



The PRINCIPLES of FIRST MENTION

The Beginning of Atonement Robert Morris

Focus In Genesis 6:14, God commands Noah to cover the ark with a pitch. The Hebrew word for “cover” in this verse is *kaphar*, which is translated in English as “atonement.” The Hebrew word for “pitch” is *kophar*, which means to ransom or satisfy. Atonement means to be made one with God, but that cannot happen until our sins are covered and removed. Through atonement, Jesus saves us from God’s wrath and makes us righteous.

Fun Did you make a resolution for 2021? If so, what was it and how is it going?

Review Key Scriptures: Genesis 6:14; John 3:36; Isaiah 54:8–9

1. Our sin is covered.

Adam and Eve tried to cover their own sins, but only God can cover sins. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. The ark was covered with a pitch inside and out. In the same way, Christ’s blood covers our sins and shame inside and out. We don’t have to live with guilt and shame because of the atonement.

2. Our sin is removed.

In Leviticus 16, the word “atonement” is mentioned 13 times. The priest was to take two goats—one was a sacrifice and the other was a scapegoat which represented the removal of our sins. The scapegoat is the goat that gets to go free, but the one that is sacrificed represents Christ. Christ was sacrificed so we could escape God’s wrath.

3. God’s wrath is removed.

The Hebrew word *kaphar* is mentioned 102 times in the Old Testament, and

most of the time it's translated as the word "atonement." The English equivalent for the word atonement is "propitiation," which means the removal of wrath. "Expiation" means that God has covered and removed our sins; He removes His wrath toward the sin and the sinner. God is angry at the wicked every day and is justified in punishing sinners. Christ's death satisfies God's anger and wrath and makes us right with Him.

Group Dynamics Idea Prayer brings comfort and unity. Make prayer a priority in your small group and pray regularly for everyone on your group roster.

Discuss

1. What did you think the meaning of the word "atonement" was before hearing Pastor Robert's message?
2. How are sinful people made one with God?
3. Does God have anger? What does it mean to us that God gets angry with the wicked every day?
4. Read Romans 12:19 and Nahum 1:2. Is God justified to punish sinners?
5. How can God's wrath be removed from us?
6. Read Romans 3:25. What does it mean that "God is for us," and how does this happen?
7. Do you feel like God is for you? Do you want to receive the gift of salvation through Christ and have your sins covered and removed? Take time to pray and allow members to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior if they haven't already.

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Through Christ, our sins are covered.
- Through Christ, our sins are removed.
- Through Christ, God's wrath is removed.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us the most sacrificial offering of all: Your Son, Jesus. Thank You for blessing us when we come to You in prayer. Help us to understand Your Word and learn Your ways. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Many people begin attending church for the first time at the beginning of a new year. People are also making decisions for their spring schedules, so now is a key time to start inviting others to join your group.