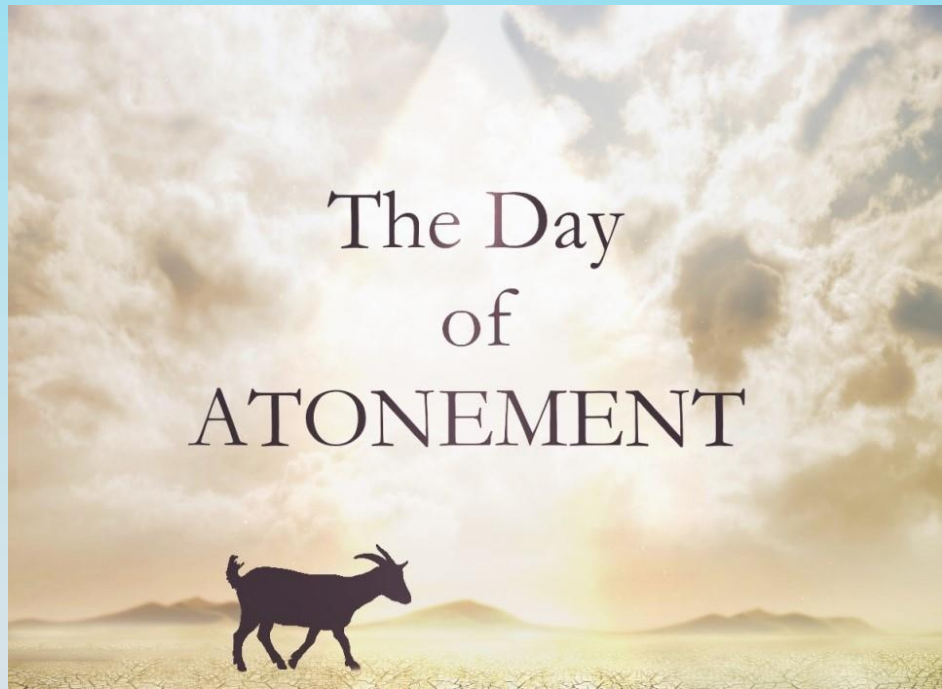


Message: “Atonement – The Work of God”. **Romans 14:16-20**

Series: Living in the Atonement
Hebrews 9:19-22



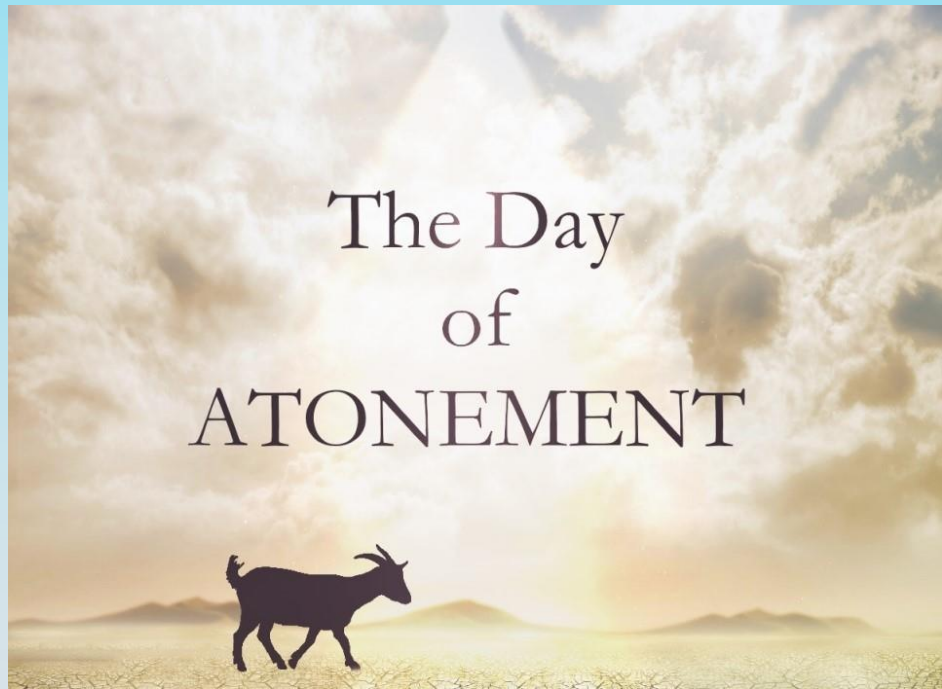
The Day of ATONEMENT

The Jewish Day of Atonement is September 27, this year. The day of Atonement is a time of fasting and prayer for Jewish people as they ask God to forgive their sins.

