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Reformation
& Revival



A Quarterly Journal for Church Leadership

Volume 5, Number 1 • Winter 1996

The sufferings of our Savior were designed to display the glory of God as the moral ruler of the universe.

William Jay

“Reconciliation” in the New Testament sense is not something which we accomplish when we lay aside our enmity to God; it is something which God accomplished when in the death of Christ he put away everything that on his side meant estrangement.

James Denny

Great is the gospel of our glorious God,
Where mercy met the anger of God's rod;
A penalty was paid and pardon bought,
And sinners lost at last to him were brought.

W. Vernon Higham

To deny the necessity of the atonement is to deny the existence of a real moral order.

J. Gresham Machen

Christ discharged the debt of sin. He bore our sins and purged them. He did not make a token payment which God accepts in place of the whole. Our debts are not canceled; they are liquidated.

John Murray

What is offered to men in the gospel? It is not the possibility of salvation, not simply the opportunity of salvation. What is offered is salvation.

John Murray

Bibliography

Blocher, Henri. *Evil and the Cross*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1990. Blocher is professor of systematic theology at the evangelical seminary in Vaux-sur-Seine, France, and an excellent contemporary thinker and writer.

Brown, John. *The Sufferings and Glories of the Messiah*. Byron Center, Michigan: Sovereign Grace Publishers, 1970 reprint. This out-of-print volume is worth its weight in pure gold. It is an exposition of Psalm 18 and Isaiah 52:13-53:12. If you find anything by John Brown buy or borrow it, read it at least once, and meditate upon it.

Bruner, Emil. *The Mediator*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1947. The now famous professor of theology in Zurich, the late Bruner was a leading voice of European neoorthodoxy in the first half of this century. Though his writings must be used carefully this volume has some excellent material on the Mediator's death that should be read by seriously trained theologians.

Calvin, John. *Sermons on the Saving Work of Christ*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1980 reprint. Calvin's sermons are even better than his commentaries in some ways. Here is preaching at its best!

Charnock, Stephen. *Christ Crucified*. Lynchburg, Virginia: James Family Christian Publishing, n.d. This book, sometimes in print, sometimes out of print (as now), is worth finding. Charnock is one of the warmest and easier-to-read Puritans.

Charnock, Stephen. *Christ Our Passover*. Evansville, Indiana: Sovereign Grace Book Club, 1959 reprint. Another out-of-print Puritan classic worth finding.

Clark, Gordon. *The Atonement*. Jefferson, Maryland: The Trin-

ity Foundation. The late philosopher-theologian wrote more than forty books. He often makes the complex clear, as in this volume.

Cousar, Charles. *A Theology of the Cross: The Death of Jesus in the Pauline Letters*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1990. Cousar, professor of New Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia, is a first-rate scholar, and this is a useful technical work for scholars of the Pauline writings.

*Denny, James. *The Death of Christ*. London: Tyndale Press, 1951. This is the twentieth-century classic on this subject, along with the works of Leon Morris listed below. It is not always in print but can be found in used book stores.

Finlayson, R. A. *The Cross in the Experience of Our Lord*. Ross-shire, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 1993 reprint, 1953. A compelling but simple book that will deepen devotion to the Lord of Calvary.

Green, Michael. *The Empty Cross of Jesus*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1984. The author writes, "If it is true that God almighty was in Christ redeeming the world on Calvary, then we need to understand what that cross can mean for ordinary individuals and communities." The book sets out to do this in readable form.

Hengel, Martin. *Crucifixion*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1977. If you want to understand crucifixion itself then this is the source. Preachers and teachers of all kinds will profit from this small book.

*Hengel, Martin. *The Atonement: The Origins of the Doctrine in the New Testament*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1981. Hengel argues in a scholarly fashion that the doctrine of the atoning

death of Jesus, contrary to some modernistic views, can be traced back to the sayings of Jesus Himself. He explores a wide range of views from classical antiquity and shows just how widespread "dying for" actually was in the time of the New Testament. Ultimately he grounds his conclusions in the writings of the Gospels themselves. A significant book for theologically trained leaders.

Hodge, A. A. *The Atonement*. Memphis, Tennessee: Footstool Publications, reprint of 1867 edition. This book, now a classic of sorts, looks at the nature and design of the Atonement in two major sections of a 440-page work.

