitiation"**
Many "liberal" theologians strongly object to the truth that Jesus bore God's wrath against sin. In general, they tend to be uncomfortable with the truth of **wrath, judgment, and hell**, and so

have deceived themselves with assorted reasoning that says that "atonement" or "propitiation" is a translation that got twisted up with the mythology of the Greeks and slanders the character of God. This thinking has led these liberal theologians to translate *hilasterion* wrongfully or incomplete:

- **"Expiation", Revised Standard Version** ("*whom God put forward as an *expiation* by his blood,*"). **Expiation** means an action that cleanses from sin but includes no concept of appeasing God's wrath! "Expiation" is included in *hilasterion*, but *expiation* is not an adequate or accurate rendering of the truth conveyed by this Greek word.
- **"Atonement", NIV** misses the true meaning, choosing to translate *hilasterion* as "*atonement*" to pay the price. In fairness, the NIV does have a marginal note which is more accurate - it reads "**as the one who would turn aside his wrath, taking away sin**".
- **PROPITIATION IS THE WORK OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS IN WHICH HE MET THE DEMANDS OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD AGAINST SIN, SATISFYING THE REQUIREMENTS OF GOD'S JUSTICE AND CANCELING THE GUILT OF MAN'S SIN AND GOD'S WRATH!**
- **Ray Pritchard** says that "*To propitiate means to "turn away wrath by offering a gift."* Pagan religions are built on the concept of propitiation, whereby a devotee brings a chicken, a goat, a lamb, or a plate of food and offers it to his god. I saw that very thing happen in Haiti and also in India. By bringing the blood of a chicken, the followers of voodoo hope to appease the evil spirits and turn away their wrath. On a completely different level, a husband does this after having a fight with his wife when he stops at the freeway off ramp and buys flowers on the way home. He hopes the offering of flowers will turn away wrath and restore a right relationship. In the Old Testament the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies once a year—on the Day of Atonement—bringing with him the blood of a bull. When he sprinkled the blood on the Mercy Seat—the lid of the Ark of the Covenant—that blood was accepted by God as an "atonement" or a "covering" for the sin of the people. The New Testament picks up this idea of **propitiation** in 1 John 2:2:

"He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."
1 John 2:2

The phrase "atoning sacrifice" translates the normal Greek word of propitiation, *hilasmos* {hil-as-mos'} 2434.

What Happens When You Separate Truth From Love? (I Samuel 4-6:19)

- **Philistines took the Ark of God- (I Samuel 5)**
 1. They placed it with their other god **Dagon**, (I Samuel 5) Dagon kept falling over on it's face. The people received all kinds of tumors. (In the

city of **Ashdod**)

2. They moved it to the city of **Gath** and tumors broke out there.
3. They moved it the third time they moved it to **Ekron**. The people went crazy thinking they were going to die and many did die of "panic" and those who did not die were filled with tumors.

- **Philistines returned the Ark of God- (I Samuel 6)**

- Seven months of horror
- They got two cows with calves and new cart and released them and they pulled it straight up toward Beth Shemesh- the land of Israel.
- The cows stopped beside a large rock, (vs. 14) and they chopped up the wood and sacrificed the cows right there.
- **I Samuel 6:19** They cracked the lid of the ark of the covenant and 50,070 men died. God struck them dead.

Principle: When you separate truth from love, something dies.

- The marriage dies
- The family unit dies
- The relationship dies
- The church dies

You no longer have a healthy atmosphere, you have a destructive atmosphere. It is never healthy for an individual to be raised in an environment with love but no truth or truth without love. Only both create a healthy atmosphere. We must do everything we can, people of God, parents, kids to live in a balance of truth and love or we will become imbalanced in our personalities and our ministries.

There Has To Be A Balance of Truth and Love

- In John 1:14- Jesus is called the Word.

"The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

John 1:14

The Bible describes Jesus as being full of grace and truth, that He walked in a perfect balance of those. The ministry of Jesus was a perfect representation of the truth of God embodied in the Love of God. In Jesus' ministry he never separated love from truth or truth from love. The Bible is a book of truth and love.

