

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

About 20 years ago, the Christian group, Newsong, came out with a wonderful song, *He Did What I couldn't do*. In it, they share the foundation of what Jesus' sacrifice for mankind achieved:

He did what I couldn't do, Went to the cross so I could be forgiven.

He spent three days in the grave, To make my life worth living.

And the wonder of salvation is I could never be good enough.

He did what I couldn't do.

We have a theological word for what Jesus did, and that is ATONEMENT, in fact, a substitutionary atonement. You don't find that word very often in the New Testament, but it is scattered all over the Old Testament. It is the idea that one thing carries the offense for another. You see many times where a bull, goat, or lamb offering was provided as payment for a person's or nation's sins. The offering did what the sinner could never do.

As Newsong explained, *Jesus did what we couldn't do*. And on Good Friday, we remembered and celebrated with gratitude the wonder of His atonement for all sin, past, present, and future.

Lev 17:11 'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.'

R.C. Sproul once wrote:

“The idea of being the substitute in offering an atonement to satisfy the demands of God's law for others was something Christ understood as His mission from the moment He entered this world and took upon Himself a human nature. He came from heaven as the gift of the Father for the express purpose of working out redemption as our substitute, doing for us what we could not possibly do for ourselves...”

May each of us take time, not only on Good Friday, but always, to praise God for "doing what we couldn't do" for ourselves.