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The Atonement — Beyond Penal Substitution

 **The Atonement Revealed as the Legal Mind of God and the Restoration of All Things in Christ**



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By Carl Timothy Wray

[Carl Timothy Wray](#) is a teacher of the Full Counsel of God and the founder of *The Finished Work of Christ* ministry. For over 40 years, he has searched the Scriptures to uncover the unified mind of God from Genesis to Revelation—revealing Christ not only as Savior, but as the fulfillment of all things.

His writings focus on the finished work of Christ, the plan of the ages, the manifestation of the sons of God, and the ultimate reconciliation of all things. Through books, teachings, and Zion University, he equips believers to move beyond partial understanding into the fullness of truth, where law, grace, and glory are seen as one divine purpose in Christ.

The Atonement Explained — Beyond Penal Substitution and Into the Full Counsel of God

The atonement is one of the most foundational doctrines in Christianity, often understood through the framework of penal substitution—where Jesus Christ takes the punishment for sin in place of humanity. While this legal aspect of the atonement is true, it is not the complete picture of God’s redemptive plan.

This book, *The Atonement — Beyond Penal Substitution*, explains the atonement as both the legal satisfaction of divine justice and the beginning of the restoration of all things in Christ. By examining Scripture from Genesis to Revelation, this work reveals how the law, the cross, and the resurrection function together in the unified mind of God.

Readers will discover how the atonement includes:

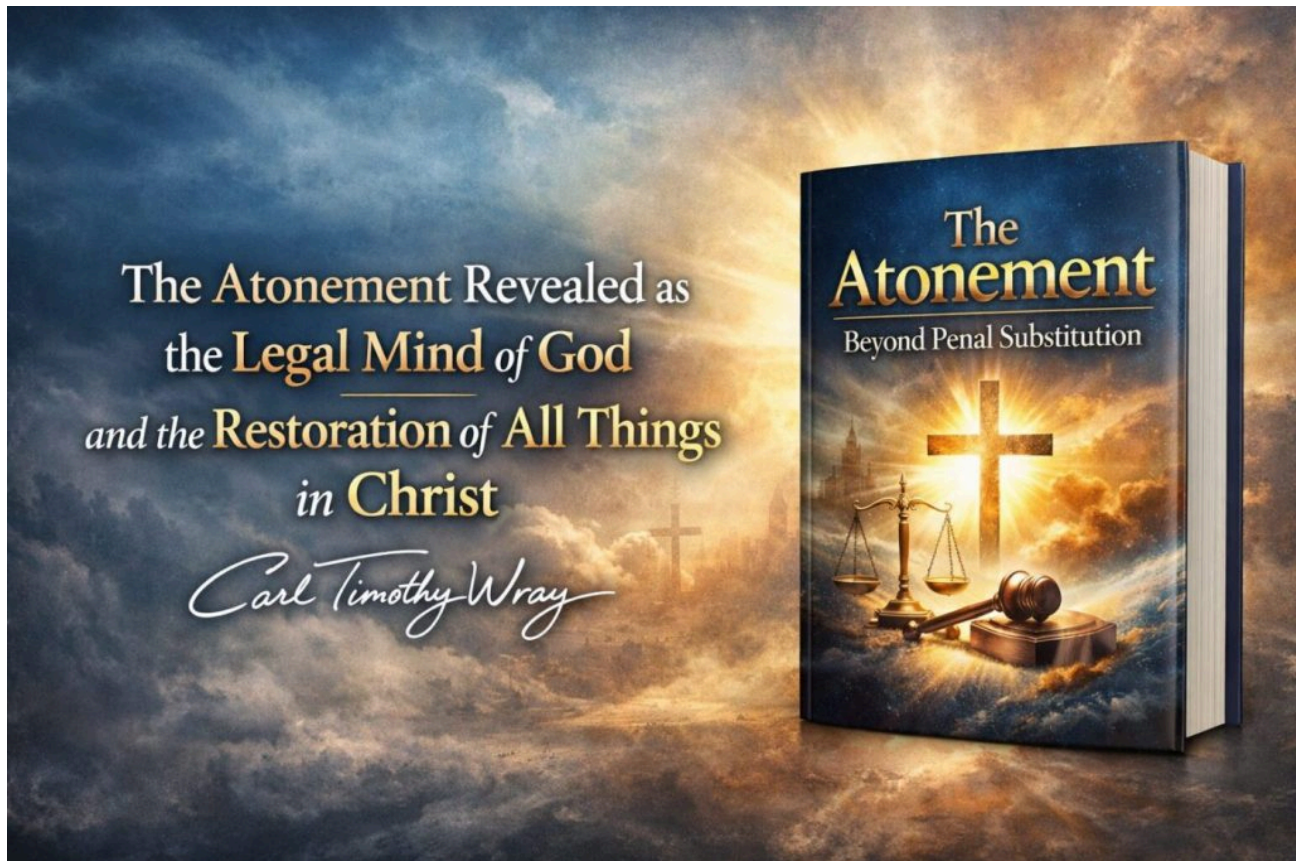
- The legal requirements of God’s justice
- The role of Christ as substitute and sacrifice
- The reconciliation of humanity to God



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- The restoration of all creation through Christ

This book is designed for those searching for a deeper understanding of the atonement, the meaning of penal substitution, and how the finished work of Christ fulfills both justice and mercy. It provides a comprehensive, Scripture-based explanation of the atonement that aligns with the full counsel of God and reveals the ultimate purpose of redemption.