You can find scriptures in the Bible that are very penetrating and very cutting standards and expectations; very clear, black and white as to what God has to say. But in the same book there are just as many scriptures talking about forgiveness, mercy and the love of God. The Bible is a book of love and mercy. **When you take the Bible it is just like Jesus, it is a perfect balance of truth and love.**

- What an awesome thought. **God's wrath is real, but so is his mercy.** He satisfied His Own wrath by offering his own Son on the cross. "Amazing love, how can it be, that you should die for me? Amazing love, I know it's true, and

it's my joy to honor you. In all I do, I honor you."

The Display Of Wisdom

"Let love and faithfulness, (truth) never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart."

Proverbs 3:3

- **faithfulness/truth-** *'emeth {eh'-meth}* 571- firmness, faithfulness, truth

We are to place both of them around our neck.

- If you are about to **speak truth without love you better stop** because that word will kill. Truth without love is a sword, truth in love is a scalpel. God never gives His Word to cut or hurt like a sword, He gives it to heal. Don't speak truth unless it has love.
- **Don't speak love unless it has truth.** Do not sacrifice truth for the sake of love. You are not to sacrifice one for the other.
- **Write them on the tablet of your heart-** Write what? Truth and Love! Your value system, if they do not measure up to the standard of truth and love, reject them from your life. You write in your heart what is truth and what is love. But you are the gatekeeper and you are ultimately responsible. If it doesn't have truth don't let it in and if it does not represent the Love of God don't let it in.

Why Would We Eliminate One For The Other?

- Why would we neglect to tell an important truth to a person that we love very much? The Fear of rejection
- Why would we neglect to show love to a person that we so badly want to confront with a truth? The Fear of acceptance. The reason I have separated myself from this person is because I have either been hurt by them and don't want to have a relationship with them or I don't want to be identified with this person because I know what everyone thinks and I want to have the same opinion, a negative, accusing, unforgiving, pre-judged opinion.
- But, if we are willing to operate with both around our neck, truth and love, looks what happens:

"Then you will find favor and a good name in the sight of God and man."

Proverbs 3:4

- Now beat that! What keeps us from dealing honestly with people in the first place is because of the reputations we are afraid it will give us, rejection or unfair retaliation. But here it says that it will give us "favor" and a "good name".
- If you are going to be in high esteem in God then never be imbalanced in truth in love. Bind it around your neck and in your heart. We respect people who respond in a loving way. You will find favor in the sight of man and God.

Talking About The Church

"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the head, that is, Christ."

Ephesians 4:15

- What is the environment that causes God's people to mature and grow up? It is speaking the truth in love.
- What if you speak the truth without love? You kill each other. It becomes a holy war.
- What is you love without speaking the truth? You lie to each other. It's a cheer-leading squad that has no team. **You have no visible standards. You don't know what you are being encouraged toward because you can't be honest enough to clarify any boundaries or goals or vision. It doesn't represent anything and it conforms to whatever image that makes people feel better!**
- You can never mature in Christ until you are willing to speak the truth in love. Until you are willing to deal with difficult issues that has the possibility of offending someone or you getting a bad reputation from because they are unwilling to accept the words you have to say and accept your hand of fellowship in establishing a healthier relationship with them. Their idea of love is, "If you don't address any real issues, then that is love."
- When you separate truth and love, it kills people.

Living In The Balance Of Truth and Love

Families That Love Carry These Seven Characteristics. When you say love, here's what it means:

1. **Acceptance-** I accept you for who you are, you do not have to jump through any hoops for me to love you.
 - The love of God is unconditional but the blessings of God are totally conditional.
 - You can not do anything to make God love you more.
 2. **Affection-** We need to have a place for healthy affection to be displayed
 3. **Grace-** I give you the grace to be different. I give you the grace to grow up.
 4. **Forgiveness-** I'll forgive you for hurting me. I'll forgive you for doing something against me.
 5. **Mercy-** I see your hurt and I feel for you and care for you. I show you the good that you haven't earned but you need.
 6. **Praise-** The ability to nurture others with words.
 7. **Confess-** The freedom to share mistakes, fears or differences
- **Families That Love Carry These Seven Characteristics.**

