

Study Aids

Discussion Questions For “What’s the Message?” Lessons

Lesson 32

Questions

In the previous Study Aid we gave the definition of the general doctrine of Justification. There we said that atonement was the method, or means, that God instituted to make substitution for, and take away the sin of the Israelites. That Old Testament system involved substituting the life of an unblemished animal. The Day of Atonement was a special day on which a broad atonement was made for all the people, for all of their individual sins, whether known and recognized or not.

We also called the sin of Adam and Eve a condition that now afflicts all of mankind throughout all generations. What we want to establish here is the distinction between “sin” and “sins”. Sin is that condition which applies to us all, and sins are the actions that flow from that condition. In other words, our basic underlying condition is the root and cause of the actions that we take.

Now, God’s justice requires a settlement, and that settlement involves the giving of a life and the shedding of blood (Hebrews 9:22). Now, if the general statement of the doctrine of Justification is that God has provided a method, a means, to achieve atonement (Justification) in the Old Testament, what is the specific statement of Justification for the New Testament church? (See Hebrews 10: 11-14)