The word Atonement is “Kaphar” in Hebrew. It has a broad word, with a basic meaning of “to cover”. Its meaning was so broad that when the Septuagint was translated, beginning 200 years before Jesus, there were 5 different Greek words used, depending on context, to translate this word. One word means “to purify”, another “to restore relationship [propitiation]”, another “to make holy”, another “to carry away an offense” and another “to forgive”. These 5 concepts informed the writers of the New Testament when they tried to explain what Atonement meant for Christians.

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The Day of ATONEMENT

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For Jewish people, Atonement was a sacrifice made once a year to cleanse the sins of the year and prepare the Jewish people for the coming year. The writer of Hebrews connects with and challenges this concept in chapters 9-10.

The failure of the High Priest to be good enough to offer the sacrifice is pressed. While the failure of the animal sacrifices to be adequate or complete dominates the challenge. Yet he states that the Day of Atonement is a figure of God's message of salvation – purity, restoration, holiness, forbearance and forgiveness. Only in Jesus Christ was God's Atonement possible.

Message: “Atonement – The Work of God”. **Romans 14:16-20**



The creation of Adam by Jan Bruegel, the Younger [1601-1678]

A person’s work and effort needs to be respected and honored. This is a principle that comes from creation. In Genesis God works 6 days to create the universe and all living things. On the 7th day He rested and declared that day to be a day of rest to honor labor and the laborer. What changed all this was the fall of humanity, this fall corrupted all aspects of human existence. One of the worst areas was in our view of work. God created humans to work, create and produce. Yet now we view our work as labor and drudgery...we do not celebrate the joy of creating, building or producing with our hands. The Bible shows God as a Worker. It is part of his character. He bequeathed it to humanity when he created us.

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The creation of Adam by Jan Bruegel, the Younger [1601-1678]

16 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil;