Families That Recognize Truth Have These Six Characteristics:

1. **Standards-** We have clearly defined standards
2. **Rules-** There are rules that we allow to govern our decisions and actions
3. **Parameters-** The Word of God
4. **Accountability-** We are accountable to each other, to spiritual authority and civil authority. (Taxes, Law)
5. **Clarity-** Definition of expectations and decisions are clearly stated
6. **Discipline-** When you cross the line you are dealt with. Wherever there are parameters, there is loving, consistent discipline.

A Healthy home environment, church or business environment is where these eleven characteristics are functioning. A word picture of what a healthy family looks like is a playground with a fence around it.

- **Playground-** A healthy family is a fun place that you like to be at. You get something out of it. If you are hurting it is a place you can get affection from. If you are facing a lot of rejection it is a place where you can find acceptance and grace. It's a safe place with interaction.
- **Fence-** The fence is to give everyone the boundaries. The standards, rules, parameters, accountability and discipline are there to keep you from self-destruction. These should be clear.

The Imbalance of Truth And Love

- The family that lives in the confines of **truth and no love** is a fence with no playground.
 - **Legalism**
 - **Critical Spirit**
 - **Authoritarian Rule**
 - **Perfectionism**
 - **Harsh Demanding Environment**
- Their main characteristics are said this way: "We don't do this and we can't do that and we had better not do that."
- We can do this and that but we can't do that.
- Unless you do this or that you will not receive my love.
- The problem with people growing up in that environment is:
 1. **Wrong Concept of God-** The biggest battle that Christ had on earth was with religious legalistic people. God hates legalism.
 - If you are going to make a mistake in your family, make it on the **side of grace**, love.
 2. **Rebellion- two things that come from this home:**
 1. Religious Zelotes
 2. Rebellion- They refuse to allow anyone to speak into their life and they will live the way they want to the rest of their lives.
 3. **Low Self-esteem-**
 - **Never Measuring Up-** They live under the pressure of never quite living up to all the standards and rules with all the criticism they will never feel like they will ever accomplish anything. God doesn't love me, He can't use me.
 - Concept of God is that He is distant and doesn't care for me.
 - He's angry and there is no way to please Him, He's mad all the time.
 - **Over Confident-** If they were able to live up to all the standards and rules then I am better than you. You have learned to measure yourself better than anyone else around you because of all your accomplishments.

- The family that lives in the confines of **love and no truth** is a playground with no fence.
 - It could be fun but it is dangerous. You can destroy yourself thinking you are having fun.
 - **Permissiveness**- You assume everything you “feel” is right
 - **Confusion**- You don't know your boundaries: right and wrong
 - **Lack of Supervision**-
 - **Joe White- Director of Kanacuk Camps**- 1000's of teenagers go to that camp every year and he has a questionair that he asks the campers.
 - “What is the #1 thing you want from your Mom and Dad?”
 1. **Rules**- parameters, boundaries, fair and clear
 2. **Grace**- I want to know what they want but I need enough room to grow.
 3. **Time**- Joe White says Kid's spell love “TIME”
 4. **Encouragement**- Tell me something good every once in a while. Stop throwing the book at me all the time. Please motivate me positive.
 - You earn the right to criticize by the amount of praise you give.
 - **Unrealistic View of Admiration**- “Isn't my Johnny cute!”
 - **Underachiever**- Everything is a win, so why do anything challenging?
 - An environment that has too much truth without love will crush that child's spirit or spouse and stagnate growth and kill intimacy.
 - An environment that has too much love without truth will allow things that are harmful and destructive into their lives.

Formula For Righteous Kids

- **Rules + Relationship= Righteousness**
- **Rules + No Relationship= Rebellion**
- **Relationship – Rules= Confusion**
 - They never know what to do
 - Or they think the world revolves around them.