Kuiper, R. B. *For Whom Did Christ Die?* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1959. This little gem is often in and out of print. Kuiper taught at both Calvin and Westminster seminaries, and says more in one hundred pages than almost anyone on this subject of the design of the Atonement.

Martin, Hugh. *The Shadow of Calvary*. Carlisle, Pennsylvania: Banner of Truth, 1983 reprint. A popular, homiletical and richly profitable book. The late Professor John Murray held this Scotsman's work in highest esteem.

*McDonald, H. D. *The Atonement of the Death of Christ*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985. Expounded and explored in this massive volume are more than eighty-five views of the Atonement, ranging from Clement of Rome to Donald Bloesch. Both Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox views are surveyed, along with Protestant, both heterodox and orthodox. This is a volume of immense worth for all who would do serious study of the doctrine of the Cross and the atoning work of Christ.

McDonald, H. D. *New Testament Concept of Atonement: The Gospel of the Calvary Event*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.

McDonald makes his case for the view of the Atonement that he holds in this small volume. Valuable.

*McGrath, Alister E. *Luther's Theology of the Cross*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1985. Truly a remarkable and seminal study by one of the foremost scholars of the history and theology of the Reformation era, this book should be read by pastors and scholars both. To understand Luther's theology of the Cross is to get at the very heart of the Reformer's message of grace.

McGrath, Alister E. *The Mystery of the Cross*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988. Writes McGrath, "It was the cross on the hill rather than the Sermon on the Mount which produced the impact of Christianity upon the world." This being the case McGrath gives us an important *popular* treatment of the theology of the Cross given in full measure in the previous title.

McGrath, Alister E. *What Was God Doing on the Cross?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992. This book, written, as McGrath says, "for the needs of ordinary Christians" is another extremely useful popular work from the Oxford scholar.

*Morris, Leon. *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1955. The most important exegetical work in our generation, this work has gone through several revisions and is a must for pastors and students of the text of the New Testament. Surveys the subject by looking at key terms: Redemption, covenant, blood, Lamb of God, Propitiation, Reconciliation and Justification. Highly recommended!

Morris, Leon. *The Cross in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965. A massive survey of the entire New Testament on the subject of the Cross, taking each author in his own context and theological genre.

*Murray, John. *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1955. This volume, originally a series of essays for a lay Presbyterian magazine, has become a standard in the field and is highly recommended. The title sums up the emphasis very well.

*Owen, John. *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ*. Carlisle, Pennsylvania: Banner of Truth, 1967. This is volume 10 in the *Works of John Owen*. It is the best reasoned defense of definite Atonement in print. All who take the matter of Propitiation seriously, as they should, need to read Owen's arguments before they decide against limited Atonement. (J. I. Packer's introduction is worth the price of this volume.)

Peterson, Robert A. *Calvin's Doctrine of the Atonement*. Phillipsburg, New Jersey, 1983. This work treats the Atonement, as did Calvin, from the standpoint of Christ's offices as prophet, priest and king. J. I. Packer commends this book as "a fine contribution to modern Calvin studies."

*Spring, Gardiner. *The Attraction of the Cross*. Carlisle, Pennsylvania: Banner of Truth, 1983 reprint. Christ crucified and risen is the Gospel, but few preachers in our day understand the event and the doctrine of Calvary. Spring will feed the springs of solid preaching. Read him, pastor!

*Stott, John R. W. *The Cross of Christ*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1986. It is rare that a book can be called a classic in its first ten years after publication, but this book fits the description. This is a fresh, exegetically based and theologically erudite work. It is a must read among the twentieth-century treatments, comparable, in a different way, to J. I. Packer's twenty-year old classic, *Knowing God*.

Turretin, Francis. *The Atonement of Christ*. Grand Rapids:

Bibliography

Baker, 1978 reprint. Turretin (1623-87), was the greatest second-generation Reformation scholar and pastor of the Italian congregation in Geneva (1648) and professor of theology at the Geneva Academy (1653). His *Institutes* (1674) shaped generations of minds and hearts in the Reformed tradition. This translation of the original Latin reads easily. The work itself is most important.

*Wells, Tom. *A Price for a People*. Carlisle, Pennsylvania: Banner of Truth, 1992. The very best popular survey of the doctrine of the Atonement with special attention given to the question of the design of the Atonement. Highly recommended for both pastors and lay readers.

Editor

*Highly recommended.