

## Module 05 – 23 Responsibility - New vs. old – Penal Substitutionary Atonement (PSA)

### Session 23

Isa 42:9 “Behold, the former things have come to pass, now I declare new things; before they spring forth I proclaim them to you.”

- God has never changed but if we engage Him intimately how we know Him will be continually new
- The Joshua Generation are called to experience the precepts character and nature of God Himself personally
- Face to face engagement reveals the reality of who God truly is: LOVE
- **As sons we need to experience a loving Father if we are to love each other and love the world as He does**

As we experienced the true reality of who God is Father, Son and Spirit, false doctrines and theologies will get exposed as lies, distortions and misrepresentations when compared with the truth that is a person, Jesus  
Jesus is the exact representation of the Father, if you have seen me you have seen the Father

Some of the doctrines we are going to re-examine in the light of new experiential truth:

- Penal substitutionary atonement and appeasement
- Wrath, Anger, Eternal Judgement and Hell!
- Punishment Eternal Conscious Torment,
- Separation or Inclusion?
- Is death the end?

James 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

Mal 3:6 “For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever

All truth must be seen through the lens of love – the lens of Jesus

A wrong view of God’s nature and character can lead to many misconceptions:

- Bad things are happening this must mean that God is angry with me
- God is teaching me a lesson
- God is holding out on me - poverty

Psalm 103:8–10: “Pitying and merciful is the Lord; lenient and full of mercy. Not unto the end shall He be provoked to anger, nor into the eon (age) will He cherish wrath. Not according to our lawless deeds did He deal with us; nor according to our sins did He recompense to us” YLT

Isa 57:16: "I shall not punish you into the eon (age), nor shall I be provoked to anger with you perpetually"

Romans 11:32 In God's calculation the mass of humanity is trapped in unbelief. This qualifies all mankind for his mercy.

James 2:13: "Mercy triumphs over judgment."

A twisted distorted view of God says "I will kill my child to show you how good I am" that God was so angry with us He killed His son.

Is that righteous and loving would that be acceptable in your home?

Does the Father's anger really need to be appeased?

- **The DIY-SYSTEM requires retributive justice but God's justice is always restorative.**

Prov 14:12 There is a way that seems right to man but its end is the way of death. It was man that required appeasement it was man that required sacrifices.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

John 14:6 Jesus said, "My I am-ness [mirrored in you] is your way; this is your truth and also your life! Every single person can now come face to face with the Father entirely because of my doing."

- Man's justice is people getting what they deserve – retributive punishment and vengeance

Psa 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;

Lovingkindness (mercy) and truth go before You.

- **God's justice is mercy and love**

Matt 23:23 you have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness;

- Religion is about a legalism that majors on minors when the keys are truth, justice and mercy

James 2:13. mercy triumphs over judgment.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Who is the 'us' included in the resurrection and who was the cross for?

1 Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

2 Corinthians 5:19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them

- The cross was for our benefit not Gods
- The cross was not about changing God but about changing us

- The blood of Jesus was not an antidepressant to change the mood of an angry God
- Blood of Jesus representing His death was for our benefit not to appease God's anger

Heb 10:19 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus. 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience

- The blood was to give us free access to heaven and a clean conscience

A better view of a better God produces better people with better lives. Fundamentalism holds to a retributive theology—an angry God who demands punishment and can only be appeased through violence (whether in hell or on the cross).

Violent punishment in the Christian religion creates huge problems.

**The belief system of so-called “redemptive violence” will inevitably affect the world, our lives and our parenting.**

- As parents we represent God to our children.
- If God has anger issues and needs to punish sin, will that not be our task also?
- God is not who we have been led to believe
- The corrections of God are only and always restorative.
- The judgements of God are pure and bring mercy and life
- Even painful truth is revealed only for our good and healing.

Why did Jesus die? Who killed him?

What was his death really about?

What did Jesus say about it?

Jesus knew He was going to the cross so what was He expecting?

Did He say He was going to suffer the just punishment for our sins from his Father?

Was He expecting abandonment, rejection from His Father?

Or was He expecting rejection from the religious and political world system?

Luke 9:44 “Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.”

Matt 16:21 “From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.”

Mark 9:31 “For He was teaching His disciples and telling them: ‘The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And when He has been killed, He will rise three days later.’

Matt 20:18-19 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify Him, and on the third day He will be raised up."

Acts 2:23 "This Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death."

Mark 10:33-34, Luke 18:31-33, Luke 24:6-7, John 18:3-6, John 18:12, John 19:14-18, Acts 2:36, Heb 12:2

- Jesus died at the hands of ruthless men, Jew and Gentile, representing the religious and political systems
- They agreed to condemn Jesus to keep the DIY system in control
- God did not condemn Jesus but He did use it to engage with man

Isa 53:3 He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

Isa 53:4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced through by our transgressions, He was crushed by our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.

