

Listen, watch, or read the sermon on the website if you missed it. Turn to the back for an outline of the sermon.

This week's reading in the 2015/16 reading plan includes:

Ice Breaker: What is an attribute of God that has been personal to you this month?

1. Discuss anything that jumped out at you in your private devotions this week.
2. While many people struggle with the sight of blood and it is often associated with pagan practices, God actually requires blood as a penalty for sin. Read Hebrews 9:18-28. How should this shape our view of blood?
3. Leviticus 16 provides a very detailed picture of how the priests were to atone for the sins of Israel. While not being legalistic, we also need to avoid trivializing worship. How should our attitude be when we come to corporately worship God?
 - a. Consider Psalm 99, Isaiah 29:13, Romans 12:1, 1 Samuel 15:22
4. The message highlighted that the noun or verb form of the word atonement is used twenty times in Leviticus 16. While atonement was necessary for the continued wellbeing of the ancient Israelites, it is just as necessary for us.
 - a. Read Romans 3:21-26. Jesus performed the final atonement for sin, but what is required for this atonement to be applied to each individual?
5. Though we all struggle with sin, it is often tempting to minimize the severity of our sin. Read Hebrews 10:26-31, and then discuss the danger of deliberately continuing in sin (no matter how one may justify it).
 - a. Is there sin that you are deliberately continuing in that requires your repentance and confession?
 - b. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. How is Christian fellowship a deterrent for sin?
6. As part of the atonement process, Aaron was to purify various objects and locations in the tent of meeting (Leviticus 16:15-16). What objects, places, or body parts do we need to purify before we can use them to worship the Lord?
 - a. Consider James 3:6-10, 1 Thess 5:23-24, Romans 6:12-14.

Sermon Idea: “Our relationship with God is only possible through Christ’s atonement for us.”

Atonement — “That the Bible’s central message is atonement, that is, that God has provided a way for humankind to come back into harmonious relation with him, is everywhere apparent in Scripture. From the first stories in Genesis to the last visions of Revelation, God seeks to reconcile his people to himself.”

Walter Elwell, *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*

I. We will never be able to come to God on our own terms. (vv 1-5)

- A. God is holy. (Ps. 24:3; Isa. 6:3; Ps. 99:9)
- B. Nadab and Abihu tried to approach God on their own terms. (vv 1-2; Lev. 10:1-11)
- C. What does it say to you that God struck these men dead for entering the Holy of Holies in a casual manner?
 - 1. Uzza and the ark of God. (2 Sam. 6:1-7)
 - 2. Moses in the cleft of the rock. (Exodus 33:17-23)
 - 3. God, who dwells in unapproachable light. (1 Tim. 6:15)
- D. God gave the prescription for how and when Aaron was to enter the Holy of Holies in the ceremony of the Day of Atonement.

II. We can be made right with God only through Christ’s work in reconciling us. (vv 11-28)

- A. The sin offering of the bull.
 - 1. Preparation of the priest.
 - 2. Preparation of the holy places.
- B. The sin offering of the bull and first goat are pictures of the propitiation (Ro. 3:25)
- C. The scapegoat is a picture of Christ’s expiation in atonement. (Heb. 9:24-26)
- D. Another term of atonement is redemption which is the idea is some one purchasing us out of bondage that we can’t buy ourselves. (Ro. 3:23; 1 Peter 1:18)
- E. A fourth term of atonement is reconciliation which bridges the gulf of separation between God and man. (Ro. 5:10; 2 Cor. 5:19)

III. We are to worship God and pursue purity in response to Christ’s atoning work. (vv 29-34)

- A. Our response to Christ’s atonement should be awe over God’s holiness.
- B. Our response to Christ’s atonement should be devotion and obedience.