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"I am a voice"--John the Baptist

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THE EXTENT OF THE ATONEMENT: GOD'S PATIENCE AND PROVIDENCE

This article will present the patience and providence of God as a proof of universal aspects in the atonement.

I. The Requirements of Justice.

The moment Adam sinned, he forfeited all right to the blessings of God. If Adam had obeyed, the bestowal of the blessing would have been without delay. Likewise, when he sinned, the full curse would have fallen without delay unless there was a provision of God to stay the infliction of the penalty, for a wise purpose. "God has revealed Himself to be too holy to look on sin with allowance. His holiness and justice, therefore, require, not only the execution of the penal sanctions of law, but that execution should immediately follow transgression... Without a mediator there could have been no relieve, no delay, no abatement of the penal requirements of the law. The human family, would, consequently, have been extirpated early in the world's history," Buck, "The Philosophy of Religion," page 64, 66.

That is to say that God's justice required two things: immediate withdrawal of blessings and instant infliction of the penalty. Any theory that claims that patience and providence grow from His attributes without just satisfaction destroys altogether His holiness and righteousness.

II. The Facts of Patience and Providence.

No further reproof of these is needed than to note how long a sinful world has run and how many blessings even the worst of men have enjoyed in this life.

III. The Ground of Patience and Providence.

This is the heart of this discussion. Some explanation of the facts of patience and providence in God's dealings with sinful men must be sought. To say that as a sovereign, God does it without satisfaction is in principle to deny the necessity of the atonement. Because of the widespread confusion on this theme, we introduce the testimony of several important writers.

Add this to what we have just quoted from Buck, "The fact that Adam and Eve

survived the breach of the law a single day, is proof positive that the penalty of the law was arrested by the mediatorial scheme" (page 97).

Mullins, "The Christian Religion," page 336, "God's anger against human sin is restrained in order that men may repent."

Jonathan Edwards, "A History of the Work of Redemption," page 28, "There was mercy in the forbearance of God, that He did not destroy man, as He did the angels when they fell. But there is no mercy exercised towards man except through a mediator."

Smith, "System of Christian Theology," page 479, "All men receive some benefits from the atonement... The continuance of probation and many temporal blessings."

Evans, "The Great Doctrines of the Bible," page 45, "If God dealt with them in justice, they would have been cut off long before."

A. A. Hodge, "The Atonement," page 358f, "The instant damnation of the heads of the race, or the introduction of a scheme of redemption, appear to be the only possible alternatives. But the scheme of redemption is conditioned exclusively upon the expiatory work of Christ... The entire history of the human race, from the apostasy to the final judgment, is, as Candlish says, 'a dispensation of forbearance' in respect to the reprobate, in which many blessings, physical and moral, affecting their characters and destinies forever, accrue even to the heathen."

Carroll, "Studies in Romans," pages 30 and 34, "The original penalty due to Adam's sin was suspended by the intervention of the gospel of Jesus Christ under a probation of grace. From that day all men, whether Jews or Gentiles, have been freed from the immediate execution of that divine wrath... In Christ God bears with the sins of the heathen in a way that the law could not bear."

These Scriptures need to be pondered just here. "And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them who do such things and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasureth up unto thyself wrath against the

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day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God," Romans 2:3-5. There is no doubt that the man so addressed was lost, at least some of them; yet they rejected His goodness. And a goodness of God toward lost men that is not thru Christ is love of evil.

"The longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah," I Peter 3:20. "Account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation," II Peter 3:15.

Some object, "If Christ died for all men, then He died for many who were already in hell." Exactly so. The light of the cross shined back to the garden of Eden as well as forward to the end of this age. The delay in the penalty in Old Testament times was prospective of the cross; the delay today is retrospective of the cross. His forbearance in each age is grounded on the death of Christ and proves one phase of its universality. Cain and Abel both shared in benefits from the coming atonement of Christ but not in the same degree. God patiently waited before the final punishment fell on Cain; Abel knew the fulness of redemption thru the blood that speaketh better things than his own. The antediluvians and Noah's family shared in the influences of Christ's death but in no wise in the same degree. Noah's family rode to safety above the flood of divine wrath in Christ the Ark. The others felt the strivings of the Spirit of God and the repeated appeals of Noah.