1. New Book 2. Download Free PDF

Atonement: INTRODUCTION

There are few subjects more central to the Christian faith than the atonement. It stands at the heart of the gospel, at the center of the cross, and at the foundation of the faith itself. Yet for all its importance, it has often been understood only in part.



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Many have been taught that the atonement is simply this:
that humanity sinned, that God required justice, and that Jesus Christ stepped in to
take the punishment in our place.

This is true—but it is not complete.

For if the atonement is only about punishment, then redemption ends in a
courtroom.

If it is only about payment, then the cross becomes a transaction.

If it is only about substitution, then its purpose is limited to escape from judgment.

But the Scriptures reveal something far greater.

From Genesis to Revelation, the atonement is shown not only as the satisfaction of
justice, but as the unveiling of God's eternal purpose—to bring all things back into
Himself through Christ. The law exposes the problem, the cross addresses the
condition, and the resurrection reveals the outcome: life, union, and restoration.

The atonement is legal—but it is also relational.

It is judicial—but it is also transformational.

It is the answer to sin—but it is also the pathway into life.

In this book, we will not discard the legal understanding of the atonement—we will
establish it. But we will not stop there. We will follow the thread of Scripture beyond
penal substitution and into the full counsel of God, where justice and mercy meet,
where death is defeated, and where the restoration of all things in Christ is revealed.

This is the atonement as God sees it.

This is the atonement as the Scriptures declare it.

And this is the atonement... [*beyond penal substitution.*](#)



CHAPTER 1 — THE LEGAL FOUNDATION: THE LAW DEMANDS JUSTICE

The Law Reveals the Standard of God

Before there can be atonement, there must first be a standard by which all things are measured.

God is not arbitrary. He is not shifting. He is not undefined. He is righteous—and His righteousness is expressed through His law.

The law is not merely a set of commandments. It is the **revelation of God's nature**—holy, just, and good.

“Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.” —
Romans 7:12

The law defines what is right because it flows from who God is. It establishes the standard of righteousness that all creation is accountable to.

The Law Stops Every Mouth

When the law speaks, it does not negotiate—it **reveals**.

It removes excuses.

It silences arguments.



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ry man into truth.

“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.” — *Romans 3:19*

This is the function of the law:

☞ To bring all humanity into one conclusion—**guilty before God**

No man can stand before the law and claim righteousness through his own works.

The Law Requires Perfect Obedience

The law does not grade on a curve.
It does not accept partial obedience.

It requires **perfection**.

“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.” — *Galatians 3:10*

To break one point is to become guilty of all.

This reveals the severity of the law:

- ☞ It is absolute
- ☞ It is uncompromising
- ☞ It demands full obedience

And this is where the problem begins.



The Problem Is Not the Law—It Is Man

The law is perfect.

The commandment is just.

The standard is righteous.

But man is not.

“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” — *Romans 3:20*

The law was never given to make man righteous.

It was given to **reveal that he is not**.

It exposes sin.

It reveals weakness.

It brings man to the end of himself.

The Law Establishes the Need for Atonement

Because the law is just, and man has fallen short, a legal problem is created:

- ☞ God is righteous
- ☞ His law is perfect
- ☞ Man is guilty

Therefore, justice must be satisfied.

God cannot deny His nature.

God cannot ignore sin.

lower His standard.



This is the tension:

☛ How can a just God justify the unjust?

The law demands justice—but man cannot fulfill it.

The Law Points Beyond Itself

The law brings man to a place where he realizes:

☛ "I cannot justify myself."

And that realization is not failure—it is **design**.

The law was never meant to be the final answer.

It was meant to **point to the answer**.

▮ "For by the law is the knowledge of sin." — *Romans 3:20*

Once sin is revealed...

once guilt is established...

once every mouth is stopped...

Then the stage is set.

The Beginning of the Atonement

The law establishes the problem—but it also prepares the way for the solution.



For the same God who gave the law...
also provided the Lamb.

Justice will not be ignored.
Righteousness will not be compromised.

But God, in His wisdom, will make a way where:

- ☞ Justice is upheld
- ☞ Mercy is revealed
- ☞ And man is restored

This is the beginning of the atonement.

Declaration

The law stands.
The standard remains.
God has not changed His mind about righteousness.

