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# THANK YOU

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## Part 2 - For the Price You Paid

In the ancient world (and still today), artists created mosaics—free-form jigsaw puzzles with pottery, tiles, and glass—resulting in art limited only by their imagination! There's something beautiful that comes from being able to take lots of smaller pieces and put them together to make something beautiful, something greater than the sum of its parts.

Today, as we thank Jesus for the Cross, we see a powerful picture of God's goodness and kindness in all it has done for us.

### Take A Picture

The term "Atonement" describes what Jesus did on the Cross, meaning reconciliation, or being "at one" with God. This includes both propitiation (addressing God's wrath toward sin) and expiation (removing sin and its effects).

Some wonder, "Didn't Jesus just fix it all on the Cross? Why the big words?"

Understanding Atonement gives us confidence in His promises and the power of His work for us and others. I'm indebted to Joshua McNall's book on this: "The Mosaic of the Atonement"

### Substitute (The Heart of Christ)

Jesus was our substitute. Jesus took our place on the Cross.

2 Corinthians 5:21

Romans 3:22b-26

The key to this aspect of Jesus' atoning work is that He takes our place and pays the penalty of our sin – the penalty that we would have to have paid.

James 1:14-15

Sin is the problem we can't solve on our own but needs to be dealt with in order to be in right standing with God.

Isaiah 53:5-6

The Judge is Judged in our place...

1 Peter 2:24

On the Cross, your sin is dealt with! Rejoice!

**Application:** When we fall short or sin, we can be confident that Jesus has provided a way for it to be fully and eternally resolved. What's missing? This view doesn't say much about why the rest of Jesus' life is written about, and there's a lot more to the Christian life that comes out of Jesus' substituting work. That's why the picture isn't complete without another piece of the mosaic.

## **Walk This Way (Recapitulation: The Feet of Christ)**

Recapitulation: from a Latin word for 'head', means a 're-heading' of the world – there's a new way that we have been shown to live.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Ephesians 1:9-10

We have two ideas running together here:

- + Jesus lives a perfect, obedient life that reverses the disobedience of Adam (and like him, all of us as well)
- + Jesus sums up (unites) us all together with Him as the new 'head'

Romans 5:19; Hebrews 4:15

**Application:** When we bring our sin and brokenness to God, He isn't angry but fully understands, has addressed the problem, and knows how to help us overcome it. We don't need to hide from God—nothing surprises Him! Shame won't stop us, as He's never shocked by our actions. What a relief and gift!

## **Helping Hand (Moral Example: The Hands of Christ)**

This part of the mosaic puts an emphasis on how Christ's life and sacrificial death provide a profound example of love and obedience for humanity to follow.

John 13:14-15

As John talked about last week, Jesus exemplifies the kind of self-giving love that God desires for humanity.

1 John 3:16

What's missing? If we only see this picture, we miss some really important things, like how to actually deal with sin, and why did Jesus need to die on the Cross? Wasn't His life enough?

Jesus' life wasn't just for show; it calls us to a deep, transformative response to make a difference like He did. "What would Jesus do?" should move us, by the Holy Spirit, to respond by expressing God's love.

## Victorious (Christus Victor: The Head of Christ)

The Christus Victor model of atonement highlights Christ's victory over all creation through His death and resurrection, overcoming sin, death, and the devil in a cosmic battle.

Colossian 2:13-15

We have permission to see what Jesus has done for us as the decisive defeat of the powers of sin, death and the devil.

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

Christ is king, He's won the victory, and every other power and principality is subservient to Him!

1 John 3:8

### **Application:**

- + We can confidently partner with the Spirit to pray for healing, knowing Jesus has broken the power of sin and death.
- + We can pray for deliverance, assured that Jesus' death and resurrection give Him authority over demons—they must obey Him today!
- + We can pray boldly for our loved ones, cities, and nations, knowing Christ is King and the ultimate victory is His—today!
- + If we feel trapped by fear, anxiety, or insecurity, Jesus has made a way to overcome these—today!
- + What opposes us doesn't need to be feared or given power; we can stand firm in Christ's victory—today!

## Wrapped Up In You

We see a beautiful, full picture of Jesus, that His entire being represents His great love for us that is demonstrated through His life, death and resurrection. Today you may not be living in the reality of what Jesus has done on the Cross. Today is an opportunity to respond with a simple prayer: Thank You, Sorry, Please.

- + Thank You that you died on the Cross for me and have done all these things for me
- + Sorry for the things that I have done wrong.
- + Please come and fill my life, be the one who is in charge of my life today.

We say thank you for the price you paid, because it really was enough:

- + Enough to show your beating heart that removes the stain of sin from my heart
- + Enough to show your strong feet that walked the life we couldn't so we can now

- + Enough to show the loving hands that transform us through demonstrating love
- + Enough to show your crowned head, king of every force that threatens to break us

## **Discussion Questions**

1. How does the mosaic analogy help us understand the different aspects of Jesus' work on the Cross, and what new insights might it give us about the Christian life?
2. What does it mean for you personally that Jesus took our place on the Cross, acting as a substitute? How does this shape your view of forgiveness and justice?
3. How does understanding "atonement" and terms like propitiation and expiation deepen or challenge your confidence in Jesus' work on the Cross?
4. In what ways does seeing Jesus as a model of self-giving love inspire or challenge you in your own actions? How does this perspective change how you see difficult situations?
5. How does the concept of "Christus Victor"—Jesus' victory over sin, death, and evil—affect your view of struggles in life today? In what areas of life can this view bring hope?

## **Application Points**

1. Approach God with confidence when you fall short, knowing Jesus has fully dealt with sin and made a way for reconciliation.
2. Follow Jesus' example of self-giving love by actively seeking ways to serve others with compassion and humility.
3. Stand firm in the victory of Christ by resisting fear, anxiety, and shame, remembering that these forces have been overcome on the Cross.
4. Rely on Jesus as your guide for living a holy life, knowing He understands our struggles and provides strength to overcome them.
5. Pray with boldness for healing, deliverance, and transformation in your life and community, trusting in Jesus' authority and victory.
6. Respond daily with gratitude for the completeness of Jesus' work, remembering that His love covers every need—physically, spiritually, and emotionally.