

FEAR SERIES FOUR
PASTOR GLENN BARTEAU
SELF ATONEMENT
JUNE 24, 2007

Survey Sermons over 25 minutes... well I think this would be a good fear to face...

Survey – Fear of God

That I will fall short of what God expects of me
 I fear how far off the mark I am spiritually
 Not being saved/ going to hell
 That my faith isn't good enough to save me from Hell (2)
 A paralyzing fear for me is condemnation from the church, Christians, when I
 stumble. That fear keeps from "real fellowship,"

"I fear the implication of my Sin." Can I take the hit if God decides hold me
 countable for the sin and junk I've done in my life?

Carry guilt

Q:

We tend to deal with this fear in one of two ways...

- a) Ignore it... Hope God won't notice... or won't care... **not smart!**
 Steal your neighbor's car... "Hey what are doing? Uh, stealing your
 car." "Well isn't that nice honey, make sure clean-up after you're
 done breaking the glass."
- b) Or... we get locked into constant guilt, shame, and fear about what
 we've done. Always fearing that God will drop the hammer. Because
 God wants us feeling bad... living in constant misery. (This one doesn't
 seem much better, doesn't line up scripture.)

John 17:13

"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they
 may have the full measure of my **joy** within them.

↳ Does that sound like a seething, angry, God just ready to take you out?

....No, but the issue of sin... (the junk we hide, the stuff we all do that violates
 what we know is right. None of has a totally pure heart.)

....the sin stuff that's still a real problem...

Rom 3:23

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

Here's the deal:

There is no fear easier to face than this one.... Biggest fear we could possibly
 face... <Eternal Life – Eternal Condemnation> it is the easiest one to face...
here's why... two words

Substitutionary Atonement

Substitutionary atonement... *I know, I know if it's your first time here you're saying "I knew it, this church is getting all weird on me too..."*

Take the 2nd word there... atonement

Atonement – to a tone for something you've got to

Q: Every had a police officer pull you over.

Salt River Canyon One year on vacation I'm flying through salt-river canyon... it was fun... I pass a police car... the fear sets in... I'm going to get looking back in my mirror.

Q: Do I speed up or slow down? It was like I was on the lamb.

Then I'm thinking he didn't care... He knows how fun it is...

Then I see him in my rear view mirror... Oh no, and he just follows me...

That part was worse than the ticket.... At the first look out point he hits the

"Do you know why I pulled you over?" – I hate that question, because there's just no good answer to that question." What do you say?

He writes me a ticket... and he explains that's way to handle this. I can pay the ticket.. it's on my record.

Or I can pay the cost of traffic school, attend the class and atone for my violation... If I pay for class and attend they will expunge my ticket... no points on my record.

Most of us have done this... Essentially when you write that check... send it in... you have satisfied the demands of justice.

Substitutionary Now let's take the first word.... Substitutionary

Remember when you were in school and you had a substitute teacher... He/she took the place of teacher. (Some of you probably need to atone for how you treated your substitute teachers)

~ If we can put these two words together in a spiritual sense then we can know how to deal with the sin in our lives.

T>> This concept of Substitutionary Atonement is something that separates Christianity from every other religion in the world. It is a dominate theme in scripture

In the Garden

Adam and Eve blow it... they sin... and Genesis gives us this powerful picture of sin. It describes the loss of innocence as being naked and ashamed.

Gen 3:10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

God kills an animal and uses the skin to cover up their nakedness and shame...

Can you imagine: Adam and Eve were the vegetarian types... They've never see death like this imagine them watch this innocent animal die. They see death... for the purpose if dealing with their sin.
 ~ Bad for the little animal... but good for Adam & Eve

- This is the 1st foreshadowing of what Jesus will do for us. This poor little innocent animal takes the hit to atone for what Adam & Eve have done.

Passover

God comes to the rescue of the Hebrews in slavery. Egypt has done terrible things. They have enslaved and abused the Hebrews and God says I'm going to make things right...

The demands of justice must be satisfied.

God sends a death angel to take the life of every first born male to atone for the sins of Egypt... (Pharaoh "Is like I'll take the hit... I'll self-atone – bad idea)

Simple exception that if a family will take a prize lamb of their flock. They are to take personal care of the lamb for 14 days... let the children get to know it. Then on the 14th day... when the death angle comes... If they will kill the lamb and roast it for dinner and if they

Ex 12:7 Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs.

Ex 12:13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

Can you imagine: Dad walking with his children out to the field w/ his son to get the lamb... the lamb they are going to take in... only to kill, roast, and smear it's blood on door post.

Dad why do have to do this... what's this lamb done to us?

"Well kid... it's either you or the lamb." "That one looks real good dad."

~ Bad for lamb... but good for the boy.

Scapegoat

Later on God has set the Hebrews free... they are his people and He is their God... but there is still the problem of sin... One a year they had the...

Day of Atonement: They would take two goats... one was sacrificed.... But the imagery of the second goat is so powerful.

The priest would take this little goat, and begin confessing all the sins of the Hebrews. Sins of selfishness, pride, jealousy; Sexual sins, sexual abuse, adultery, Sins of materialism, hate,

Then he would place both his hands on the goat's head symbolically putting all the sins of Israel in the head of this goat. Then scripture says a young man is to lead this goat out of camp and turn it loose into the wilderness where is will die. Symbolically loosing it's life to carry away all the sins of the people.

