

Our Propitiation

It's wild to think that Paul's letter turns from condemnation to justification . . . through Jesus' death. How is that fair to Jesus? Yet, this is God showing His righteousness. It is the means of God's justification.

(My apologies for a brief outline - you'll want to watch the sermon for more commentary).

Romans 3:21–26

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it - 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

- Propitiation. Turning away of anger by the offering of a gift. The word was often used by the pagans in antiquity, for they thought of their gods as unpredictable beings, liable to become angry with their worshipers for any trifle. When disaster struck it was often thought that a god was angry and was therefore punishing his worshipers. The remedy was to offer a sacrifice without delay. A well-chosen offering would appease the god and put him in a good mood again. This process was called propitiation. (*Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, "Propitiation," Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 1784.*)
- Expiation (ek-spee-**ey**-shuhn) seeks to run from the wrath of God. Propitiation, or the appeasement view, does not, yet it also highlights God's sacrifice. "We need to remember that God supplied the sacrifice by which satisfaction is gained and so paganism is excluded." McGuiggan
- 1 John 4:9-11 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.