Every mouth is stopped.
Every man stands guilty.

But the story does not end in the law—

It begins there.

Call to Action



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from the law—understand it.

Let it do its work.

Let it bring you to truth.

Let it lead you to the place where self-justification dies.

Because only when man reaches the end of himself...
can he receive what God has already provided.

CHAPTER 2 — THE PROBLEM OF SIN: DEBT, CURSE, AND SEPARATION

Sin Entered Through One Man

The problem of sin did not begin as a behavior—it began as an **entrance**.

Sin entered the human race through one man, Adam, and with sin came something deeper than wrongdoing:

Death

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” — *Romans 5:12*

This is the root of the issue:

- Sin entered
- Death followed
- And all humanity was affected

Sin is not merely what man does—



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in addition man **inherited**.

Death Became the Reigning Power

When sin entered, death did not remain passive—it began to **reign**.

“For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one...” — *Romans 5:17*

Death became the ruling force over humanity:

- Spiritual death (separation from God)
- Mental darkness (alienation in the mind)
- Physical corruption (the body subject to decay)

This is not just legal guilt—this is **existential bondage**.

Man is not just guilty...

man is **captured**.

Sin Created Separation from God

Sin did not only bring death—it created **distance**.

“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God...” — *Isaiah 59:2*

Separation is the true tragedy of sin:

- Man no longer walks in union
- Man no longer sees clearly
- Man no longer lives from God

And this separation is not just positional—it is **experiential**.



The Mind Became Alienated

Sin affected more than relationship—it affected **perception**.

“And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works...” — *Colossians 1:21*

Man’s mind became:

- Darkened
- Confused
- Opposed to God

The problem is not just that man is separated...

👉 He thinks from separation.

The Curse of the Law Confirmed the Condition

The law did not create the curse—it **revealed it**.

“Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things...” — *Galatians 3:10*

The curse is the legal confirmation of man’s fallen state:

- Man cannot fulfill the law
- Therefore man stands under the curse
- Therefore man remains in death

The law exposes what Adam introduced.



Man Cannot Save Himself

At this point, the conclusion becomes unavoidable:

- ☞ Man is sinful
- ☞ Man is separated
- ☞ Man is under the curse
- ☞ Man is subject to death

And most importantly:

- ☞ **Man cannot fix it**

“There is none righteous, no, not one.” — *Romans 3:10*

No amount of effort...

No amount of religion...

No amount of works...

Can reverse what entered through Adam.

The Need for More Than Forgiveness

If the problem were only guilt, forgiveness would be enough.

But the problem is deeper:

- Man is not only guilty—he is **dead**
- Man is not only wrong—he is **separated**
- Man is not only sinful—he is **bound under a power**



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THIS MEANS the solution must be greater than pardon.

- ☞ It must be **life**
 - ☞ It must be **restoration**
 - ☞ It must be **deliverance from death itself**
-

The Stage Is Set for Redemption

Now the full weight of the problem is clear:

- The law has revealed guilt
- Sin has brought death
- Separation has taken hold
- The curse confirms the condition

Man stands in a place where:

- ☞ Justice demands an answer
- ☞ Death holds dominion
- ☞ And no human solution exists

This is where heaven moves.

Because what man could not do...

God will do.

Declaration

Sin entered.

Death reigned.

Man fell.



Separation took hold.
The mind darkened.
The curse confirmed it.

But hear this—

Where sin abounded...
grace did much more abound.

Call to Action

Do not minimize the problem—see it clearly.

Understand the depth of sin.
Feel the weight of separation.
Recognize the reality of death.

Because only when the problem is fully seen...
can the solution be fully understood.

CHAPTER 3 — THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM: SHADOW OF A GREATER REALITY

The Law Introduced a Pattern of Atonement

Once sin was revealed and guilt established, God did not leave man without a



Within the law itself, He introduced a system—a pattern—through which atonement could be **pictured**, though not yet fully accomplished.

This was the sacrificial system.

“For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things...” — *Hebrews 10:1*

Everything in the sacrificial system pointed forward.

- ☞ It was not the solution
- ☞ It was the **shadow of the solution**

Blood Became the Legal Witness

At the center of the sacrificial system was one thing:

☞ Blood

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls...” — *Leviticus 17:11*

Blood represented life—and when it was shed, it testified that **life had been given in place of life**.

This established a legal principle:

- ☞ Sin requires death
- ☞ A life must be given
- ☞ Blood becomes the witness



And this principle would echo all the way to the cross.

Without Blood, There Is No Remission

The system made one truth unmistakably clear:

“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.” — *Hebrews 9:22*

Forgiveness is not casual.

It is not emotional.

It is not arbitrary.

It is **costly**.

The shedding of blood declared:

- ☛ Sin is serious
- ☛ Justice is real
- ☛ A price must be paid

The Priesthood Stood Between God and Man

The sacrificial system was not just about offerings—it required a **mediator**.

