

## The Victory of the Big Picture (The Atonement)

1. *“But now, apart from the law, the **righteousness** of God has been made manifest, being witnessed to by the law and the prophets, the **righteousness** of God that is through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, for **all have sinned** and are falling short of the glory of God, being **justified** freely by his **grace** through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus. God set forth Jesus as a **propitiatory sacrifice** through **faith**, in his blood, for a demonstration of his **righteousness** because of the passing over of sins committed beforehand in the forbearance of God, for a demonstration of his **righteousness** at the present time, in order that he might be **just** and the **justifier** of the person who has faith in Jesus.”*  
(Romans 3:23-26. Translation from Epistle to the Romans; NICNT, Douglas Moo.)
2. We are born sinful and we commit sin  
We deserve death and separation from God  
Jesus lived a perfect, sinless, human life
3. **He died on the cross**
  - to bear the punishment for our sin
  - to bear the wrath of God which we deserve
  - to reconcile us to God
  - to pay the ransom to free us from slavery to sin
4. **This is the doctrine of PENAL SUBSTITUTION or SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT**
5. **“Cosmic child abuse” ???**
6. **Explanations of the cross**
  - The cross demonstrates God’s love
  - The cross shows God identifying with us in our sufferings and death
  - The cross sets us an example
  - The cross simply makes the point that there is a penalty for lawbreaking
7. **He died to bear the punishment for our sin**  
  
He dies to atone for sins not his own  
Your debt he has paid and your work he hath done  
Ye all may receive the peace he did leave  
Who made intercession “My Father, forgive”  
  
For you and for me he prayed on the tree  
The prayer is accepted, the sinner is free.  
The sinner am I, who on Jesus rely,  
And come for the pardon God cannot deny.  
*(Charles Wesley)*
8. *“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.’” (Galatians 3:13)*
9. *“But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as man is destined to die once and after that to face judgement, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people;” (Hebrews 9:26-28)*
10. *“For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous to bring you to God.” (1 Peter 3: 18)*
11. *“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live to righteousness by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray. . . ” (1 Peter 2: 24-25)*
12. *“We considered him stricken by God, smitten by him and afflicted, but he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53: 4-6)*
13. Matthew 26:28  
Romans 4:25  
1 Corinthians 15:3  
2 Corinthians 5:21  
Ephesians 1:7  
Hebrews 9:14; 10:12  
1 Peter 1:18-19  
1 John 1:7
14. **Why should we have to suffer eternally but Christ only for a limited time?**  
Because we are eternally unable to pay the penalty of our sin whereas Christ paid it in full.  
  
**“IT IS FINISHED!”** John 19:30  
`tetelestai = “I have done it!” “It is accomplished” “It is completed”
15. **Did Jesus actually pay the penalty for the sins of everyone or only of those who would believe in him?**
16. **Both sides agree:**
  - Not everyone will be saved
  - The Gospel is not restricted. No one who comes to Christ will be turned away.
  - Christ’s death is sufficient to pay the price for the whole world
17. **BUT**  
How can anyone be punished for their sins if Christ has paid the penalty for everyone?

18. He hell in hell laid low  
Made sin, he sin o'erthrew;  
Bowed to the grave, destroyed it so,  
And death, by dying, slew  
(S. W. Candy)

19. **He died to bear the wrath of God which we deserve.**

*"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as the one who would turn aside his wrath, taking away our sins."* (1 John 4:10)

God without wrath would be a terrible God!

20. **He was separated from God to reconcile us to God.**

*"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* (Mark 15:34)

*"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."* (2 Corinthians 5:18)

21. **He died to pay the ransom to free us from slavery to sin.**

*"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* (Matthew 20: 28)

Note: The metaphor only takes us so far "a ransom had to be paid". It breaks down when we try to consider to whom the ransom was paid.

NOT the devil because he was defeated  
NOT God because he did not hold us captive in sin

22. **SUMMARY**

- All men and women are sinners.
- All sinners are in desperate peril because of their guilt
- Salvation takes place only because God in His love wills it and brings it about.
- Salvation depends on what God has done in Christ.
- Both the Godhead and the Manhood of Christ are involved in the process
- Christ was personally innocent.
- While the importance of the life of Christ is not to be minimised, central importance is attached to his death.

•In his death Christ made himself one with sinners. He took their place.

•By his life, death, resurrection and ascension Christ triumphed over Satan and sin and every conceivable force of evil.

•Not only did Christ win a victory, but he secured a verdict. He wrought salvation powerfully, but also legally.

•In his death Christ revealed the nature of God as love.

•In his death Christ is our supreme example.

•We are invited to make a threefold response in repentance, faith and holy living.

•There is a cross for the Christian as well as for the Christ.  
(Leon Morris, *The Cross in the New Testament*)

23. **What is our response?**

*"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it."*  
(Matthew 16;24-25 TNIV)

24. *"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."*  
(C T Studd, who left his England cricket fame and a family fortune, to go as a missionary to China, India and Africa.)