Imbalance In Families And How To Correct Them

An imbalanced home life is evidence of an imbalanced past.

- Did you grow up in a permissive environment? (Yes/No)
- Did you grow up in a harsh environment? (Yes/No)
- If you say yes to one of those questions than you will have a tendency to do one of two things: repeat it or do the very opposite.

- You will grow up believing that it's normal to grow up in chaos with out any guidelines, where the kids rule the house
- Or where rules dominate and it will be normal to grow up in overbearing legalistic rules and regulations.
- We try to cast off all of those restraints and live our life free of the wrong environment

What Do You Do?

1. **Forgiveness- Release your parents.** Unforgiveness will keep you from making good and healthy choices. Example: It's like shooting your gun farthest from the sight, you will seldom hit your target.
 - If you will tell me about your parents, I will tell you about your grandparents. There are generational baggage that we carry around.
2. **Be Like Jesus- Jesus is balanced, He is full of Truth and Grace. He is our role model. I want to be like Jesus.** Most of us are a product of an imbalanced past and we are going to pass it on if we don't learn how to be more like Jesus.
3. **Recognize The Imbalance of Personalities-**

Table of Equivalentents for the 4 Personality Types

D.E.S.A.	Dominant	Expressive	Solid	Analytical
Hippocrates Greek Terms (370 BC)	Choleric	Sanguine	Phlegmatic	Melancholy
Gary Smalley	Lion	Otter	Golden Retriever	Beaver
DISC	Dominance	Influence	Steadiness	Cautious Compliance
Biblical Characters	Paul	Peter	Abraham	Moses
Children's Literature	Rabbit	Tigger	Pooh	Eeyore
Charlie Brown Characters	Lucy	Snoopy	Charlie Brown	Linus

- The Dominant/Choleric Lions and Analytical/Melancholy Beavers are the ones who have more potential to express truth more than love. The issue is more important than the person.
- The Expressive/Sanguine Otters, (party waiting to happen) and Solid Phlegmatic Golden Retriever's, (laid back and loyal and very bent toward relationship and hates change), have more potential to express love more than truth.
- **When you take the gifts of the Bible:**

- Motivational Gifts of Rom. 12, the Ministry Gifts of Ephesians 4:11-12, Spiritual Gifts of I Corinthians 12- They are a mixture of gifts: some are truth gifts and others are love gifts.
 - Truth Gifts:
 - Prophecy
 - Teacher
 - Word of Knowledge
 - Word of Wisdom
 - Discerning of Spirits
 - Love Gifts:
 - Healing
 - Mercy
 - Pastor
 - Evangelist
 - You have gifts of love and gifts of truth
 - You have to realize that we have differences of personalities and gifts

What Do We Need To Do?

1. **Practice our weaknesses**
 - Practice giving praise
 - Practice forgiving
 - Practice self-control
 - Practice finishing things
 - Practice being sensitive
 - Practice standing up and telling the truth
 - Practice truth
2. **Dis-unified Parents: We marry the opposites.**
 - When one parent is the legalistic and the other is the lover, there will always continue to be struggling going on in that home.
 - In most homes the father represents the legalistic aspect and mothers represent the lovers.
 - It's possible that a young man or girl will grow up thinking that men are like that. They are mean, insensitive, bulldozing, demanding and dominant.
 - The young boys grow up and they think that women should shut up and take it and clean up the mess
 - Little girls believe that men are distant and authoritarian and I have to learn to please them to get their approval. All I need to do is stay quiet and accept what I get and just be a door mat.
 - Or she says I will not let this ever happen to me

and turns into the wicked witch of the west.