The priest stood between:

- A holy God
- A sinful people

“No man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was



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— *Hebrews 5:4*

The priest carried the offering.
The priest entered the holy place.
The priest made intercession.

This revealed something critical:

- ☞ Man cannot approach God on his own
- ☞ There must be a **mediator**

The Sacrifices Could Not Perfect Man

Though the sacrifices were commanded by God, they had a limitation.

They could **cover sin**—but not remove it.

“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.”
— *Hebrews 10:4*

Year after year, the same sacrifices were offered.

Why?

- ☞ Because the problem remained

The system testified to something greater:

- ☞ “This is not the end... something better is coming.”



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Order of Sin, Not Its Removal

The sacrifices did something important—but incomplete.

“But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.” —
Hebrews 10:3

Instead of removing sin, they reminded the people:

- Sin still exists
- The problem is not solved
- A greater sacrifice is needed

The system was **pointing forward**.

The Pattern Was Preparing the Way for Christ

Every part of the sacrificial system was prophetic:

- The lamb → Christ
- The blood → Christ
- The priest → Christ
- The altar → Christ

It was all a divine picture.

“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” — *John 1:29*

What the system foreshadowed...

Christ would fulfill.



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The Shadow Gives Way to the Reality

The sacrificial system was never meant to stand forever.

It was temporary.

It was instructional.

It was prophetic.

It showed:

- ☞ That sin requires blood
- ☞ That a mediator is necessary
- ☞ That a greater sacrifice is coming

And when that sacrifice arrives...

- ☞ The shadow disappears
- ☞ The reality stands

Declaration

The blood was speaking.

The altar was witnessing.

The priest was pointing.

Year after year...

sacrifice after sacrifice...

God was declaring:

- ☞ "This is not the end—My Lamb is coming."



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Action

Do not stop at the shadow—follow it.

See the pattern.

Understand the system.

Let it point you to its fulfillment.

Because everything the law foreshadowed...
is fulfilled in Christ.

CHAPTER 4 — PENAL SUBSTITUTION: THE LEGAL PAYMENT FULFILLED

Christ Stood in the Place of the Guilty

The law demanded justice.

Sin brought guilt.

The sacrificial system pointed to a substitute.

Now the reality appears:

Christ stands in the place of man

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities:
the chastisement of our peace was upon Him...” — *Isaiah 53:5*

This is substitution:

- Not for His sin—but for ours
- Not for His guilt—but for ours
- Not for His judgment—but for ours



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He did not come merely to teach...
He came to **take our place**.

He Became the Curse for Us

The law declared that those who fail are under a curse.

Christ did not ignore that curse—He **entered into it**.

“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us...”
— *Galatians 3:13*

This is the legal fulfillment:

- ☞ The curse was real
- ☞ The penalty was required
- ☞ And Christ bore it

He stepped into the full consequence of the fall.

He Was Made Sin for Us

The depth of substitution goes even further.

“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” — *2 Corinthians 5:21*

This is the great exchange:



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s what we are

- We receive what He is

Not because He sinned...

but because He **stood in our place legally**.

Justice Was Satisfied in the Cross

The cross was not random suffering—it was **legal fulfillment**.

Every demand of the law was met.

Every requirement of justice was satisfied.

“Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood... to declare His righteousness... that He might be just, and the justifier...” — *Romans* 3:25–26

God did not bypass justice.

☞ He fulfilled it.

This is why the cross stands at the center of redemption:

- Justice upheld
- Righteousness declared
- Sin judged

The Debt Was Paid in Full

What we could never pay... Christ paid completely.



“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us... and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross.” — *Colossians 2:14*

The record of debt was removed.

The legal charges were cancelled.

The cross became the place where:

- ☛ Every accusation was answered
- ☛ Every debt was settled
- ☛ Every claim against man was silenced

The Wrath Against Sin Was Addressed

God’s wrath is not emotional—it is His **righteous response to sin**.

At the cross, that righteous judgment was fully addressed.

“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.” — *1 Thessalonians 5:9*

Christ absorbed what the law required.

Not to satisfy anger...
but to uphold righteousness.

Penal Substitution Is True—But Not Complete



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e many stop.

They see:

- ☛ The payment
- ☛ The substitution
- ☛ The satisfaction of justice

And they conclude:

- ☛ "This is the atonement."

But this is only part of the picture.

Because if the cross only paid a debt...

- ☛ Then what comes next?

If justice is satisfied...

- ☛ What is God's ultimate goal?

The cross is not the end—it is the **gateway**.

The Cross Opened the Door to Something Greater

The legal problem has now been answered:

- The law is satisfied
- The debt is paid



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se is broken

But God's purpose is not just to remove guilt—

☞ It is to **restore life**

“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” — *John 10:10*

The cross removes the barrier...