"There were false prophets... even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction," II Peter 2:1. None seem to doubt that these went to hell. Therefore, if we can establish the fact that the death of Christ touched them, we have proven our conviction that some for who Christ died do actually go to hell. The most common dodge offered on this passage is that "the Lord" refers to God the Father and not to Jesus Christ. From this they conclude that Christ's death was for them in no sense. We grant that it may refer to God the Father. But we as readily ask what effect that has on the issue before us? We answer, "Absolutely none," and proceed to give the proof, not

dodges or opinions. How could the Father buy or purchase any blessings to men, either temporal or spiritual blessings? For men who have forfeited because of their sins even the right to live, the Father cannot consistently buy any blessing for them except thru the death of Christ. To deny this is to deny the whole fabric of justice and mercy consistent with justice. We challenge anyone to disprove this fact, either Hardshell Baptists or any from our own ranks.

"We trust in the living God Who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe," I Timothy 4:10. The objectors claim that God is the beneficent and providential Protector and Preserver of all men. They acknowledge that He is the special Savior of those that believe. By what line of reasoning is Savior different for all and for believers? The specialty here is more in the degree of the benefit than in the nature and ground of it. The thing that kills their theory is that the ground of each is wholly in Christ Jesus.

But let us grant that it means no more than that he is the providential Preserver of all men? What does God as Judge owe all men? All sinful men deserve wrath unmixed with mercy or leniency. To be merciful would destroy justice. On what ground can a rebellious sinner receive protection? Only on the ground of mercy, and all mercy comes thru the cross of Jesus. The argument proves too much for those who deny any universal element in His death. It is the climax of blunders for Calvinistic theologians to speak of Savior (whether the Father or the Son) in connection with sinful men apart from the cross. That makes a dangerous approach to Modernism. Brother follow your theory to its logical conclusion or renounce it and come to the truth. Therefore, we conclude that there is without doubt a universal element in the death of Christ, and we are willing to let the opposition be the judges.

KAGAWA BOOKS

Much has been said of Kawaga, and he has many fine traits, but the question is as to his soundness in fundamental doctrines. Why not buy one or more of his books and read for yourself? A candid reading of his books convinces us that Southern Baptists are sinning in giving approval to this outstanding man. But a good way for some of us to get our eyes open is to read for ourselves. "Love the Law of Life" and "The Religion of Jesus" sell for one dollar each. Order from us.

A PICTURE OF JESUS

Have you read the Gospels lately?

If not, get down that old Bible and read of the Man of Galilee, read about a Savior who was so filled with the affairs of heaven and earth that He never lost sight of both. Read how He brought the sunlight to dark places, and how He revealed to the careless ones the serious side of life.

Let the writers of those Gospels portray for you again a picture of the God-Man, so wonderfully made that He includes in His make-up every part and phase of heaven and earth. He knows all about you—about the happy hours and about the blue days.

He can mend your broken heart. He can wipe away your tears. He will forgive your Sins—and they will be remembered no more against you forever.

Are you un against a dirty brick wall of circumstance and sin? Let the rain-drops and the sunshine of His love and mercy wash and warm your heart and soul.—Corbin Times.

H. B. TAYLOR MONUMENT

Had we realized that it is nearing four years since Brother Taylor left us? Efforts to raise funds to erect a suitable, yet modest monument at his unmarked grave have not brought in sufficient funds. We are making this last announcement so that his friends may do their part.

We plan to erect the monument by May, 1936, which will be four years from his death. We must have all funds in hand not later than May 15. At that time we shall buy and have placed whatever monument the funds allow.

This issue of The Voice, the only successor to News and Truths, will be mailed to a portion of the former subscribers to News and Truths. Later issues will cover the entire list. It is to inform you of this monument if you wish to give to it. We do not promise to mail to you again before the erection May, 1936, unless you send your subscription.

When you receive this paper, it is an invitation to subscribe to the W. K. B. S. Voice now at the reduced rate of thirty-five cents a year. We plan enlargement soon. It is the only paper that informs you concerning the Bible School and the Amazon Valley Mission. We appeal to the friends of Brother Taylor to respond. Four years we have, under God, carried on the Bible School. Friends have been loyal, but others should help. Subscribe now.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

This issue has been delayed because of printing difficulties. But in the next issue, near the close of the month, we shall give details about these proffered courses. We shall begin by offering courses in Brother Taylor's two books "Why Be a Baptist" and "Hurtful Heresies." The cost will range between \$1.00 and \$1.50 for each course. Let those who are interested send in their request now. We want to enroll one hundred soon.

