

**THE CROSS OF CHRIST**  
**What Happened On The Cross?**

**We need \_\_\_\_\_ to be acceptable to God. What we have is \_\_\_\_\_.**

**God has what we need and don't deserve – righteousness; and we have what God hates and rejects – sin.**

**Propitiation – avoiding the wrath of God by the offering \_\_\_\_\_.**

**The Problem: We do not have \_\_\_\_\_ to offer.**

**The Bible teaches that God Himself has provided the only means through which His wrath can be appeased and sinful man can be reconciled to Him. In the New Testament, the act of propitiation always refers to the work of God and not the sacrifices or gifts offered by man. The reason for this is that man is totally incapable of satisfying God's justice except by spending eternity in hell. There is no service, sacrifice, or gift that man can offer that will satisfy the holy wrath of God or satisfy His perfect justice. The only satisfaction, or propitiation, that could be acceptable to God and that could reconcile man to Him had to be made by God. For this reason Jesus Christ, came into the world in human flesh to be the perfect sacrifice for sin and make atonement or "propitiation for the sins of the people" (Hebrews 2:17).**

**This is what separates Christianity from other religions. Other religions require the person who sins to offer a gift or sacrifice from their own possessions to appease their god. Christ satisfied Himself by providing the gift AND becoming the gift.**

**Romans 3:23-26 - For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.**

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**Imputation – having our sin placed on Jesus as if He was**

**\_\_\_\_\_**, rather than us.

The term impute is used both legally and financially and means “to designate any action, word, or thing as credited to another person’s account.” Biblically, Adam’s sin was imputed to all his descendants, and they are to be dealt with as guilty. It does not mean they are personally guilty of Adam’s sin, only that his sin was credited to their account, and thus every person participates in the guilt and penalty of that original sin. Physical death is also a penalty for imputed sin.

**Romans 5:12 - Just as sin entered the world through one man (Adam), and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.**

**The remedy for imputed sin is the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.**

**Romans 5:19 - For just as through the disobedience of the one man (Adam) the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man (Jesus) the many will be made righteous.**

**As all people are in Adam and carry Adam’s sin, so all believers are in Christ. Being in Christ means that His righteousness is now ours. Through Christ’s sacrificial death on the cross, the sin of humanity was imputed to Christ. Jesus took on Himself the penalty for our sin.**

**Romans 4:25 - He (Jesus) was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.**

**Justification - To justify someone is to declare that they are now \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Justification is an act of God where He pronounces a sinner to be righteous because of that sinner’s faith in Christ. justification does not excuse our sin, ignore our sin, or endorse our sin. Rather, our sin is fully punished, Christ having taken our penalty for us. He was our substitute.**

**1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.**

**The Great Exchange**

**2 Corinthians 5:21 - For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.**