So that something greater can be revealed.

Declaration

The debt is paid.

The curse is broken.

Justice is satisfied.

The Lamb has stood in the place of the guilty—
and the law has nothing left to demand.

But hear this—

The cross is not the finish line...

It is the doorway.

Call to Action

Do not reject substitution—understand it.



See what Christ has done.
Receive the finished work.
Stand in the righteousness He has provided.

But do not stop at the payment...

CHAPTER 5 — BEYOND THE COURTROOM: WHY PAYMENT WAS NOT THE END

The Cross Solved the Legal Problem—But Not the Whole Purpose

The cross answered the demands of the law.
Justice was satisfied.
The debt was paid.

But we must ask:

Was that the end of God's intention?

If the atonement is only about payment, then redemption ends in a courtroom.

But the Scriptures reveal something more:

“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” — *Romans 5:10*



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f Christ reconciles...

But the **life of Christ saves**.

The Resurrection Reveals the Greater Purpose

The cross is not complete without the resurrection.

If Christ only died, then the story ends in payment.
But because He rose, the story continues into **life**.

“Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.” —
Romans 4:25

The resurrection declares:

- ☞ The work is accepted
- ☞ Death is defeated
- ☞ A new life has begun

This is where atonement moves beyond the legal into the **living**.

Atonement Is Not Just About Forgiveness—It Is About Life

If all Christ did was forgive sin, then man would still remain in death.

But Jesus did not come only to forgive—

- ☞ He came to give life.



“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” — *John 10:10*

This changes everything:

- Not just forgiven—but **made alive**
- Not just pardoned—but **restored**
- Not just cleared—but **transformed**

Through Death, He Destroyed Death

The purpose of the cross was not just to satisfy justice—

👉 It was to destroy the power behind the problem.

“That through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.” — *Hebrews 2:14*

This goes beyond legal language.

This is **victory language**.

Christ did not just take a penalty—
He **broke a power**.

The Cross Removed the Barrier to Union

Sin created separation.

The cross removed it.



“Having made peace through the blood of His cross...” — *Colossians 1:20*

Peace is not just the absence of judgment—

☞ It is the restoration of **relationship**

The cross opened the way for:

- Union with God
 - Fellowship restored
 - Life shared
-

From Payment to Participation

If the atonement stops at substitution, then man remains a spectator.

But God’s purpose is greater:

☞ Not just substitution... but **participation**

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” — *1 Corinthians 15:22*

This reveals a shift:

- From what Christ did **for you**
 - To what Christ becomes **in you**
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Peace of Christ Is the Goal

The cross is the doorway...
but the life of Christ is the destination.

“Christ in you, the hope of glory.” — *Colossians 1:27*

This is the full vision:

- Not just sins removed
 - Not just guilt erased
 - But Christ **living within**
-

The Atonement Leads to Restoration

The legal problem is solved so that something greater can happen:

☞ Restoration

“And you, that were sometime alienated... yet now hath He reconciled.” —
Colossians 1:21–22

God’s goal was never just to forgive man—

☞ It was to **bring man back into Himself**

Declaration

The debt is paid—
but that is not the end.



The cross stands—
but it is not the final word.

Life has come.
Death has been broken.
The door has been opened.

And God is not calling you to a courtroom—

☞ He is calling you into Himself.

Call to Action

Do not stop at the cross—go through it.

Receive what Christ has done.
But also step into what Christ has become.

Because the atonement is not just about being forgiven—

☞ It is about being **made alive**.

CHAPTER 6 — THE LEGAL MIND OF GOD: JUSTICE AND MERCY UNITED

God Is Not Divided—His Mind Is One



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viewed God as if He were divided:

- Justice on one side
- Mercy on the other

As though the cross was a negotiation between two opposing attributes.

But this is not the truth.

☞ God is not in conflict with Himself.

▮ “I am the Lord, I change not...” — *Malachi 3:6*

His justice is not against His mercy.
His righteousness is not opposed to His love.

They are one.

Mercy and Truth Meet Together

The Scriptures give us a glimpse into the mind of God:

▮ “Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.” — *Psalms 85:10*

This is not poetry alone—this is revelation.

At the cross:

- Truth did not disappear
- Righteousness was not compromised
- Justice was not ignored



☞ They all met... and agreed.

God Remains Just While Justifying

This is the divine wisdom of the atonement:

“To declare... His righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.” — *Romans 3:26*

God does not become merciful by abandoning justice.

☞ He remains just... while justifying.

This is the legal mind of God:

- Justice satisfied
- Righteousness upheld
- Mercy revealed

All at the same time.

The Cross Reveals the Wisdom of God

The cross is not just an act of love—it is an act of **perfect wisdom**.

“Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.” — *1 Corinthians 1:24*

In the cross, God does what seems impossible:

☞ He judges sin...