Isa 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

- We crucified Jesus and God used our punishment to bring restoration
- There is simply nothing to support the idea that Jesus went to the cross to suffer the fiery wrath of his Father so that we could escape such torture.
- The cross was to undo the consequence of Adam's sin which produced spiritual death
- **The sin** is to live out of context with the blueprint of one's design; to behave out of tune with God's original harmony.

"The wrath of God is His love passionately opposed to our destruction—the fire that consumes our darkness. " - Baxter Kruger

- The cross wasn't a demonstration of God's wrath towards humanity, but a demonstration of God's love towards humanity.
- Is it any wonder that the world struggles with sonship identity because of religion?
- God the Father isn't the 'black sheep' of the Trinity. God the Father is just as merciful and loving as God the Son.

Such an angry message portrays a schizophrenic deity, "Good cop, bad cop, He loves me, He loves me not" kind of God.

- When Jesus took the sin of the whole world upon his shoulders He wasn't paying off an angry deity, He was showing us the depths of God's love.
- The crucifixion was not a surprise to God it had been foreseen and indeed planned from before creation.

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."

The first prophecy that foretold the cross

Eph 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love

1 Peter 1:20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

Rev 13:8 the lamb was slain from the foundation of the world;

Eph 1:4 He associated us in Christ before the fall of the world! Jesus is God's mind made up about us! He always knew in his love that he would present us again face-to-face before him in blameless innocence.

**Baxter Kruger wrote a great essay "God in the hands of angry sinners"**

Imagine: Papa accepts our bitter rejection of Jesus and uses our rejection as the way of his acceptance of the real and broken us, the way of our adoption into the family forever. **I will take your murder of My Son and I will use your betrayal as My way of embracing you in your great darkness**

Our Father never needed a sacrifice; we did. And we, as one man, with one accord damned His Son, and our Father accepted our 'faith' and our 'will,' and our 'decision' to crucify His Son as the means to establish a real and everlasting relationship with us inside our faithless betrayal.

This is salvation. This is adoption. This is redeeming genius and love almost beyond our wildest imaginations - Baxter Kruger

- God meets us in the depths of our darkness with the pure light of love
- Heart of Jesus mission here on earth was to demonstrate God's love
- Love is the very essence of the good news; is that what we preach?

John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent"

John 17:3 This life of the ages, invites them to engage in the inexhaustible adventure to keep on knowing you, the only true God and Jesus as the Christ whom you have commissioned!

What Jesus did for us on the cross is often referred to as the atonement  
This is an old covenant word used to describe how a sacrificial animal covered the sin  
It is not however a word used in the new covenant

To atone is to make amends, reparation for wrongdoing  
**Atonement** is another incorrect translation of the word *katallagé* which means **reconciliation**

Rom 5:11. we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

A word that is used is propitiation. Again this word has been hijacked from its common meaning and given a religious meaning based on the wrong assumptions of God being angry and needing to be appeased

Heb 2:17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

1 John 2:2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

1 John 4:10 this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Propitiation *hilasmos* is a noun from the root *hilaskomai* and *hilaskoma* the verb and noun both carry the meaning to conciliate, be merciful, forgive, show favour it does not mean atonement

*Hilaros* is another root word, from which we get our word hilarious

To appease and satisfy divine wrath and anger on sin is not correct or hilarious

Atonement although not a New Testament word has inspired many doctrinal theories, some have some truth

Ransom, Recapitulation, Victory, Example, Commercial, Governmental,

Christus victor - victory over the sin death and devil that held mankind in bondage.

- **Penal Substitutionary Atonement (PSA) is the most commonly held evangelical view but it was not the view of early church**
- **PSA distorts the character of God**

Penal substitution was a doctrine that only started in the 11th century. It was formulated by Anselm of Canterbury through scholasticism a method of study that emphasises reason, research and constructive criticism.

Not too much personal encounter there then.

- **PSA is a man-made demonically inspired doctrine of distortion**

- An angry Father will produce angry vengeful sons
  - We will parent and steward the cosmos from that angry retributive perspective
  - **The enemy systematically attacks fatherhood and sonship because of its key importance**
- ➔ **If God is the ultimate harsh disciplinarian waiting to dish out the punishment to us then we will reflect that image to a broken world that needs healing not punishment.**
- ➔ **That is why religion is at the heart of so much conflict and has been used to excuse wars, jihads and crusades**
- The “GOD” that religion has presented to a broken, lost and hurting world living a DIY self-improvement lifestyle has been rejected by them.
  - This is not good news and totally misrepresents God who is best represented by love, grace, mercy.
  - It is like GOD holding a gun to mankind’s head saying I want a relationship with you or else I will punish you with bad things and torment you forever
  - Who would respond to that as good news?

Can you imagine a man asking his girlfriend to marry him and hearing him say: "if you will marry me, you will be the joy of my life. I will treat you like a queen. You will never want for anything.

