

Big Bible Words with Big Meaning "Propitiation"

Introduction:

1. As you study your Bible, there are two invaluable tools that will assist you.
 - First, a thorough Bible dictionary
 - Second, a good English dictionary
2. Many times you will be reading God's Word and encounter big words that you do not know the meaning of. This is true of any book.
 - But we know that every word of the Bible is God's Word, therefore it is crucial that we understand what we are reading.
3. There are some big words in the Bible that are absolutely crucial to your salvation and spiritual growth.
4. For the next few weeks we will examine and explain some of these words that are absolutely essential that you understand. Your Christian life will not operate on the basis of ignorance. Paul said in **Colossians 1:9**, "...that ye might be filled..."
5. The first word I want to focus on is the word "propitiation."
6. Let's look at this word as it is used in several verses. **Romans 3:25;**
1 John 2:2, 4:10

First, what does the word propitiation mean?

1. Webster's 1828 Dictionary - "Appeasing the wrath of and conciliating the favor of an offended person."
2. Webster's online dictionary defines the verb "propitiate" as "gaining the favor of."
3. Let's sum up a definition of propitiation: the act of appeasing one offended and gaining his favor.

Second, why do I need a propitiation?

1. You and I need a propitiation because we have **offended** the God of heaven.
2. God gave His law as a righteous standard and we have broken it.
Romans 3:19-20
 - The law reveals our rebellion and sin against God and cries out, "**Guilty.**"
3. **Romans 5:20** says that the law entered that the offence might abound. God gave us His written law to reveal clearly how we have offended a holy God.
4. **Colossians 1:21** declares that we are alienated from God by wicked works. God hates sin and cannot fellowship with sin. A holy God **must** punish sin and pour out His wrath on sin. **Romans 6:23** says that the wages of sin is death.
5. Where does this leave us? **Ephesians 5:3-6** makes it abundantly clear. We are left to incur the wrath and judgment of Almighty God.
6. Would you say we need a propitiator? Do we need someone who can propitiate, that is appease God (the offended party) on our behalf and place us in favor with Him?

Third, who is the propitiation for my sins?

1. **1 Timothy 2:5** declares, *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*
 - The Bible is clear - only one person is qualified to propitiate to God on our behalf. That person is Jesus Christ.
2. What did Christ do to propitiate for our sins? Look at the next verse, *"Who gave himself a ransom for all..."* **1 Timothy 2:6**
 - This matches **1 John 2:2**. This propitiatory work by Christ to God was for all men. In fact, this is the reason Christ came into this world.
1 John 4:10
3. Jesus **satisfied** the demands of a holy God by keeping the law. He never sinned one time. Christ then willingly paid the penalty for our sin by dying on the cross.
4. Christ took the full wrath of God against sin so that we would not have to incur it. When we fully deserved the wrath of God for our sin, Christ propitiated that wrath on the cross. **Romans 5:8-9**
 - Because He was sinless and spotless, His sacrifice was completely acceptable and satisfying to God.
5. A great illustration of propitiation is found in the Old Testament when on the Day of Atonement the high priest of Israel would enter in the holy of holies with the blood of a bullock.
 - There in front of him was the ark of the covenant (a chest that looked like a coffin). In it were the tables of the law which Israel had broken over and over again.
 - Above the ark was the covering cherubims and God's glory was said to dwell between them. You have a holy God, a broken law, and, in between, a mercy seat (same word as propitiation). There the high priest would sprinkle the blood. Now the blood stood between a holy God and the broken law. The blood was an atonement, a propitiation for the sins of Israel.
 - God's offended justice could only be propitiated by the blood that was sprinkled.
6. All of this was a shadow of the final once-for-all sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.

Fourth, how do I apply the propitiation of Christ to my life?

1. Christ has done a marvelous work on your behalf. How do you apply it to your life so that you are at peace with God? **Romans 3:25, 28, 5:1**
2. The Bible is clear. You apply it to your heart by faith in Jesus Christ. The moment that you believe and trust that His sacrifice was enough to propitiate for your sins, God fully forgives you of all sin and brings you into a place of peace with Himself.
3. You now have a restored relationship with God. It has nothing to do with your religious works or rituals you performed or church you joined. It is only because you have a propitiator who made a propitiation for your sin!

4. God is fully satisfied with the sacrifice Christ made for sin. When you rest in Him and trust Him and believe that what Christ did was fully sufficient, you and God are now in full agreement and He saves and forgives you based on what Christ did on the cross.
5. Have you trusted Christ? Have you simply believed totally on Him to save you from the wrath of God and make you at peace with God? If not, you need desperately to trust Him today.