OUR QUERY BOX

I am delighted to know you will explain Scriptures. What does "Water" mean in John 3:5?

Consistent interpretation will explain this expression in the light of the context. How would Nicodemus understand it? He had the Old Testament and could be blamed for not knowing it. Jesus used words that would be intelligible to Nicodemus. Nicodemus could not be blamed for not knowing about baptism. The Jewish mind would not think He referred to literal water.

Again, all admit that it is a figure. Never once in the New Testament is baptism called "water." The whole matter turns upon this question: Of what is "water" a figure?

If Jesus referred to baptism, He was merely substituting a ceremony for the many ceremonies of Judaism. Other expressions in this conversation emphasize the intensely spiritual nature of the New Birth. It is "out of the Spirit" and "from above" (Greek for "again").

Whatever "water" means, it is necessary to salvation. Note the words, "except," "must," and "cannot." Why, therefore, did Jesus not emphasize it on other occasions if He referred to baptism? The truth is that He always chose a representation of grace that would be understood by His hearers. Note the different figures in John: the water of Salvation in John 6, etc.

To what Old Testament passages would the mind of Nicodemus turn? He would think of Psalm 119:9 which shows the cleansing power of the word. He would recall the wells of Salvation in Isaiah 12:3. He would think of the ceremonial water of Ezekiel 36:25 that tells of the blood of the Lamb. Compare John 15:3 and Ephesians 5:26.

"Water" therefore, pictures the word of the gospel or the blood which is revealed to us in the word of the gospel.

JANUARY FINANCES

Receipts

E. R. P., New Kensington, Pa.....	\$ 85.00
Mrs. E. H. P.,	5.00
Scott's Grove Church	11.52
Memorial Church	14.87
Carmack Church90
A. D., Harrodsburg	10.00
West End Church	16.29
Total.....	\$143.58

Disbursements

W. W. D., bal., on December.....	\$ 4.06
Mrs. H. B. Taylor, bal., on Dec...	9.00
Janitors	15.00
Student help, Britton	10.00
Coal	16.23
Lights and water	3.36
Crosby, student help	10.00
W. W. Dickerson, for teaching..	10.00
Mrs. H. B. Taylor	25.00
R. O. B., part on Dec.....	40.93
Disbursed in full.....	\$143.58

FEBRUARY FINANCES

RECEIPTS

Miss A. M.	\$ 1.25
Mrs E. H. P., Chicago.....	5.00
F. L., Illinois	9.40
South Fork Church, New, Ky	20.00
West End Church.....	3.42
Memorial Church	6.57
Scott's Grove Church	9.57
Salem Church, Salem, Ky.	5.00
Total received in February	\$60.21

Disbursements

Lights and water	\$ 3.97
Coal	5.25
R. O. B.	5.00
Sewage repair	3.75
Janitors, Hampton and Neal.....	15.00
Student help, Britton	10.00
Mrs. H. B. Taylor, for teaching..	10.00
W. W. Dickerson, for teaching....	3.62
Crosby, Student help	3.62
Total paid out	\$60.21

BOOKS WANTED

We have requests for the following books which are now out of print: "Pardon and Assurance," by William J. Patton, "The Cause of God and Truth," by John Gill. Let us know if you have these second-hand books. If anyone else has book wants, we shall try to help you get them.

RUM IS RUIN OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

The U. S. Government is encouraging the rum industry in the Virgin Islands with a ninety per cent Negro population. The Associated Press headlines the matter thus, "Rum Is Hope of Virgin Islands." Will someone tell when rum ever brought hope to anyone? We can tell you of the despair it brought.

The Bible School students have been preaching at the County Farm near Murray. There have been two professions since last fall.

Buffalo Avenue Baptist Church, Tampa, Florida, Roy Mason, pastor, recently sent twenty-five dollars to pay for the mailing of "Bible Briefs against Hurtful Heresies" to be mailed to each Baptist preacher in Florida. This is needed because "Florida furnishes a good seed bed for heresies of all descriptions—especially during the winter months. (Mason). Thousands of Brother Taylor's books, free to preachers, will be sent out when his friends and the friends of the truth send in the necessary postage.

Blue Bird Cafe

C. L. Brown, Prop.

Bank of Murray

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