But if you don't marry me, I will lock you in the dungeon and torture you forever!"  
Would you marry that man?

This is often the fear based message of modern evangelism!

If the fickle “GOD” punished Jesus His Son then He is at liberty to punish us as we are His sons

That is not the real God, just religion’s false portrayal of Him

2 Cor 5:19 But God was IN Christ, reconciling the world to himself, NOT COUNTING men's sins against them.

- **Therefore the cross was the revelation of the good news... there is nothing you can do to make God reject you. Ever!**

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Psalm 22:1 quoted by Jesus on the cross in Matt 27:46; Mark 15:34)

“If the Father turned his back on Jesus and abandoned him on the cross, how can I trust that he won’t do that to me now?

This casts doubt on God’s faithfulness and our ability to trust Him

Why do bad things happen to me?

Does God really care about me?

Why is my life such a mess, if God is truly good?

We live in a world that is often fatherless and suffering from the orphan spirit that deceives lives.

How do we present God as Father to this father-starved generation?  
How can we invite them to have a relationship Him, if the very mention of the word “father” conjures up images that are uncaring, distant or even abusive?

Psa 22:24 For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; nor has He hidden His face from him; but when he cried to Him for help, He heard.

- God the Father never turn away from, rejected or abandoned Jesus His son but heard Him and was with Him
- “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” This was a cry of true identification with us in our brokenness and in our deepest darkest DIY pain it was our separation He felt and cried out.
- Jesus made contact with mankind still in Adam hiding in the bushes playing DIY appeasement

Luke 19:10 Jesus comes to seek and to save that which is lost

- Jesus went into the depths of our darkness and the Father went with Him.
- God who is Father, Son and Spirit bears the scars as well.
- God the Father never left Jesus

John 16:32 Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

- Jesus knew He would not be abandoned by His Father.

John 8:28 So Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. 29 And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, 2 Cor 5:19 that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself

**Penal substitutionary atonement (PSA) is the doctrine that is at the root of many other false doctrines such as eternal conscious torment in hell and other distortions of God’s nature and character, which is love**

PSA holds that Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross takes the place of the punishment we ought to suffer for our sins. As a result, God’s justice is satisfied, and those who accept Christ can be forgiven and reconciled to God.

Subtle distortion that sounds right because we have been conditioned to accept that God is angry with us.

PSA states that the wrath of God was satisfied on the cross

John Crowder once sarcastically said, “God really hates you, but because he beat-up His own Son, now He’s allowed to tolerate you.”

The result of “the sin” was death not punishment, sacrifices were not tortured by the priest, just killed.

- It wasn't the wrath of God that was satisfied upon the cross but rather the perfect justice of God.
- It was God showing the world that He is willing to take on flesh and die for us and as us but not to pay off an angry God who can't stand the sight of us.
- Jesus didn't save us from God He saved us from death

If the cross was not punishment but justice then what is the nature of God's justice?

Matt 10:15 He healed them all, 17 This was to fulfil what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: 18 "Behold, My Servant whom I have chosen; My Beloved in whom My soul is well-pleased;

Matt 10:18 I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He shall proclaim justice to the Gentiles. 20 "A battered reed He will not break off, and a smouldering wick He will not put out, until He leads justice to victory. 21 "and in His name the Gentiles will hope."

- God's Justice does not break people; it heals those who are broken!!
- Gods justice won't stop working and restoring until "He brings justice to victory and every last broken reed is healed".
- God's justice won't stop until it brings ultimate victory.
- Jesus healed all as a demonstration that His justice will heal and restore the whole of creation
- God's justice can only result in the healing of His entire creation.
- Nothing less will do for a God who so loved and reconciled the world to Himself that is His justice
- God doesn't need to punish anyone. "Sin is its own punishment."
- No one gets away with anything. There are terrible consequences for our actions, **but God is forever with us, weaving grace into our stories to redeem even the worst situations for our good.**
- When humanity rebels, sin punishes us but grace forgives and corrects us
- The fearful and guilty project their fears onto God as 'wrath' and retribution.
- This is where we get the idea that God actually reacts in violence and vengeance, it our DIY idea

➔ **The aim of Jesus' death was not to suffer the wrath of his Father, but to make personal, healing, life-giving, forgiving contact with us sinners, at the root of our sin and alienation.**

Romans 5:8 "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom 5:6 God's timing was absolutely perfect; humanity was at their weakest when Christ died their death. (We were bankrupt in our efforts to save ourselves.) 8 Herein is the extremity of God's love gift: mankind was rotten to the co

I am not trying to create a new theology or belief system to replace the old but I am encouraging you all to meet God face to face and find out what He is really like. Let God reveal Himself as the Truth. Let God the Father love you as His children.

**I sense God's burning judgement falling upon many of you today. He has made up His mind and the verdict is unchangeable. His judgement is: "You are forgiven, loved and accepted". So, enjoy your judgement.**



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