

John # 22 “A Worthy Substitute” Part 3

*John 1:29; Romans 5:17-21; Hebrews 9:12-14*

**The only thing Adam’s real spiritual death in the Garden and our Lord’s substitutionary spiritual death on the cross have in common is separation from God the Father in a place of judgment.**

Adam’s spiritual death was real and it continues to the entire human race through physical birth and our Lord’s spiritual death was substitutionary and it provides eternal salvation and reconciliation to God at regeneration.

*The spiritual death of our Lord Jesus Christ was unique, because all the time that He was bearing our sins, He remained perfect, impeccable and trichotomous.*

While Adam went from perfection to imperfection, Jesus Christ was perfect before the cross, during the cross and after the cross. Therefore, Jesus Christ’s was the only spiritual death in all of history in which the person involved remained perfect, impeccable and trichotomous.

**This is a substitutionary spiritual death with an effective Unlimited Atonement clause and the cross is the only time in history when spiritual death occurred and perfection continued uninterrupted!**

God the Father abandoned His Son Jesus Christ on the cross because He was crediting the sins of the world to Perfect, Impeccable Humanity (which qualified Him to be our substitute) and judging those sins as Jesus Christ received them.

*While being judged for our sins, the humanity of Christ in substitutionary spiritual death remained perfect as His impeccability had to continue during the three hours while He was being judged for our sins.*

Adam brought spiritual death to the entire human race but our Lord breaks the power of spiritual death for all who believe and He provides eternal life to them as a bonus.

**In our condition of real spiritual death, we commit personal sins but in our Lord’s substitutionary spiritual death, no sins were ever committed.**

In our spiritual death, we are in total depravity but in our Lord’s substitutionary spiritual death,

He remained in total impeccability.

*There had to be a substitutionary spiritual death, to which our Lord made clear in His rhetorical question: “My God, My God, why (for what reason) have You forsaken (abandoned) Me?”*

The answer is: Because God’s justice was judging our sins in Jesus Christ as a substitutionary punishment!

**And how did the grace of God increase all the more or in such great abundance?**

The grace of God was demonstrated by God the Father through His pouring the sins of the world into one cup and by His omnipotent power crediting all those sins to His Son, Jesus Christ who drank it on that cross during a span of three hours.

*The grace of God is far greater than our sins because God's omnipotence was able to credit all our sins to our Substitute for judgment and not to us for the judgment we rightfully deserve.*

The justice of God the Father judged each of our sins in His Son and if just once for one moment, Jesus reacted to our sins being credited to Him and sinned, He'd have entered into real spiritual death and there'd be no salvation for any of us.

The Mosaic Law is a minor actor that entered the stage of human history to play a minor role because the Law never saved anyone.

**Our Lord's humanity remained trichotomous during His substitutionary spiritual death, for in His unique physical death, His human spirit went into the presence of the Father, His soul to Hades with the Holy Spirit and His body went into the grave.**

While God the Father used both His omnipotence to credit our sins to His Son and then His justice to judge our sins in His Son; it was the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit that sustained our Lord on the cross and provided Him with the enabling power to endure

His substitutionary spiritual death during those excruciating three hours of being judged for our sins so that He would remain the perfect sin offering.

*Jesus Christ had to be a Lamb without spot and without blemish.*

The omnipotence of the Holy Spirit sustaining Jesus Christ was a far greater task than that which is required to sustain us; the greatest work of the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit occurred at the cross.

**Our Lord's spiritual death was substitutionary; He never had a real spiritual death of His own as did the first Adam.**

Even when He was made sin for us, He still did not sin and His was the greatest suffering and testing EVER endured!

*Old Testament sacrifices in the ritual plan of God were designed to teach Christology and Soteriology regarding the power of God demonstrated at the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.*

The sinless perfection of Jesus Christ was taught by every animal sacrificed, which had to be completely without defect.

The salvation work of Christ was clearly depicted in the offering of these innocent animal sacrifices.

**The substitutionary physical death of the animal represented the substitutionary spiritual death of our Lord on the cross.**

**And so, while God the Father had to forsake the humanity of Jesus Christ because His omnipotence was crediting our sins to His Son's perfect humanity and His justice was judging those sins as they were credited, God the Holy Spirit in His omnipotence was sustaining our Lord during the greatest suffering the world has ever known!**

**It was just as important for our Lord to stay inside the experiential plan of God on the cross as before the cross;**

**He could not leave because He had to be under the omnipotent power of the Holy Spirit during that entire time.**

*Never was there a greater demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit than during those three hours when He sustained our Lord in His status of sinless perfection.*

**Two cherubs were mounted on opposite sides of the Mercy Seat, representing the righteousness and justice of God; so the righteousness of God looks down and is satisfied because that blood represented the future saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross.**

**And the justice of God also looks down and is satisfied and this is propitiation.**

*But the animal sacrifices were not completely effective in and of themselves; they were only shadows pointing to the cross, to our Lord's completely effective salvation work.*

**The humanity of Jesus Christ was offered without defect and He remained perfect even when He came in contact with all our sins!**