Q: What was that goat called...? Yea... the scapegoat.

~ Bad for the goat.... good for the people

T>> All through scripture this picture keeps coming... this foreshadowing of atonement coming by way of substitution. So roll the clock a head again.

John the Baptist

Here's John the Baptist. He's been preaching, and preaching and multitudes of people are listening and following his teachings... He's been baptizing people...

Can you imagine: One day he looks up sees Jesus walking toward him and says...

John 1:29B

..."Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

All of history has been pointing to this man... Thousands of years of foreshadowing pointing to the ultimate substitute atoner... all other atonements were temporary... not Jesus... He is the innocent person willing to sacrifice his life for our... all sin... for all time.

Ledger

Sometimes people think God deals w/ sin by pulling out a giant ledger book... You die and go before God and He will start going through it to determine just how bad my sin is...

Friends...

The question is not how bad is my sin...!
Heaven knows how bad we've sinned. Some of us are spectacular sinners... Some of us are boring sinners... but we are all sinners.
The day of our death will not be a day of "sin computation" to determine if I have sinned

Q: The big question... the only question is...
Who will atone for our sin?

Choice:

Simple choice we all get to make before that day comes.

1) I can self-atone. I'll be a man about it.... I'll take responsible for my own actions... I'll take the hit for what I've done wrong... bad idea!!!

That one ends badly. All the guilt, fear, and shame you've ever experienced over what you've done wrong. That is only a slightest taste of the overwhelming regret & pain you will face in a Christ-less eternity on your own all alone.

Scripture is clear... that is an eternity of total regret.

2) Second choice is simple. It's to receive Jesus Christ as the substitutionary atonement for your life.

Jesus says you trust in me... receive me into your life... I'll take the hit.

~ Just like that little lamb took the hit for all those families in Egypt...

Rom 3:23-24

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

~ It was bad for Jesus... he died on a cross... but it's good for you and me. We become the very child of God.

John 1:12

To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

Altar Call

Clear choice about how to handle this fear of what will I do with the fear of my sin.

Self – Atonement or the Substitutionary Atonement of Jesus Christ.

Q: If you've never gotten clarity on this issue. If you never had a moment where you clearly understood the implications of all this

Some of you feel the inner darkness of fearing what's going to happen someday when I die.

Pray for God to show you that He will be the substitutionary atonement in your life.

Meditation on this Song

Chorus:

Take my fear away,

I can't face the darkness by myself

I won't make it on my own

Let me know it's right to give this all to you

I will give my life into your hands

I surrender all to you

See me stepping out on faith

Will you catch me if I fall

Friends...

If you've never given your life over to Christ... trusted him with your sin... you can.

You can self-atone, or Jesus can atone for you..

Meditate on this song.

... If you want to get off the self atonement path... and get on the Jesus atonement path pray this prayer with me.

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Spiritually we try to ride high in the saddle.

- ✓ Maybe God won't notice
- ✓ Maybe it's really okay because... It's not like I'm the Hwy... if I were speeding... and driving w/o a license... Dad won't care if I'm 10 miles away, it's not like I went to Phoenix...
- ✓ Maybe God won't care... he go how cute

But the fear lingers... because we know... and it's not constant... in fact if the hammer doesn't come down things seem okay... we start to believe it is okay...

(Hook)

When I was 9 or 10 My dad gave me an old motorcycle that used to be his. We lived way out in the desert foothills and he would allow me to ride it around our little neighborhood. But one day I decided to ride it 5 or 10 miles away, all the way to another neighborhood... And my dad never said you can't ride of into the sunset to this neighborhood... but I knew, I knew this was a violation of the privilege I had to ride and enjoy this motorcycle. But I had to show my friends, have some fun, and I did it... like every kid... because I wanted to. Racing up

and down the street showing off to my friends. I look back to see a Sherriff's Deputy driving right behind me. Where did he come from? Oh man! He probably pull my license plate and calling for back up right now. But thought I'm going to play this real cool. As a 10 year old I sat up real high like I'm on my way to work. That didn't work should I run? No, I'll play it cool. So I pull into my friends drive way... the cop pulls in behind me... bad moment. Yes officer. "I bet you don't have a license or registration. Does your dad know how far from home you are? So the whole ride back to the house I'm trying to figure out how to set this up for my dad... well dad "I was talking to a police officer earler today." "Hey dad this whole minume age for driving on the road thing is over rated... don't you think."

I pull into my drive way and the cop car is already there... like I think he must have gone lights and sirens to beat me back to the house... now my whole plan is shot... I'm so busted...

I had to atone for my sin... The truth... I knew better, I knew it was wrong...

- I had to take a hit on this one... Dad grounded from riding my motorcycle for several weeks or something... I had to just look at it everyday.

Jesus on the Cross

Jesus comes to the end of his ministry... they nail him to a cross and just before he dies he says.

John 19:30

..."It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

What did that mean? I can't go one, I'm tired... NO!

When says it is finished he is declaring that his death the final sacrifice... It is finished... he has given up his life to atone for the sin and junk of every person will into trust in him.

Adam and Eve receive atonement because of that little animal... the Hebrews received atonement because of the Passover lamb.

But Jesus has put eternal life... everlasting atonement before every person in the world...