

Propitiation: A Word Study

(I John 2:2)

1. The Location of the Word – “Propitiation” (hilasmos)

- Cross references – I John 4:10; verbal form – Luke 18:13, Hebrews 2:17; another form – Hebrews 9:5
- Immediate Context – I John 2:1,2
 - the purpose of the Word
 - the probability for humanity
 - the provision from heaven
 - the right position
 - the right person
 - the right payment

2. The Meaning of the Word

A. Pagan Culture – to satisfy an angry God with Gifts or sacrifices.

B. “Holiness” not “Wrath”

- As propitiation Jesus is the gift that satisfies God’s Holiness. (see Hebrews 9:22)
- Jesus satisfies the demands of the broken law

- The logic of propitiation:
 - an offense to be removed
 - offended person to be dealt with
 - offender must be pardoned
 - sacrifices must be offered for the pardon

C. A “Loving” God not an “angry” God – God provides the payment that is owed to God – (*see 2 Corinthians 5:18,19*)

D. The Results of the propitiation

- Saints can be forgiven (2:2)
- Sinners can be saved (2:2)
- Strength can be found (Hebrews 4:16)

3. An Illustration of Propitiation

- Hebrews 9:5 - propitiation as “mercy seat”
- The Day of Atonement (Lev. 16): high priests; two goats; the Mercy seat
- The mercy covered the tablets of stone