

The Work of Jesus

The Christmas holidays generally conjure up fanciful thoughts about Jesus in the minds of the world. Jesus is seen as a baby lying in a manger with messages of peace accompanying the scene. While the scene and the statements of peace are entirely correct (not the celebration of His birth), the world's view of the peace Jesus offers is often skewed. Let us consider the work of Jesus that result in man's peace with God for a moment.

Does Jesus Have a Current Work?

The author of Hebrews speaks of Christ's work saying, "*For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is necessary that this high priest (Jesus) also have somewhat to offer*" (Heb. 8:3). While it is given that Jesus made a one time sacrifice for sins (Heb. 10:14), it is also understood that Christ's work continues today. Again, the author of Hebrews states that as the first tabernacle had divine services that were to be accomplished even so the heavenly tabernacle has prescribed divine services that are to be perform (cf. Heb. 9:1ff). Since man continues to sin then Jesus continues to work for man's forgiveness. Consider Hebrews 7:25, "*Wherefore also he is able to save to the uttermost them that draw near unto God through him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*" Let us examine Jesus' divine service (work) in this article.

The Work of Jesus is Propitiation:

To make "*propitiation for the sins of the people*" is to reconcile sinful people to the God of light (cf. Heb. 2:17). The apostle John was addressing Christians (those who had obeyed the gospel and were 'in Christ') saying, "*and if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but for the whole world*" (I Jn. 2:1-2). This reconciling work of Jesus occurs through the sinner's penitent prayer (I Jn. 1:9).

The Work of Jesus is Aiding Sinful Man in Time of Need:

All mankind sins (Rom. 6:23) and are in need of aid. Jesus offers that aid. The author of Hebrews states, "*For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor (aid) them that are tempted*" (Heb. 2:18). Jesus understands our hour of temptation and is thereby ready to help. Again, we read, "*Let us therefore draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help us in time of need*" (Heb. 4:16). The Lord's help is found as He "*bears gently*" with the erring that they may

repent (Heb. 5:2). Thanks be to God that Jesus gives us aid and well timed help in our hour of need. He truly cares (cf. Jn. 10:11; 14:1, 18, 27; 16:1 etc.).

Concluding Thoughts:

The peace of Jesus is available to the world; however, it is a peace that is obtained by a life of obedient faith (cf. Jn. 3:36). Jesus stands ready and willing to work for any who would hear and obey the call of the gospel message (II Thess. 2:13ff). Those who are in Christ have the Lord Jesus working for their propitiation (forgiveness of sins and fellowship with God). Jesus is here to help in our time of need. Let us with humble hearts seek His forgiveness. Those who are not 'in Christ' have no current help. Why not call upon the help of Jesus today before it is everlasting to late? Obey the gospel today and become a Christian (If you would like more info. on what one must do to be a Christian please contact me at jcrobertson1@juno.com).

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