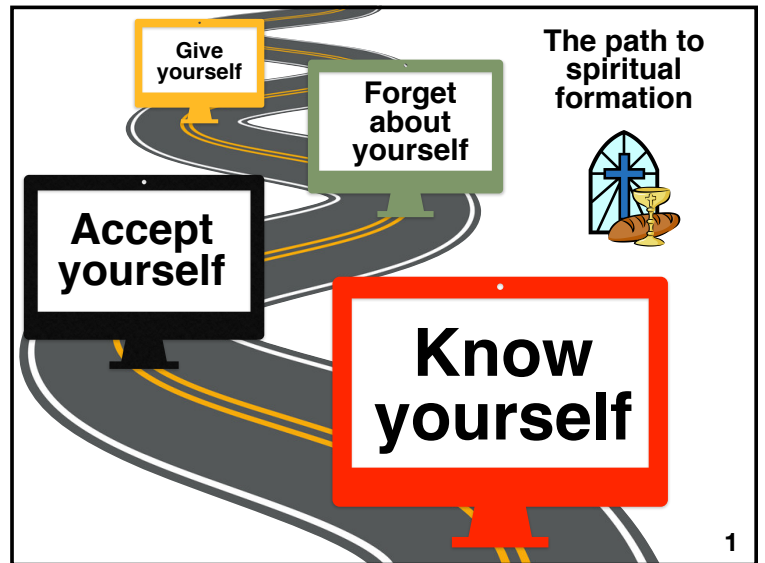


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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

*1 John 2:1-2*  
Lesson #4  
Enlightened Grace  
01/23/2022



## (Previous lessons)

**Those who walk in the light will see:**

**#1**  
- the dignity of humanity in Christ.  
(respect the image of God in man)

**#2**  
- the path to “fellowship with God”.  
(embrace the whole truth)

**#3**  
- the importance of spiritual brokenness.  
(acknowledge our sins)

2

## (Today’s lesson)

*1 John 2*

“1 My little children, I am writing these things to you **that you may not sin**. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the **propitiation** for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”


**Those who walk in the light will see:**

**#4**  
- the unfinished and finished work of the Cross.

3

**This passage raises two questions.**

1. How are we to understand “sinning Christians”?
2. What is the nature of Christ’s work on the Cross in atonement of sins?



# The Word of the Cross

4

“1 My little children, I am writing these things to you **that you may not sin**. And **if anyone sins**,”

- **The fact that Christians sin is not controversial.**

**Each of the N.T. epistles were written to, for, and about sinning “born again” believers.**

*1 Timothy 1:15*

“It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom **I am** foremost of all.”

*Romans 7*

“19 **For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish...** 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?”

*Galatians 5:17*

“For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that **you may not do the things that you please.**”

5

• **The teaching of 1 John is controversial.**

*1 John 1:8*

“If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.”

**but**

*1 John 3:3*

“No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has seen him or knows him...  
*3:9* “No one who is born of God practices sin, because his seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”

• **This will be addressed in coming weeks.**

*1 John 2*

“1 . . . we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the **propitiation** for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”

**A sinning Christian is not an oxymoron,**

**an unforgiven Christian is an oxymoron.**

*Romans 8:1*

“There is therefore now **no condemnation** for those who are **in Christ Jesus.**”

**What does propitiation mean?**

1. At the Cross, Christ **fully SATISFIED** all the demands of a perfectly holy God.
2. The atonement **was sufficient for the whole world** but secured only for those “in Christ” by faith.

**After the Cross, the barrier between man and God is not sin but **faith in Jesus.****  
**(John 3:18)**

*Before the Cross, **SIN** was the issue between man and God.*



*After the Cross **FAITH** became the issue.*

**The Word of the Cross**

The work of the Cross

the focus

The fruit of the Cross

**Atonement**  
 (payment of the debt)

**Reconciliation**  
 (secured fellowship)

**Redemption**  
 (freeing from the debt)

**believers**

**Propitiation**  
 (satisfaction of the debt)

**God**

**Justification**  
 (declared righteous)

**NOTE: Physical healing is NOT a part of the atonement?**

*Matthew 8*

“16 . . . and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill 17 in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, “**He (Messiah) Himself took our infirmities, and carried away our disease.**””

- This passage **authenticates Jesus** as the Messiah but it does not assure that God will heal our mortal bodies.
- Healing is only a **SIGN**. The healed, mortal, body is still mortal and unfit for eternity? (1 Cor.15:50)
- In the teaching of the atonement in the N.T. the **emphasis** is on spiritual not physical healing.

## The atonement is limited?

- Not everyone will be saved.
- Only those who believe will be saved.
- But was Christ's work at the Cross limited in its intent or its application?

