

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

February 4, 2022

Our Peace Offering

When the angel Gabriel delivered the prophecy of the Messiah the Prince, he listed six things which would be accomplished before the time of this prophecy ended. These were (1) *“...to finish the transgression, (2) to make an end of sins, (3) to make reconciliation for iniquity, (4) to bring in everlasting righteousness, (5) to seal up the vision and prophecy, and (6) to anoint the most Holy.”*

Daniel 9:24. These six things give us the clearest understanding of the purpose of Christ’s first appearing ever recorded in the scripture. Perhaps the most accepted of these by a majority of Christian’s is (3) *“to make reconciliation for iniquity.”*

In this passage, the words *“make reconciliation”* are translated from the Hebrew word *“kâphar”* which means *“to cover”* and it speaks of seeking to *“make amends”* for sin. It is the word which is translated as *“atonement”* in the Law of Moses. The sacrifices which were offered each year on the Day of Atonement were seeking to make amends for the sins of the people. These sacrifices ceremoniously covered the sins which had been committed over the past year in hope that the worshippers could begin anew with a clean record before God. These sacrifices could

best be described as a *“peace offering.”* They were offered hoping to bring about peace between a holy God and sinful man.

These sacrifices are pointed out in the book of Hebrews as being unprofitable because *“it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.”* Hebrews 10:4. Because of this great shortcoming, the worshipers were never changed, and another sacrifice had to be offered the next year for sins and every year after that. Hebrews 10:1-3. The people soon accepted that they could just offer another sacrifice and everything would be alright, but God began to despise their sacrifices. He said, *“...he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood...”* Isaiah 66:3.

When Christ was conceived in the womb of Mary, he received a body and blood which has the power to *“take away our sins.”* John 1:29. He offered his body on the cross knowing that his sacrifice had the power to transform everyone who would trust in its redeeming work. Yet, even with this glorious transformation through the power of the blood of Christ, there is something which had to be dealt with before God. This something is called, *“our past.”*

Because of the fact that *“...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”* Romans 3:23, we all needed a place to *“start over”* with God. We needed our own *“peace offering.”* In his mercy and wisdom, God provided the perfect sacrifice which was offered for us.

The Apostle Paul speaks of the offering of Jesus Christ *“Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness **for the remission of sins that are past**, through the forbearance of God;”* Romans 3:25. The word *“propitiation”* in this verse speaks of an *“atoning victim.”* Jesus was set forth as a sacrificial lamb to be our *“peace offering”* unto God. It is very important to see that this offering is *“for the remission of sins that are past.”* *“Remission”* in this verse means *“toleration”* and *“past”* in this verse means *“have previously transpired.”* God will tolerate the sins you have already committed if you have put trust in the life changing power of the blood of Christ for your present and your future.

Somehow a great error crept into the church which says that through Christ we are already forgiven of all sins, past, present, and future. If this is true, why does Paul specify the offering of Christ for *“sins that are past (have already transpired)”*? This teaching of automatic *“past, present, and future”* forgiveness is based purely on religious philosophy and conjecture with not an ounce of scripture to support it.

Consider the following analogy. You meet a man who had been in an adulterous affair, and as a consequence he has been put out of his home, and separated from his wife and children. Today, he is carrying some flowers and a gift. When you ask where he is going, he tells you his wife has agreed to meet and talk with him. He said he was bringing a *“peace offering”* and wanted to express his great remorse, hoping she would

forgive his past betrayal. In this situation you cannot help but pray that all would go well and perhaps they could be reconciled.

Now let's change the scenario. You meet the same man in the same situation carrying the same gifts. In this scenario he tells you he is bringing a "peace offering" and wanted to express his great remorse, hoping she would forgive him for his past affair along with the affair he is presently having, and the affairs he will have in the future! In this scenario it is easy to see that this man's "peace offering" is nothing but a mockery of his wife's graciousness.

Christ is our "peace offering" unto God. Because of him, God will forgive your past and change your present and your future. Those claiming automatic forgiveness of their future sins stand in danger of mocking the graciousness of God. Such a person should remember: *"God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."* Galatians 6:7.