- How To Resolve Conflict:
 - Deal with issues in privacy
 - Remind each other that you are on the same team
 - Refuse to go to extremes: Every opportunity is an opportunity to be hard or easy- compromise discipline
 - They need affection from both sex's for confidence in one's sexuality.
- Diversity: God, Jesus, Holy Spirit
 - What is the symbol that defines the Holy Spirit? Dove
 - Who killed Annanias and Saphira? Holy Spirit
 - Who died for all of our sins because of His love?
 - Who will come in the end with a sword destroying the enemies of God? Jesus

Further Study: (For your own interest)

Note that hilasterion although used only twice in the NT is one of four closely related words used in the NT: (1) hilaskomai (2433) propitiate, conciliate, make gracious, be gracious in Lu18:13 and Heb2:17; (2) hileos (2436) gracious, merciful Mt16:22 and Heb8:12; (3) hilasmos (2434) propitiation, propitiatory sacrifice (1Jn2:2, 4:10); (4) hilasterion (2435) that which propitiates, means of propitiation, mercy-seat in Ro3:25, Heb9:5. (MacDonald, W. Believer's Bible Commentary: Nashville: Thomas Nelson)

It is the place of propitiation. God has set the sinner free through Christ, but He has not done so by:

- 1) Setting aside the rules (His justice). He has set the sinner free in Christ by satisfying the demands of God's justice in Christ. Due to sin, a penalty was to be met and a price was to be paid.
- 2) Christ paid that price and suffered that penalty ("redemption").

God's divine wrath had to be appeased, due to man's sin; Christ has appeased that wrath ("*propitiation*"). It is understood that it is *the cancellation or "writing over" of a contract (Isa28:18)*; the appeasing of anger (Ge 32:20; Pr16:14) (Baker, W. The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament. Page 521. Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers)

"Whom God displayed publicly [*put forth*] as an atonement or propitiation [*in context means "the turning away of...wrath"*] in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness [*Note: this is the purpose of Christ's death that hasn't been mentioned yet - to demonstrate God's righteousness. Now why does God need to demonstrate his righteousness?*], because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; [*then he repeats this aim lest we miss it*] for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in

Jesus." Why did God face the problem of needing to give a public vindication of his righteousness? The answer is in the last phrase of v25 and at the end of v26: "*because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed;*" and because he is "*the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*" Now what do those two phrases mean? They mean that now and for centuries God has been doing what **Ps103:10** says, "*He does not deal with us according to our sins or repay us according to our iniquities.*" He has been passing over thousands of sins...not punishing them as fully as they justly deserve.

Atonement/Propitiation is not placating a vengeful God but, rather, it is satisfying the righteousness and just wrath of a holy God, thereby making it possible for Him to show mercy righteously. This is huge and you will miss a great key to the person of God if you do not grasp the previous paragraphs. God can now be just (His law says sin demands death) and can deal with men graciously and benevolently (Justifier). The concepts of "*redemption*" and "*propitiation*" are used to demonstrate and draw our attention to the justice of God.

The difference between the doctrines of propitiation in Christianity and in Greek mythology is bound up in the character of God Himself. Being holy, perfect, and immutable, the living God is never ruled by changing moods as were the so-called gods of Greco-Roman mythology. Consequently, God's wrath is a settled disposition against evil. The just demands of God's holiness for the punishment and exclusion of sin must be satisfied or propitiated.

By the offering of himself, Jesus turned away God's wrath forever.

- **Three truths to summarize the effects of propitiation:**
 - (1) Because Jesus Christ died, God's **justice** is now **satisfied**.
 - (2) Because Jesus Christ died, God's **wrath** has now been **turned away**. The price for sin has been paid.

Because Jesus Christ died, God's mercy is now freely available to anyone who wants it. Justice satisfied ... the price paid ... mercy available.

- **Parable:** Picture a young teenager too young to drive but could not wait to get behind the wheel. The opportunity came one day when this boy looked out one day at a beautiful classic car sitting in the driveway. It was everything the teenager had ever dreamed of in a car; totally restored, a killer stereo, the perfect color and the wheels were outstanding. After quizzing his parents about whose car it was over and over, they just looked at him and smiled but never answered. The car sat there for days with no clue as to what its purpose was for and his curiosity became so intense that when the perfect opportunity came, his parents were going to be out of town for the day. He noticed that the keys were easily accessible and the car was ready to go. The teenager went out to the car, got in and prepared to drive around the block.