*Some emphasize that reconciliation was **FINISHED at the Cross.***

*It is a provision only for "the elect" who were predestined to believe before they were born.*

*But were the elect saved before they believed?*

*Others emphasize that the grace of Christ was **FURNISHED at the Cross.***

*Man's participation is by his faith response to God's gracious gift.*

*Is it faith that saves?*

12

- It seems we are saved by the blood of Christ.

*Romans 5:19*

"Much more then, having now been **justified by His blood**, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him."

- and also by our faith (which is not a work).

*Romans 11:20*

"Quite right, they were broken off for **their unbelief**, but you stand by **your faith.**"

13

*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.**"

*2 Peter 2:1*

"But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be fake teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even **denying the Master who bought them**, bringing swift destruction upon themselves."

*Romans 5:19*

"namely, that God was in Christ **reconciling the world to Himself**, not counting their trespasses against them,"

*1 Timothy 2*

"<sup>3</sup> This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, **4 who desires all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave Himself as **a ransom for all**, the testimony borne at the proper time."

14

## Is the atonement limited in its intent?

*Ephesians 5*

"<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up **for her**; <sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,"

- But **how** does a person become a part of the church?
- **IF** election is unconditional and grace is irresistible, and perseverance is inevitable, then it is **logically consistent** that limited atonement is unavoidable.
- But we are called to be **Bereans** not Calvinists or Arminians, Catholics or Protestants, Liberals or Conservatives.

15

When President Carter pardoned draft dodgers in 1977 only half came back to the U.S.A.

Those who stayed in Canada did not benefit from the pardon **unless and until they came back.**

The Word of the Cross is good news for all who **receive it.**

16

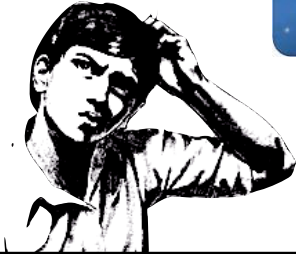
*With respect to our bank account:*

**Do we possess the money upon deposit or withdrawal?**



17

Is a credit card valid  
when it is issued?



Or when it is  
activated?

18

“Holiness is not the  
way to Christ; Christ  
is the way to holiness.

**Better still,  
Christ is our  
holiness.”**



Charles Spurgeon

19

*Romans 8:6*

“For the mind set on the flesh is death,  
but the **mind set on the Spirit is life  
and peace.”**

“Walking  
according to  
the flesh”

When we see  
self under Law



**Death**



“Walking  
according to  
the Spirit”

When we see  
self in Christ



**Life**

20

**“Word of the Cross”**

*1. This is the climactic event of Jesus’  
earthly ministry and the pivotal  
event of the whole Biblical narrative.*

history is **HiStory**

- *The cross fulfills the demands of  
the Old Covenant Law.*
- *The cross is the foundation of  
the New Covenant promises.*

21

*2. The commemoration of his death  
is a central part of our worship.*

*1 Corinthians 10:16*

“Is not the cup of blessing which we bless **a  
sharing in the blood of Christ?** Is not the bread  
which we break a sharing in the body of Christ.”



*1 Corinthians 11:26*

“For as often as you eat this  
bread and drink the cup, **you  
proclaim the Lord’s death**  
until he comes.”

22

*3. Jesus became the world’s greatest  
SINNER when he died for us.*

*Matthew 27:46*

“My God, my God, **why have You forsaken  
me?”**

*2 Corinthians 5:21*

“He made him who knew no sin **to be sin**  
on our behalf, so that we might become  
the righteousness of God in him.”

*1 Peter 2:24*

“and **he himself bore our sins in his body  
on the cross,** so that we might die to sin  
and live to righteousness;”

23

**4. Death is our only escape from the condemnation of the Law.**

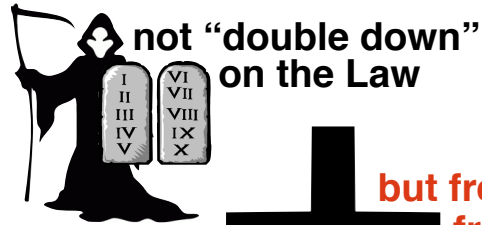
Being united with Christ's death we are free from condemnation,

1. having been crucified with Christ
2. and free from being under the Law

*Romans 6*

"<sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into his death? . . . <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old self was crucified with him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin."

**The word "Gospel" means**




**but freedom from the Law's condemnation and sin's chains. "good news"**



What "does us in" is not our sins or the sins of those against us

but rather, how we respond to both!



The Cross is both a propitiation for sin and a path to follow.

"He who has an ear to hear, let him hear."

