

Real life – Real faith

Part three: “But wait, there’s more!”

Reflection and study notes on 1 John 2:1-2

1 John 2

¹My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense— Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU

“The Lord Our Righteousness”

Jer 23: 5 – 6 33:16. From

“tsidek” (straight, stiff, balanced - as on scales – full weight, justice, right, righteous, declared innocent.)

God our Righteousness.

Introduction:

Why did Jesus have to die on the cross for the forgiveness of sins? And what difference does that make in your life?

Good questions that deserve some time exploring.

You don’t have to sin ... vs 1

There is a better way – walk in the light!

But if anybody does sin ... vs 1

Sin has an all time solution.

One who speaks in our defence

Parakletos – one who comes alongside

Who pleads another’s cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defence, legal assistant, an advocate.

Who pleads even for the guilty – “father forgive them for they know not what they are doing.”

It’s one thing to be on the wrong side of the law, but it is quite another to have someone who is on the right side who is prepared to be your defence. It’s not what you have done that matters but who you know!

Describe a time when you were on the wrong side of the law, how did you get on the right side?

And the name of your defence counsel, **Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.**

This is very significant as Jesus is now given a name of God as found in the Old testament.

But wait there is more!

Your defence council not only speaks on your behalf, He takes the rap! He pays for the offence.

An atoning sacrifice vs 2

Hilasmus - an appeasing, propitiating.

When you have two parties with irreconcilable differences one is going to have to make the first move. Sacrifice is a means of repairing relationship. Who gives? Who pays?

In what ways do people make sacrifices today?

In what ways do parents make sacrifices for their children?

NOTES	Real life – Real faith Part three: “But wait, there’s more!”
<p>1 John 4:10</p> <p>This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.</p> <p>For further exploration:</p> <p>God’s plan for salvation is not just for people but for the whole of creation. Guess how it ends?</p> <p>See Revelation 21:24</p> <p>What are the implications of this for evangelism today?</p>	<p>In both the Hebrew and pagan religions sacrifice was a means or repairing wrong and restoring relationship with God or the gods. The size and nature of sacrifice would be determined by the nature of the offence or sin. God or the gods needed to be made happy or appeased (propitiated) and so a sacrifice was offered.</p> <p>The problem with this concept is the understanding that God is angry and is looking for blood justice.</p> <p><i>Is that your understanding of God?</i></p> <p><i>In what ways do people live in fear of God?</i></p> <p><i>In what ways do people try to appease God for their sins?</i></p> <p>The difference of this sacrifice is that it was:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. initiated by God not by man and, 2. God’s motive was not anger but love. <p>See John 3:16 and 1 John 4:10</p> <p>This is radical stuff!</p> <p>No matter how hard you try, you can’t pay off your debt. God offers to pay it for you.</p> <p>God provides the sacrifice at his own cost.</p> <p>God does this not because he is angry at you but because he loves you. This is amazing grace!</p> <p>But wait, there’s more!</p> <p>This is not only for you but for the <i>whole world!</i></p> <p><i>Kosmos</i> – the whole of creation.</p> <p>There is an ultimate (cosmic) plan, and you are part of it.</p> <p><i>Colossians 1:20</i></p> <p><i>And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.</i></p> <p>Does this mean that everyone is saved?</p> <p><i>What do you think?</i></p> <p><i>That’s the topic of the next study...</i></p> <p><i>“... so what?”</i></p>