

# Propitiation

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“Whom God hath set forth to be a **propitiation** through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;”  
Romans 3:25

“And he is the **propitiation** for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”  
1 John 2:2

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

Propitiate means to win someone’s favor; to appease or conciliate someone or something.

The only form of this word shows up in scriptures “propitiation” in three passages. The word conciliate has the meaning: to work with opposing parties with the goal of bringing them to an agreement or reconciliation. So, propitiation is a word closely related to reconciliation. The reconciliation of mankind to God is by the propitiation of Christ; whereby we have our sins remitted, Romans 3:25. Therefore Jesus Christ is the propitiation for our sins, 1 John 2:2.

The fact that Christ’s death was for all men, not just a select few as the Calvinist would have you believe shows up here in this word propitiation. A close study of this word and the passages where it is found; shows that God’s forbearance is contained in Christ’s propitiation, but only effectually conducive “...through faith in his blood...”. In other words, God did His part. Our part is to have faith in his blood as sufficient for God to forbear our sins. This word forbearance means: patience, tolerance, or self-control, especially in not responding to provocation; and the fact of deliberately not doing or saying something when you could do or say it; and in law the fact of not exercising a legal right, especially of not insisting on payment of a debt at the due date and giving the debtor more time to pay, all sum up the act of God’s forbearance in Christ.

God is satisfied with Christ’s payment for the sin debt of man kind. All of man kind! The key to this is who we are after salvation: we are the sons of God; because we are located, IN CHRIST as opposed to being IN ADAM. We therefore have two natures, like Christ: he was the Son of Man, and the Son of God. We are In Adam and we are In Christ. I speak of we that are saved. The lost are only In Adam.

The propitiation of Christ for our sins goes further than for just the Church of blood bought sinners; but this extends to the sins of the whole world! This would be all the people from Adam to the last person ever born. It not only expands the element of time, but also any preconceived notions of Calvinism, Mormonism, or any other cultic heretical teaching.

Propitiation can be summed up in this word: “Satisfied!” That is God is satisfied with Christ’s payment for sin. So, on the one hand Christ has met God’s demand for conciliation. Now man is given the gospel message, to be reconciled to God through Christ. We have to also be satisfied with Christ’s payment for OUR sins personally and individually. When we receive Christ as our savior we are doing just that! Thereby bringing us personally in favor with God; but not by our own works, Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” It is by Christ’s works alone; therefore, receiving Christ is no work of self-righteousness, but only a right choice. It is not by the righteousness of the law that this can be equate to; else the Bible would be a vain book; and not the true as it is.

The serious Bible believer will always understand the Bible to be: 1. self-interpreting and 2. never contradicts and 3 always true. If we find a problem with scriptures, the problem is we have that passage in the wrong place, or appropriating it to the wrong people, or assuming something in the verse that is not there or not paying attention to details like the words: “as” or “like” and therefore stumble at the word.

In the case of words like propitiation, sanctification, redemption, forbearance, and reconciliation, we have even more reason to pay close attention, because much is contained within these words, and they are linked together in meaning and doctrine.

Lets break down the word pro-pitia-tion: Pro: an argument in favor of a proposal or position and a person or side in a debate, argument, or campaign that is in favor of a proposal or proposition. This is like what a lawyer would be doing for you in court.

The word contains pit: in this way: to set somebody or something up in opposition to somebody or something else, this understanding is like pitting to opposing sides against one another, however in the word PRO-pit, would have a positive undertaking in this. The fact that there was already two sides and that Jesus Takes OUR side, is evident in the passages related. The suffix -ation is an action or the process, or the result of it. The one thing that is missing in this is the second I in the middle. This would be the connecting letter between the two parts of the word: Propit-I-ation. Jesus is the Pro Pit of ME in action! The Lord is ready to defend, YOU, and take YOUR side in the pitting of any against you. Your chief advocate and defense councilor is Jesus Christ; who is against Satan and for YOU. Satan is the accuser of the brethren. But thank God, Jesus Christ is our propitiation!