



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – March 28, 2024

The Lord be with you.

Every preacher that I've ever known, put in some long hours during Holy Week, burns some midnight oil, as we're wanting to communicate to make clear the meaning of Good Friday and Easter. And then on top of that, how do you go about explaining the meaning of these days to children who well, they might be thinking about Easter eggs and Cadbury chocolate bunnies. How do we explain the wonder, the glory of what God has done for us in Christ Jesus? Well, I'm encouraged in this task by a great preacher, a great theologian who lived some 500 years ago, who had a passion to communicate what these days mean.

I'm thinking of William Tyndale, who is known as the father of the English Bible. As it was William Tyndale, who gave us our English Bible, as he was the very first person to translate the Hebrew Old Testament and the Greek New Testament into English. Tyndale said that he wanted to translate the Bible so that an English plow boy could read and understand the Good News. Now, Tyndale was a genius when it came to languages. He was fluent in seven languages, and what Tyndale found in translating the Bible into English was that sometimes there was no English word that was an equivalent for a Hebrew or Greek word, and so what Tyndale did is that sometimes he would actually invent an English word. So it was William Tyndale who coined and gave to us new English words like Passover, like mercy seat or Jehovah, scape goat, intercession. We are indebted to William Tyndale for those English words. And he also gave us phrases like fight the good fight, salt to the earth, brothers keeper, and twinkling of an eye. So William Tyndale, he worked hard to try and find the right English word to describe what Jesus did for us in His passion, death and resurrection. But William Tyndale could not find a word in Middle English to communicate the meaning of the cross, and so Tyndale invented a word, an Anglo Saxon word to express what Jesus did for us on Good Friday. He invented the word at-one-mont. Well, you and I know what today has atonement.

Through the cross, Christ has brought us into atonement with God. William Tyndale called Jesus the at-one-maker. In Tyndale's book, *A Pathway to Scripture*, he says that through the cross of Jesus Christ, sinners are loosed, justified, restored to life and saved and set at one with God, one God, one mediator. That is to say, advocate, intercessor, or at-one-maker between God and man. Now think for a moment, what Jesus did through the cross, first he brought us who are finite, who are created beings, he brought us into atonement with God, who is infinite, who is our creator. So that through his cross, Jesus joins together, finite mortals into atonement with the infinite creator and Lord of all.

He is the creator and the source of all being, and God through Jesus Christ has brought us into atonement with him, so that we share in the very life and glory of God. But not only are we finite and God is infinite, but we're also sinners. We are also rebels, and God is holy, and through the cross, Jesus has brought us sinners rebels into atonement with a holy God. The little letter at First John, Chapter 2-2 puts it like this, Christ is the atoning. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins and not for



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ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. What incredible good news, we have to tell to our hurting broken world this Holy Week.

A little girl, about four or five years old, was going to church for the first time on an Easter Sunday. And as she walks into the church sanctuary, she sees for the first time, she sees a cross at the front of the church, and the little girl says, excitedly, look, mommy, look. See the big plus sign, and that is what the cross of Jesus Christ is for us. It is God's big, big plus sign that Jesus through His cross has done everything, everything that needed to be done to bring you and me into at oneness with God. And so today, Jesus is calling you calling me to follow him. To follow him and to experience more and more of what it means to be at one with God.

Christ, we do all adore Thee and we do praise Thee forever. For on the Holy Cross, has Thou the world from sin redeemed. Christ, we do all adore Thee. And we do praise Thee forever.

I'm Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thanks for listening until next time.