He noticed his neighbor standing, watering his yard next door. He really didn't know him. He had seen him a few times but never cared to know anything

about him. With obvious disapproval, man next door began to say something but the young man pretended to ignore him, even after he heard him call his name. Back he went into the street and down the road he went.

This was absolutely fun. He saw a couple of friends walking down the street yelling as he passed them by. Around the block he went until he came back towards his house. His driving wasn't too bad except for a few pot holes he had hit and he did notice that the mud and water from one of the holes splashed up on the side of the car and windshield but he could take care of that when he got home.

His neighbor was standing on the side of the curb waving him in as if he were an air traffic controller as he completed the block. But an adventurous thought popped into his head of how cool it would be for some other friends to see him in this car. This idea overtook his better judgment and he quickly passed his neighbor as He was now beginning to yell at him.

In his little journey, he stopped off at a couple of places, even some of the places his parents had told him not to go. He pulled in a parking space a little too close to one car and caught the bumper slightly on the passenger door. Carefully he pulled out, looked at the damaged and thought that it was probably not that noticeable. After leaving there he turned a corner too sharp and caught the tire between the curb and the wheel, causing it to start a slow leak, but eventually he ended up back at home.

He noticed in his rear-view mirror, just a few houses from his, that his neighbor was in the car behind him, following him home. They both pulled up in their respective driveways and the neighbor walked over, stood at his car door with His arms crossed and an intense look on his face. You could tell he was incredibly angry. His neighbor said, "Drive this car over on my driveway and give me your keys." Out of respect or maybe fear, the boy drove over, stepped out of the car and handed over the keys. The man firmly stated just a few more words, "I think it's about time you go home." "But what about the car?" The boy said, and the man responded, "The car is the least of your problems."

Frightened and concerned, the boy goes into his house and realizes the violations that had occurred over the last few hours and the reality of what was going to happen to him when his parents came home. And he waited patiently. They eventually did come home. Late that night. It was dark now, maybe they wouldn't notice? Or maybe they would.

As soon as they came home his mother came into the house and asked why the car was parked next door? "Mr. "Neighbor" asked if I would park it there," the boy responded. "Really? Why is that?" The mother continued to ask. "I don't know," he responded, "I guess he wanted it in his driveway!" The dad and mom were talking together while the boy pretended to be focused on some homework, attempting to look like he had been slaving over it all day. And then

there was a knock on the door.

That's right, it was the neighbor next door. He had a paper in his hand, for all he knew it was a list of violations that he had observed and wanted to address. He took his father outside, obviously to see the car. His father came back into the house and began angrily accusing him, "You took that car without permission? The door is dented, the tire is flat and there is mud all over the side, even on the windshield. How in the world do you expect to pay for all of that?"

"I don't know, I've got some money saved from my birthday. I could get a paper route. I really don't know how I can pay for it." His dad sat, frustrated and embarrassed, he turns to his neighbor and says, "There is no way we can pay for the damages on your car. On our trip today, my wife and I were in hopes of finding a means to get the money to pay you for the car, but what we found out instead is that we have become victims of identity theft. We had hopes of purchasing the car and now we found out that we are not even able to pay for the repairs. We could never pay for or afford that car, no matter what.

The neighbor slid the paper over to the boys dad. "How dare him," the boy thought, "after hearing his dad's painful statements, he still wants to address his this situation." The dad's face became intense as he read the paper, it was a car title, but not just any car title, it was that incredible car title, and it was signed over to the boy". The car was his. What his parents were unable to do, this man did in one simple action and request... "I want to teach you how to drive!"

Representations:

- Neighbor- God
- Car- Our life
- Dad- Law, Word of God
- Mother- Holy Spirit

Where We Are At As A Nation

According to *The Washington Times* (10/31/2002), American parents worry most about whether their children will have good character and values. They see America's popular culture as their adversary. This is according to a parenting survey based on telephone interviews of 1,607 parents of children ages 5-17 by Public Agenda. The report titled "A Lot Easier Said than Done" notes that 89% strongly agreed with the statement, "Being a parent is wonderful—I wouldn't trade it for the world." But many parents feel cornered by a popular culture that many view as antithetical to their beliefs and values. For instance, the survey asked parents to choose their "biggest challenge" out of three choices: protecting their children from "negative societal influences," finding enough time together as a family, and keeping up with household expenses. 47% said they were most concerned about shielding their children from "negative societal influences."

