

ATONEMENT OR ATTAINMENT?

From God's standpoint there are but two religions, one is man's, the other is God's.

Man's religion, whatever its name, is always based on human attainment. God bases His on Divine Atonement.

Man would turn over a new leaf. God seeks to implant a new life.

Why did Christ die?

In the New Testament, you find something unparalleled in any other writings, the unique prominence given to the death of Christ.

Why such emphasis on His death and so little on His life? Why is Christ in His teachings continually speaking of His coming death and resurrection, and pointing to the Old Testament prophecy regarding the sacrifice of Himself?

Why does He say, "I must be lifted up" that "whosoever believeth might not perish but have everlasting life?"

Why does He say, "I have come to give My life a ransom?"

When He faces the work of the cross why does He say, "For this cause came I unto this hour?"

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No value is attached to the death of anyone in the Old Testament. There was no regenerative power in the death of any of the prophets. There were martyrs and heroes, but no writer attributes any importance to the shedding of their blood.

But when you come to Christ you find that He came to die and not to live, that His death was the very object of His incarnation.

The very heart of the Gospels is not a teaching Christ but a crucified Christ whose sacrifice is the mighty magnet to draw the world to God.

The song of the glorified saints in heaven as revealed to John in Revelation is not concerning a teaching Christ, nor a mighty King, but "the Lamb that was slain" and by whose blood men were redeemed to God.

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Some say Christ died simply as a martyr, His death being the result of circumstances that were too strong for Him. In this way they seek to evaporate the doctrine of the Atonement.

How can this theory be reconciled with the fact that the chief message of Christ from the very first concerned His death and resurrection?

"No man taketh my life from me. I lay it down of myself and I will take it up again."

He came for that purpose. His death was His own choice, God's program according to the Old Testament. There was no other way.

"He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him and with His stripes we are healed."

Jesus said, "I must go unto Jerusalem and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and be raised again the third day."

He never foretold His coming death without adding that He would be resurrected. He did not therefore die as the result of circumstances that were too

strong for Him. He died to make Atonement for sin.

"He bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sin, should live unto righteousness. By His stripes we are healed." — Christian Fundamental League.

FAMILY PRAYER.

The family altar is one of the oldest and best institutions in the world, and blessed is that family where such is established. It is better to live in a cot or cabin, with an altar, than in a palace without one.

It makes the Lord a welcome guest, and a member of the family, and it is very comforting to know that we can confer and fellowship with him, as the Man of our counsel.

It is a sad thing to be without God in the home. It is like being in a tempest-tossed ship without a compass or rudder.

Samson became weak as other men, and an easy prey to his enemies, when the Lord left him. So it will be to all those who discard the family altar. The altar is as much needed in the home as a fire on a cold day, or a lamp on a dark night.

No home is complete, no matter how elegantly adorned, without an altar of prayer. Minus this, it is like a watch without a main-spring.

As parents are interested in the mental education of their children, so they should be in the spiritual culture of the heart.

The family altar is a connecting link between our earthly and our heavenly home, and if it was more generally established, there would be fewer drunkards, divorces, and suicides than there are.

The Lord says, "Them that honor Me, I will honor," so if we honor Him by worship at home, He will bless us openly. Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it, and if the Lord is not in the home, there is a great lack; it would be like a house without windows.

As the builders of the tower of Babel got into confusion and failure, so will those who try to make a home without religion. Look at the families where divorce has crept in and split the home asunder, and where the children have been wicked, and brought disgrace to their parents.

Let us have a revival of family prayer and Bible reading everywhere, and witness the great transformation that will follow.—Ex.

FAITH-HEALING.

This claim of the faith-healers that the believer has a covenant right to bodily healing is unscriptural. It is dangerous. It raises false hopes, and through the many disappointments which it brings it tends to weaken and destroy real faith.

The effect of a series of meetings where this wrong view of the atonement is proclaimed night after night is not good. Serious hurt is done when Christians leaders go beyond what is taught in the Word of God and teach as a covenant right of believers what God has not authorized.—The United Presbyterian.

EXCEPT.

A. B. Yoder.

Man's Natural Condition: "Except ye see signs and wonders ye will not believe."—John 4:48.

God's Command: "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3. "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 18:3. "Except a man be born again he can not see the kingdom of heaven." Jno. 3:3. "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he can not see the kingdom of God." John 3:5.

Man's Dependence: "A man can receive nothing except it be given him from heaven." John 3:27. Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die it beareth much fruit." John 12:24. "Ye can not bear fruit: except ye abide in the vine." John 15:4.

Standard of Life: "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 5:20.

Fellowship: "How can two walk together except they be agreed." Amos 3:3.

Our steadfastness: "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me." Gen. 32:26.

Our victories: "Neither will I be with you anymore, except ye destroy the accursed from among you." Josh. 7:12.

Warning to Watchfulness: "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed." II. Thess. 2:5.—Gospel Banner.

"DON'TS" FOR CHURCH ON SABBATH.

Don't stay away because company comes, bring them.

Don't let the Sabbath paper keep you; we have something better.

Don't stay away because it rains. That would not keep you from business.

Don't stay away because you won't be missed in a crowd. God misses you.

Don't stay away because it isn't your denomination; the same excuse would keep you out of heaven.

Don't stay away because you have no influence; the church-goer preaches a sermon as long as the way thither.

Don't stay away because you know more than the preacher; God may have something to say to you worth hearing.

Don't stay away because the church does not need you; never did the church need more and better men and women.

Don't stay away because the church is imperfect; should you find and join the perfect church, its perfection would cease.

Don't stay away because you do not need the church; 'tisn't so. If you must look at the earth six days, take one to examine the clouds.—Ex.

A good live prayer and testimony meeting is the most restful place on earth, after a hard day's work to those who really love God with all their hearts. The tide of heavenly joy soon covers the stone like weariness, and we go to our homes refreshed with songs of joy and gladness.