**Related to God through propitiation**

**Brief Review**

In the last several weeks, we said,

1. An understanding of the identification truths is essential to grasping the meaning of our unfathomable riches in Christ (Ephesians 1:3; 3:8).
2. In Christ, we have redemption and forgiveness, so as to be justified – declared righteous (Romans 3:24; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14)
3. Having been justified – declared righteous by and before God – we who believe and are therefore in Christ are under no condemnation

The one who believes is, by God’s doing, placed into Christ (1 Corinthians 1:30). The New Testament speaks of the believer being ‘in Christ’, ‘in Christ Jesus’, ‘in Him’, ‘in Whom’, ‘in the Beloved’, and similar ‘in Christ’ statements at least 164 times.

In the heavenlies, in Christ, to the credit and praise of God the Father, we are blessed with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3).

Having explored the words above, we now come to the word **propitiation**: the satisfaction of God’s character of infinite holiness, righteousness and justice. By the satisfaction of God’s character, God is free to express His grace and love toward us and establish a relationship with us. Propitiation is included in the following four New Testament passages:

Romans 3:21-26 (NASU: what God did in and through Christ)

But now apart from the Law [of Moses] the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified [declared righteous] as a gift by His grace through the redemption [fully buying us out of the slave market] which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a **propitiation** in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; 26 for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just [His character] and the justifier [the one who declares righteous] of the one who has faith in Jesus.

From Hebrews 2:17 to 9:25 Christ is our high priest, after the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 2:17 (NASU: what Christ does as our High Priest)

Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make **propitiation** for the sins of the people.

Christ the righteous is our Advocate before the Father.

1 John 2:1, 2 (NASU: What Christ does as our Advocate)

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the **propitiation** for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

The above passage says that Christ is the propitiation for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 4:10 (NASU: because God loved us)

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent [***apostello***] His Son to be the **propitiation** for our sins.

Christ did not come to just do a bunch of ‘good stuff’. He was sent on a special mission [***apostello***] to be the propitiation – the satisfaction of God’s infinitely righteous, just and holy character – for our sins.

How was God motivated to come to the place of having Christ be the propitiation for our sins?

How about after the propitiation is completed – is God still motivated, and is He motivated for relationship with us?

How are we related to God through propitiation, and how many different ways?