...preserves the sinner



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Without contradiction.

Justice Was Never the Enemy of Mercy

Many have believed that mercy exists because justice was set aside.

But Scripture reveals the opposite:

☞ Mercy flows **through** justice, not around it.

“The Lord is well pleased for His righteousness’ sake; He will magnify the law, and make it honourable.” — *Isaiah 42:21*

God did not lower the law—
He **fulfilled it**.

And through that fulfillment, mercy is released.

The Law Is Established—Not Destroyed

The atonement does not abolish the law—it establishes it.

“Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.” — *Romans 3:31*

This is critical:

☞ The law is upheld



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Standard remains
Justice stands

But now...

☞ It is fulfilled in Christ.

The Legal Mind of God Is Revealed in Christ

Everything God required...

Christ fulfilled.

Everything the law demanded...

Christ satisfied.

Everything justice called for...

Christ answered.

“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.” —
Romans 10:4

Not the destruction of the law—

☞ The **fulfillment** of it.

Peace Is the Result of Perfect Justice

Because justice is satisfied, peace can now exist.

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord
Jesus Christ.” — *Romans 5:1*



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is not emotional—it is **legal and relational**.

- No accusation remains
- No debt remains
- No barrier remains

Peace is the fruit of a fully satisfied righteousness.

The Cross Is the Convergence of All Things

At the cross, everything comes together:

- Law and grace
- Justice and mercy
- Truth and love
- Judgment and restoration

This is not contradiction—

☞ This is **perfection**

Declaration

God is not divided.

His mind is one.

Justice has spoken.

Mercy has answered.

Righteousness has stood.

Peace has been released.



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heaven did not compromise—

☞ Heaven agreed.

Call to Action

Do not divide what God has joined.

See the unity of His mind.

Understand the perfection of His plan.

Rest in the finished work of Christ.

Because the atonement is not confusion—

☞ It is the perfect harmony of God.

CHAPTER 7 — RECONCILIATION: THE HEART OF THE ATONEMENT

God Was in Christ Reconciling the World

The cross was not merely an event—it was a revelation of God’s intention.

Not just to judge sin...

Not just to satisfy justice...

☞ But to **reconcile**.

“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing
 their trespasses unto them...” — *2 Corinthians 5:19*



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This changes everything.

The cross is not God turning away from man—
it is God **moving toward man**.

Reconciliation Means Restoration, Not Just Forgiveness

Forgiveness removes guilt.

Reconciliation restores **relationship**.

“And you, that were sometime alienated... yet now hath He reconciled.” —
Colossians 1:21–22

This is deeper than pardon:

- Not just forgiven
- But brought back
- Not just cleared
- But restored

👉 Reconciliation brings man back into **union with God**

The Scope of Reconciliation Is All Things

God’s purpose is not limited to individuals alone.

It extends further:



“And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself...” — *Colossians 1:20*

This is the breadth of the atonement:

- ☞ Not just some things
- ☞ Not just a few

☞ **All things**

The cross is not a partial solution—
it is a **universal purpose** unfolding.

The Ministry of Reconciliation Has Been Given

What God accomplished in Christ...
He now entrusts to His people.

“And hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.” — *2 Corinthians 5:18*

This means:

- We carry the message
- We reveal the truth
- We call others into union

We are not just saved—

- ☞ We are sent.

God Is Not Counting Sin Against Man

This is one of the most powerful revelations of the atonement:

“...not imputing their trespasses unto them...” — *2 Corinthians 5:19*

God is not standing at a distance counting sin—

☞ He has already acted in Christ to reconcile.

This does not ignore sin—

☞ It deals with it fully... so that reconciliation can take place.

Enmity Has Been Removed

Sin created hostility.

The cross removed it.

“Having slain the enmity thereby.” — *Ephesians 2:16*

The barrier is gone.

- No more division
- No more hostility
- No more separation

☞ The way back is open.



EN

reconciliation Brings Union

The goal of reconciliation is not distance—it is **union**.

“That they all may be one...” — *John 17:21*

God is not satisfied with proximity—

☞ He desires **oneness**

This is the heart of the atonement:

- God in Christ
- Christ in you
- All brought into unity

From Alienation to Sonship

Reconciliation does not just restore relationship—it restores identity.

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God...” — *1 John 3:2*

The alienated become sons.

The distant become family.

This is not religion—

☞ This is **restoration of identity**

The Atonement Is Fulfilled in Relationship



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ment ends at forgiveness, it remains incomplete.

But when it leads to reconciliation...

☞ It fulfills its purpose.

God's goal was never just to forgive man—

☞ It was to **bring man back into Himself**

Declaration

God was not against the world—

He was in Christ reconciling it.

The distance is gone.

The barrier is removed.

The enmity is slain.

The door is open.

And the call is clear—

☞ Come back into Him.

Call to Action

Receive reconciliation.



