



The Believer's Unfathomable Riches in Christ

by J. Hampton Keathley III - <https://bible.org/article/believer's-unfathomable-riches-christ>

The Position & Possessions of the Believer

1. In the Eternal Plan of God
2. Reconciled
3. Redeemed
4. No Condemnation
5. **Related to God Through Propitiation (the satisfaction of God's holiness)**
6. All Sins Removed by His Efficacious Blood
7. Vitally Joined Together with Christ for Judgment of the Old Self "Unto a New Walk"
8. Free from the Law
9. Children of God
10. Adopted (placed as adult sons)
11. Acceptable to God by Jesus Christ
12. Justified
13. Forgiven all Trespass
14. Made Nigh (Close)
15. Delivered from the Powers of Darkness
16. Translated into the Kingdom of the Son of His love
17. On the rock, Christ Jesus
18. A gift from God the Father to Christ
19. Circumcised in Christ
20. Partakers of the Holy and Royal Priesthood
21. Chosen Generation, A Holy Nation, and a People of God's Own Possession
22. Having Access to God
23. Within the "Much More" Care of God
24. His Inheritance
25. Our Inheritance
26. A Heavenly Association
27. Heavenly Citizens
28. Of the Family and Household of God
29. Light of the Lord
30. Vitally United to the Father, Son and Spirit
31. Blessed with the "First-Fruits" and the "Earnest" of the Spirit
32. Glorified
33. Complete in Him
34. Possessing Every Spiritual Blessing



Related to God Through a Propitiation (the satisfaction of God's holiness)

Romans 3:24-26 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption 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, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (adjective hilasterion the gift of divine love for the salvation of men - from Word Pictures in the New Testament – Vine)*

Hebrews 9:5 And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the **mercyseat**; of which we cannot now speak particularly. *(the place, adjective hilasterion)*



Related to God Through a Propitiation (the satisfaction of God's holiness)

1 John 2:2 and He Himself is the **propitiation** for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world*. (*noun hilasmos*)

1 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be the propitiation* for our sins. (*noun hilasmos*)



Related to God Through a Propitiation (the satisfaction of God's holiness)

Hebrews 2:17 Therefore, He had to be like His brothers in every way, so that He could become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, to make **propitiation** for the sins of the people.

(verbal infinitive, present indirect middle of hilaskomai to render propitious to oneself)

Luke 18:13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even raise his eyes to heaven but kept striking his chest and saying, '**God, turn Your wrath from me *be propitiated* - a *the* sinner!**'

(verb 1st aorist passive imperative of hilaskomai)



Related to God Through a Propitiation Perspective: Propitiation & Reconciliation

PROPITIATION

... the **Godward** effect or value of the cross. Since Christ has died, **God is propitious** *as satisfier and satisfaction*. This truth is the heart of the gospel and that which is to be believed.

RECONCILIATION

... the **manward** effect and value of the cross. Since the word **signifies a complete change**, the term cannot be applied properly to God who is immutable, but it does apply to man, who by the death of Christ is **placed in a changed relation to God and to His judgments against man**. By his own choice *by faith in the person and work of Christ* man may be **turned about or converted** respecting the rightful claims of God upon him.



Related to God Through a Propitiation Perspective: Propitiation & Reconciliation

PROPITIATION

The word means “**satisfaction**” and is the **Godward** aspect of Salvation. It means **God is completely satisfied with the work of His Son as the adequate solution** to the problems raised by sin (Rom 3:25, 1 John 2:2, 4:10). God is now “**kindly disposed**” toward the sinner because **the sin issue has been met and solved at Calvary.**

RECONCILIATION

This is the **manward** aspect of salvation. The sinner is “**changed completely**” and brought back into adjustment with an offended God (Rom 5:10, 2 Cor 5:18-20). **A rebel from God, he is now restored to the divine favor.**



Related to God Through a Propitiation Perspective: Propitiation & Reconciliation

PROPITIATION

The death of Christ propitiated God, averting His wrath and enabling Him to receive in His family those who place their faith in the one who **satisfied** Him. The extent of the propitiatory work of Christ is the whole world (**1 John 2:2**), and the basis of propitiation is His shed blood (**Rom 3:25**).

RECONCILIATION

To reconcile means **to change**. Reconciliation by the death of Christ means that man's state of alienation from God is changed so that he is now able to be saved (**2 Cor 5:19**). When a man believes, then his former state of alienation from God is changed into one of being a member of His family.



Related to God Through a Propitiation Perspective: Propitiation & Reconciliation

Closely connected ... seem to be related to each other as cause and effect: Christ's death "**propitiated**" God, and as a result He is "**reconciled**" (*Rom 5:10, 2 Cor 5:18-19, Eph 2:16*)

... God and man stood face to face... In sinning, Adam turned his back upon God. Then God turned His back upon Adam. Christ's death has **satisfied** the demands of God and now God has again turned His face toward man. It remains for man to turn round about and face God. Since God has been **reconciled** by the death of His Son, man is now entreated to be **reconciled** to God.



Related to God Through a Propitiation Perspective: Propitiation & Reconciliation

...God has reconciled to himself not only man, but also all things in heaven and on earth (*Col 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.*)... it is undoubtedly due to this reconciliation that God sends temporal blessings upon the unsaved (*Mt 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. Rom 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*), that an opportunity is extended to man to repent (*2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*), and that heaven and earth will at last be delivered from the results of the fall.

Source: **Introductory Lectures in Systematic Theology, The Work of Christ: His Death – Its True Meaning and Extent**, by **Henry Clarence Thiessen**, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co, Grand Rapids 1959, pp 324-330



Related to God Through a Propitiation

Perspective: Old Testament

The mercy seat is a throne of grace because of there being propitiation. Sacrificial blood sprinkled on the lid of the ark, where Jehovah's presence was to be found, changed what would otherwise be a scene of awful judgment to one filled with mercy, making it in a measure the mercy seat. However, animal blood was efficacious only to the extent that it provided a just ground on which God could pass over the sins until Christ should come and shed His own blood for them. God was propitiated aforetime merely to the extent of deferring judgment. For this measure of grace nevertheless it was reasonable to pray (*cf. Luke 18:13 (HCSB) But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even raise his eyes to heaven but kept striking his chest and saying, 'God, turn Your wrath from me be propitiated - a the sinner!').*



Related to God Through a Propitiation Perspective: New Testament

Christ by having His own blood sprinkled, as it were, over His body at Golgotha, becomes the Mercy Seat in reality. **He is the Propitiator** and **has made propitiation** by so answering the just demands of God's holiness against sin that heaven is rendered propitious ***satisfied***. This fact of **propitiation existing is to be believed**.

...Attention should be called to the fact that God saves a sinner or restores a saint without striking a blow or even offering a word of criticism. It is too often supposed that human repentance and sorrow soften the heart of God and render Him propitious. This can not be true. It is the legal fact that Christ has borne all sin which renders God propitious.

God is propitious; thus all the burden is taken off sinner or Christian, only leaving him to **believe** that through Christ's bearing his sin **God is propitious *satisfied***.