

SERMON OUTLINE

'Gospel Words'

Study - 4

'Propitiation'

Matthew 26 v36 - 46 & 27 v45 - 50

There are 5 key gospel words which help us to understand what the Christian gospel is all about:-

Regeneration, Justification, Redemption, Propitiation, Reconciliation

Propitiation - What does this word mean?

Key Verses - Rom 3 v25 & 1 Jn 4 v10. Read these in the AV - not in the NIV.

1. PROPITIATION - THE NEED OF IT

The meaning of the word - 'the turning away of anger'. It means - 'to placate' or 'to appease'.

Key Question - whose anger needs turning away? Answer is - God's anger! This is a bit of a problem because most people don't like think of God being angry - pagan gods get angry, but not the God of Christianity. Why do people think in this way? It's because when we think of anger we think of it in human terms - and our anger is, so very often, irrational, unpredictable, and uncontrollable.

Key Question - what is it that arouses God's anger? Answer - our sin. The terrible thing about sin is that it brings down God's wrath. See - Rom 1 v18. Because God is a holy God He just can't ignore sin - He hates it and He punishes it. He can't say that it doesn't matter - it does! See - Rom 2 v5 & Rev 6 v15 - 17

2. PROPITIATION - THE ORIGIN OF IT

Key Question - who propitiates God? We can't! Nothing that we could ever do would be enough. The extraordinary thing about the gospel,

is that it's not we who propitiate God, but God who propitiates Himself - He turns away His own anger. And how does He do this? See - 1 Jn 4 v10.

'Let us not trifle with God or trivialize his love. We will never stand in awe of being loved by God until we reckon with the seriousness of our sin and the justice of his wrath against us.'

John Piper

'The doctrine of propitiation is precisely this that God loved the objects of his wrath so much that he gave his own Son, to the end that he by his blood should make provision for the removal of this wrath.'

John Murray

3. PROPITIATION - THE COST OF IT

Key Question - What was the cost of this for Jesus? See - Matt 26 v36f & 27 v45f

A. IN GETHSEMENE - ANTICIPATING THE COST OF IT

What was this cup which Jesus had to drink? It was the cup of the wrath of God. See - Is 51 v17

B. ON CALVARY - EXPERIENCING THE COST OF IT

The darkness at Calvary speaks of the darkness of hell. Jesus spoke of outer darkness. In other words, Jesus bore my hell so that I might know His heaven.