EN

is one separated—

restored.

Step into union.
Walk in sonship.
Carry the ministry.

Because the atonement is not just about what was removed—

☞ It is about what has been restored.

CHAPTER 8 — THE RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS

God's Plan Has Always Been Restoration

From the beginning, God's purpose was never loss—it was **fulfillment**.

Creation did not surprise Him.
The fall did not derail Him.
Sin did not defeat Him.

☞ God's plan has always been **restoration**.

“Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.”
— *Acts 3:21*

This is not a new idea—

☞ It has been spoken **since the world began**.



All Things Means All Things

The language of Scripture is not vague.

It does not say “some things.”

It does not say “a few things.”

☞ It says **all things**.

“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth...” —

Ephesians 1:10

Nothing is outside the scope of God’s purpose.

Everything is moving toward one conclusion:

☞ **Unity in Christ**

The Blood of the Cross Reaches Further Than We Think

The cross was not a small event—it was a **cosmic act**.

“Having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself...” — *Colossians 1:20*

The same blood that forgives sin...



...is all things.

This includes:

- Individuals
- Creation
- Heaven and earth

The reach of the cross is as wide as creation itself.

Every Knee Shall Bow

The restoration of all things is not optional—it is inevitable.

“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...” — *Philippians 2:10–11*

This is not forced submission—

☞ It is revealed truth.

Every knee bows because every eye sees.

Every tongue confesses because truth is unveiled.

God’s End Is Not Destruction—But Renewal

Many have believed that God’s final act is destruction.

But Scripture declares something greater:



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“...and he will make all things new.” — *Revelation 21:5*

God is not ending creation—

☞ He is **renewing it**

The goal is not annihilation—

☞ It is transformation.

The Restoration Includes Creation Itself

The fall affected more than man—it affected creation.

And restoration reaches just as far.

“Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.” — *Romans 8:21*

Creation is not abandoned—

☞ It is waiting.

Waiting for what?

☞ The manifestation of the sons of God.

From Division to Unity

Sin brought division:



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— God and man

- Man and creation
- Heaven and earth

But restoration brings everything back together.

▮ “That they all may be one...” — *John 17:21*

This is the direction of all things:

👉 From fragmentation → to **oneness**

The Fullness of Times Is the Key

God is not rushing—He is **unfolding**.

▮ “In the dispensation of the fulness of times...” — *Ephesians 1:10*

Everything is moving according to divine timing:

- Law
- Grace
- Fullness

And when fullness comes...

👉 Restoration is revealed in its completeness.

The Atonement Leads to a Restored Universe



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ent is not just about saving individuals—

☞ It is about restoring **the whole order of things**

- Death undone
- Separation removed
- Creation renewed
- All things gathered into Christ

This is the full vision.

Declaration

Nothing is lost.

Nothing is forgotten.

Nothing is outside His plan.

The cross has spoken.

The blood has reached.

The purpose is set.

And the end is clear—

☞ All things restored in Christ.

Call to Action

Lift your vision.

Do not see redemption as small—see it as God sees it.



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Thinking with His purpose.

Let your understanding expand.

Walk in the light of restoration.

Because the atonement is not just about your salvation—

👉 It is about the restoration of all things.

CHAPTER 9 — THE DEATH OF DEATH: THE FINAL ENEMY DESTROYED

Death Entered Through Sin—but It Will Not Remain

Death was not part of God's original design—it entered through sin.

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin...” —
Romans 5:12

From that moment, death became the shadow over humanity:

- Separation from God
- Corruption in the body
- Fear in the mind

But death, though it entered...

👉 **was never meant to remain.**



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Reigned—but Only for a Time

After Adam, death took dominion.

“Death reigned from Adam to Moses...” — *Romans 5:14*

It ruled over:

- Generations
- Nations
- Every human life

But its reign was temporary.

Because even while death reigned...

☞ God had already planned its destruction.

Christ Confronted Death Directly

Jesus did not avoid death—He **entered into it**.

“That through death He might destroy him that had the power of death...” —
Hebrews 2:14

This is the wisdom of God:

☞ He used death to defeat death.

The cross was not just suffering—

☞ It was confrontation.



The Resurrection Declares Death Defeated

If the cross is the battle...

☞ The resurrection is the victory.

“Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over Him.” — *Romans 6:9*

This is the turning point:

- Death held man
- But it could not hold Christ

And what could not hold Him...

☞ Cannot hold what is in Him.

Death Is the Last Enemy—Not the Final Authority

Scripture is clear:

“The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.” — *1 Corinthians 15:26*

Death is not eternal.

Death is not sovereign.

Death is not the end.

☞ Death is an **enemy**—and enemies are defeated.



Death Will Be Swallowed Up in Victory

The victory over death is not partial—it is complete.

