

Get Freedom,
Give Freedom



The Search for Significance
and Beyond

Ch 8: God's Answer Propitiation

I am deeply loved by God.

Review: The Satanic Equation

My Self-Worth =

my performance + other's opinions of me

$$SW = MP + OO$$

Fear of punishment: Those who fail are unworthy of love and deserve to be punished.

Truth

- Does your opinion affect what truth is?
- Does truth matter anymore?
- Does God accommodate man or is man meant to accommodate God?

God is Holy and Unchanging

- Is it difficult for you to understand why God can't overlook sin?
- Do you think that it is unfair?
- Do you think you know better than God?
- What would the ramifications be if God was swayed by our opinions on sin and punishment?

Christ's Sacrifice

- Read Isaiah 53: 4-6 and I John 4:9-10 (pg. 88)
- Are you overwhelmed by what He did?
- Why or why not?

What is Propitiation?

- The wrath of someone who has been unjustly wronged has been satisfied
- How has God been unjustly wronged?
 - Throughout history
 - In your own life
- What are some examples of good deeds that are like filthy rags to Him?
 - Isaiah 64:6

God's Character

- Holy and perfect
- Light (absence of darkness)
- Righteously angry
- Infinitely loving
- Isn't it amazing how he found a way to restore our relationship with Him that did not compromise a single aspect of His character?

Christ's Death Changed Everything!

- God's wrath was poured out on Christ
- "Because He paid the penalty for our sins, and God's wrath was avenged, God no longer looks upon us through the eyes of judgment. Instead, He lavishes His love upon us."

Christ's Death Changed Everything!

- We are no longer slaves to performance as the basis of our worth.
- Ephesians 2:4-9 (pg. 90)
- Only love could have prompted Christ to take our punishment on Himself
- Good deeds have nothing to do with it, as evidenced by the sacrifice being made while we were yet enemies!

Obstacles to Receiving This Truth

- Poor Patterns of Motivation
 - We are used to others trying to motivate us by making us feel bad about ourselves
- Holding on to Unforgiveness
 - Failing to forgive others prevents us from accepting our own forgiveness

Which are a problem for you and why?

Meditate on the Truth

- “Because of Christ and His redemption, I am completely forgiven and fully pleasing to God. I am totally accepted by God.”
- Romans 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Colossians 1:21-22 - And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

Small Group Discussion Time

Next Steps

- Keep praying for the Spirit's work in your heart and mind
- Read Chapter 9 and work through Step 9
- Next meeting:
 - February 25th