There is a trend in the United States for fathers to take a more active parenting role

than in years past, says Michael Lamb, PhD, a Cambridge University social and developmental psychology professor. Lamb and his colleagues point to psychological research across ethnic groups suggesting that fathers' affection and their increased family involvement help promote children's social and emotional development.

The shift in fathers' roles began, Lamb says, around the time when more women entered the work force. Between 1948 and 2001, the percentage of working-age women employed or looking for work nearly doubled—from less than 33 percent to more than 60 percent—according to the Employment Policy Foundation's Center for Work and Family Balance.

What About Girls

A recent study examined differences in well-being, achievement, and paternal support among girls in four father categories: (a) Biological Father, (b) Step-Father, (c) Surrogate Father, and (d) No Father. Maternal support, economic hardship, and life stressors were included as potential covariates. Interviews were conducted with an ethnically and economically diverse sample of 694 sixth and eighth grade children. The sample included boys to assess the extent to which the findings were unique to girls. Measures included quantitative and qualitative support from father figures and indices of self-esteem, loneliness, and depression. Standardized test scores and classroom grades were also obtained from school records.

- In this study, girls with **biological fathers** had **higher achievement test scores** than girls in the other father categories, but there were no other differences related to the presence or absence of a father-figure. Biological fathers also provided greater quantitative and qualitative support than step- and surrogate fathers. Surrogate fathers provided a greater amount but lower quality of support than step-fathers.
- Girls who received **lower levels of support** from biological fathers reported **lower self-esteem** and **greater loneliness**, compared to fatherless girls and those receiving low support from other father figures, suggesting that low support from biological fathers may be especially distressing. On the other hand, girls with low biological father support had higher achievement scores compared to fatherless girls and those who received low support from step- and surrogate fathers. Thus, the mere presence of the biological father appears to facilitate achievement, regardless of the level of support he provides.

(The influence of fathers and other significant male figures on girls' well-being and achievement in early adolescence, Jennifer A Hodgetts, *Florida International University*)

- A recent study found that children in joint-custody settings have fewer behavioral and emotional problems, higher self-esteem, better family relations and better school performance than children in sole parental custody. (2002 meta-analysis in the *Journal of Family Psychology* (Vol. 16, No. 1, pages 91–102) by psychologist Robert Bauserman, PhD, of Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene)

What About Boys

- * We have the most violent non-war population of children in the world. More people in the United States per capita commit violent acts every day than anywhere else, and 90% of them are male.
- After Russia, more of our citizens are in prison than any other country in the world. Ninety percent of these incarcerated individuals are male.

- * Our boys constitute the majority of children who are homeless, murdered, in foster care, neglected, and institutionalized.

- * Our rate of mental disorders in the male population per capita is one of the highest in the world. For instance, 90% of the Ritalin used on children in the world is used on ours. Approximately 3,000,000 kids are on Ritalin in the United States-90% of them are boys.

- * Our boys and young men also comprise the majority of child-abuse victims and are the less likely victim to talk about and get help for their suffering. In a 1998 study of 7,000 children, 48% of boys, compared to 29% of girls, said they would never tell anyone about the abuse they had experienced. (*The Good Son*, Michael Gurian, pp. 4-5, 1999)
 - What we men share is the experience of having been raised by women in a culture that stopped our fathers from being close enough to teach us how to be men, in a world in which men were discouraged from talking about our masculinity and questioning its roots and its mystique, in a world that glorified masculinity and gave us impossibly unachievable myths of masculine heroics, but no domestic models to teach us how to do it. (*Frank Pittman (20th century), U.S. psychiatrist and family therapist. Man Enough, introduction, 1993*)