“Death is swallowed up in victory.” — *1 Corinthians 15:54*

Swallowed up means:

- Not managed
- Not tolerated
- Not coexisting

☛ Consumed

Death does not remain alongside life—

☛ Life overtakes it completely.

The Sting of Death Has Been Removed

Death’s power came from sin.

“The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.” — *1 Corinthians 15:56*

But through Christ:

- Sin is dealt with
- The law is fulfilled
- The sting is removed



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☛ Death has lost its power.

Death and Hell Will Be Cast Into the Fire

The final picture of death is not its reign—but its end.

“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.” —
Revelation 20:14

Death itself is judged.

This means:

☞ The very thing that held humanity...
will itself be destroyed.

Life Is the Final Word

From beginning to end, God’s answer is not death—

☞ It is life.

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” — *1 Corinthians*
15:22

Death entered through one man...

☞ But life comes through another.

And life is greater.



The Atonement Reaches Its Climax

The atonement does not stop at forgiveness.
It does not stop at reconciliation.

☞ It reaches its climax in this:

- Death destroyed
- Life established
- Victory revealed

This is the full triumph of Christ.

Declaration

Death entered—
but it will not remain.

Death reigned—
but its reign is over.

The grave has lost its claim.
The sting has been removed.
The enemy is defeated.

And the final word is not death—

☞ The final word is LIFE.



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Action

Do not fear what Christ has defeated.

See death for what it is—
a defeated enemy.

Stand in the victory of Christ.
Walk in the life He has revealed.

Because the atonement is not just about removing sin—

👉 It is about destroying death.

CHAPTER 10 — THE ATONEMENT FULFILLED IN THE SONS

The Atonement Was Never Meant to Remain External

The cross is not just something that happened **for you**—

👉 It is something meant to be revealed **in you**.

If the atonement remains only external, it stays incomplete in experience.

But God's purpose goes further:

| "Christ in you, the hope of glory." — *Colossians 1:27*



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work is not just a past event—

☞ It is a present reality unfolding within His people.

From Substitution to Manifestation

Christ first stood **for us**...

Now He lives **in us**.

This is the progression:

- Substitution → He died in our place
- Resurrection → He rose in power
- Manifestation → He lives through His sons

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” — *Romans 8:14*

The atonement does not end with what Christ did—

☞ It continues in what Christ **becomes in His people**.

The Manifestation of the Sons of God

Creation itself is waiting for this moment.

“For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.” — *Romans 8:19*



Because the sons are the carriers of:

- Life
- Restoration
- Dominion

The atonement is fulfilled when what Christ accomplished...

☞ Is revealed through a people.

As He Is, So Are We

The work of Christ is not distant from us—it defines us.

| “As He is, so are we in this world.” — *1 John 4:17*

This is not imitation—

☞ This is participation.

What He is...
we are becoming.

The New Creation Reality

The atonement produces something entirely new.

| “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, all things are become new.” — *2 Corinthians 5:17*



This is not improvement—

☞ This is transformation.

- Old identity → gone
- New life → revealed
- New nature → established

Sons Walk in the Life of Christ

The life that conquered death is now active in His people.

“If the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you... He shall also quicken your mortal bodies...” — *Romans 8:11*

This means:

- Life over death
- Spirit over flesh
- Victory over limitation

The same power that raised Christ...

☞ Now works in the sons.

The Atonement Produces Dominion

From the beginning, God’s purpose was dominion.



have dominion...” — *Genesis 1:26*

The atonement restores what was lost:

- Authority
- Identity
- Rule under God

This is not carnal domination—

☞ This is **life ruling through righteousness**

A People Who Carry the Full Counsel of God

The sons are not just saved—

☞ They are **revealed**

They understand:

- The law
- The cross
- The resurrection
- The reconciliation
- The restoration

They carry the full counsel of God.

The Fulfillment of All Things in a People

Everything God has done through Christ...



☞ Is now revealed through His body.

“Till we all come... unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.” — *Ephesians 4:13*

This is the goal:

- Christ fully formed
 - A people fully matured
 - The fullness revealed
-

God All in All

This is the final vision:

“That God may be all in all.” — *1 Corinthians 15:28*

The atonement leads here:

- Nothing outside of Him
- Nothing separated from Him
- Everything brought into Him

This is the end of the plan—

☞ **God filling all things**

Declaration



The work is finished.

The life is given.

The sons are arising.

What Christ accomplished—
is now being revealed.

The cross has spoken.
The grave has been defeated.
The Spirit is moving.

And the earth will see—

☞ The sons of God walking in life.

Call to Action

Do not remain a spectator—become a participant.

Receive the life of Christ.

Walk in your identity.

Step into sonship.

Because the atonement is not just something to believe—

☞ It is something to **become**.

☞ Enter into the fullness.

☞ Walk in the revelation.

☞ Live in the finished work.



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Download the full book and step into the Full Counsel of God

The Atonement: — *By Carl Timothy Wray*



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