

Introduction: God's plan for us, before the world was made, was to restore us to a perfect relationship as children of God. In Christ, God has both judged sin and justified sinners, Romans 3:25b-26 "...God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus." Let's look at five things accomplished by Christ.

JESUS THE ONLY SUBSTITUTE

In the church you might hear the word (vicarious) used which comes from "vicar," meaning "a substitute who takes the place of another and acts in his stead,"

1. Since Jesus "committed no sin." It is clear that He did not bear His own sins on the cross. He died for the sins of others, 1 Peter 2:22.
2. John 10:17-18 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again..." Believers in Christ are not saved by the murder of Christ, but by His willingness to substitute His life for the life of all sinners.
 - a. Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all"
 - b. Matthew 20:28 "...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many"
 - c. 2 Corinthians 5:21 "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him"
 - d. 1 Peter 2:24 "...who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness- by whose stripes you were healed"
 - e. 1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God , being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit..."
 - f. See also John 10;11; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3; Galatians 2:20

JESUS OUR ATONEMENT

Two ways the word "atonement" is used.

1. The general and popular use refers to the entire provision of salvation that God made for us through the sacrifice of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.
2. The very specific meaning in Old Testament scripture is "covering". Leviticus 6:2-7 states that a person who trespasses against God should bring a "trespass offering" and "...the priest shall make atonement for him before the Lord, and he shall be forgiven for any one of these things that he may have done in which he trespasses" Lev. 4:13-20 same can be accomplished for national sins.
3. In Christ sins are no longer covered but forgiven, and completely removed, Hebrews 10:4 "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins." Heb. 10:10 "...through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all"

JESUS THE APPEASER OF WRATH

Propitiation is a word that signifies the appeasement or turning away of wrath by a sacrifice

1. Romans 5:9 That is what Jesus did.
2. 1 John 4:10 "In this is love, not that we love God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins"
 - a. "... being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood...that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" Romans 3:24-26
 - b. 1 John 2:2 "And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world"
 - c. Hebrews 2:17

JESUS RESTORED RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

The reconciliation means to be brought together or restored to a former state of relationship.

1. Romans 5:10 "For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life"
2. Colossians 1:20-22 "...and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight"
3. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 has given us a ministry of reconciliation

JESUS FREED US

The word redemption signifies a releasing or liberation from captivity, slavery or death by the payment of a price or ransom.

1. Matthew 20:28 Jesus came to give His life a ransom for many
2. Hebrews 9:12 "Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption"

Note: We are redeemed from the following

- a. The penalty of the law, Galatians 3:13
- b. The law itself, Romans 6:14
- c. The power of sin in our lives, Romans 6:6; 6:12-14
- d. From this evil world, Galatians 1:4 ; Romans 8:23; Luke 21:28

LAST WORDS: Let us rejoice in what Jesus's death, burial, and resurrection has accomplished for us. If you have not received such a great gift, let's receive Jesus as our Lord – NOW.