

# He Is Risen!

Long Beach Alliance Church • Easter Sunday • April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

**~1<sup>st</sup> John 4:9-10 (NASB)**

## 1) What God Requires, He Provides

- A) From the time of Moses to the time of Jesus Christ (around 1500 years), the High Priest of Israel would enter into the inner chamber of the Tabernacle (Holy of Holies) to pay for the sins of Israel once a year (Hebrews 9:6-7).
- B) This “Day of Atonement”\* (Yom Kippur) followed the law of atonement from the Old Testament (Leviticus 16). This special day was designed to provide forgiveness of sins for all God’s chosen people (Leviticus 16:29-34).

\* The word “atonement” should be understood as a rich multi-layered term which is a capstone description of several contributing theological actions (substitution, reconciliation, propitiation, expiation). Substitution means that Christ’s life is substituted for the life of the repentant sinner. Christ pays the penalty for sin (which He did not deserve or earn) and the repentant sinner enjoys the benefits of salvation and being a child of God (which mankind does not deserve or earn). Reconciliation is the restoration of the relationship between God and His creation. Propitiation (as in 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:9-10 above) understands the life and death of Christ in terms of a sacrifice which brings about the turning of God’s wrath from mankind, allowing for reconciliation. Expiation is making amends for sin, it is more impersonal than Propitiation, but also carried in the meaning of atonement. The “Day of Atonement,” through its various movements, accomplished these many things. Further, Christ’s crucifixion accomplishes a “better” (Hebrews 10) atonement, a sufficient and completing atonement for sin. Thus, the atonement, when practically applied has (like the word itself) great diversity.

- C) Unfortunately, this method of forgiveness was only temporary. The problem of sin (disobeying God) could not be permanently solved through animal sacrifice (Hebrews 10:1-4). Since there were no human beings who were perfect, all of mankind was left hopeless for any permanent victory over sin. The BAD NEWS is we are created to reflect God’s perfect nature (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:16), but we fall short of what God intended, which is sin (Romans 3:23; James 2:10).
- D) In the midst of our hopelessness, God, moved by love, sent His unique Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for our sins and provide a pardon for our death sentence (John 3:16-18). This is GREAT NEWS for all people in all places!
- E) You don’t need to earn God’s love, nor can you! Rather, GOD PROVIDES FOR YOU ALL THAT HE REQUIRES OF YOU! This is SALVATION! Saved from sin and unto God by Christ!

## 2) A Faithful Response To The Miracle Of Easter

- A) The only way to take hold of salvation is to have faith (trust) in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9). But what exactly are we having faith in? Simply, it’s faith in Jesus.
  - i. First, we must “have faith” in Jesus Christ through the teaching of God’s Word, the Bible (Romans 10:17). This is the “content” of our faith (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:1-6).
  - ii. Second, we must “believe” that Jesus is Savior and that salvation is through Him alone (Hebrews 11:6). This is the “trust” element in faith.
  - iii. Third, we must be “faithful” and live righteous lives (Romans 1:17, 2 Timothy 2:11-13). This is how we “persevere” in faith.
- C) God promises that what He provides, He will also complete! As His children (1<sup>st</sup> John 3:1; Ephesians 1:5-6), God unites us with Jesus in both His perfect death & eternal life (Galatians 2:20). The old is gone, the new has come (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17). Our lives can have eternal significance and purpose, as we increasingly live for Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:21).