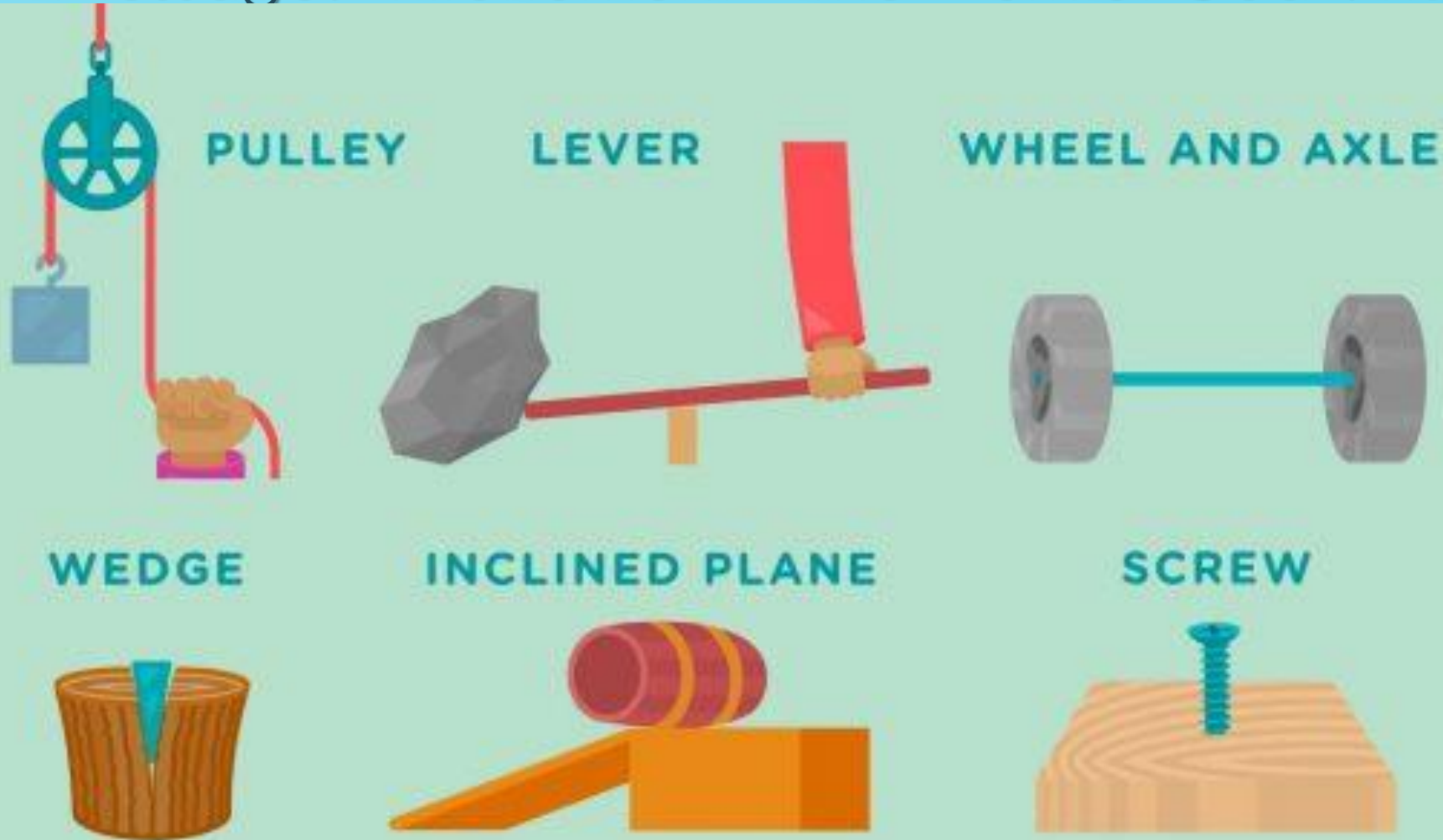
17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

18 For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.

19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but *it is evil for the man who eats with offense.*

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These are called the 6 simple machines. All but the wheel and axle occur naturally in nature and thus are easily deduced. Only the wheel must be imagined.

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The wheel and axle are believed to have been developed in Mesopotamia [Sumer in modern Iraq] around 5500 years ago. The first “wheel” was not likely a cart wheel but a Potter’s wheel. The wheel was not good for long Journeys until the invention of the fixed axle and bearing system. Friction was the primary problem that curtailed the development for over 1000 years. Their most practical uses at first were pottery production and grain grinding.

Ecclesiastes 4:19

This was discovered in Ljubljana Marshes in Slovenia, It is the oldest cart wheel yet discovered. It dates back over 5,000 years.

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Ecclesiastes 9:9-11

9 What profit has the worker from that in which he labors?

10 I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied.

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that **no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.**

This was discovered in Ljubljana Marshes in Slovenia, It is the oldest cart wheel yet discovered. It dates back over 5,000 years.

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Mike Rowe, TV Show host, author, philanthropist, narrator, etc.

Mike Rowe has had a lot of different jobs in media. In 2002 he was working in San Francisco for KPIX-TV doing special news segments. One series he did for them was “Somebody’s Gotta Do It”. Profiling unpleasant professions. The response was so large he pitched a show entitled “Dirty Jobs” to a number of cable channels. Discovery picked up the show and it became a hit. Its pilot series was in 2003 it was expanded into a full show in 2005 and remained on the air until 2012. Mike pitched a similar show with the original name that was picked up by CNN and later TBN. He started a foundation to offer scholarships to young people who enter the trades as well as establishing apprenticeship programs across the country.

Deuteronomy 24:18-22 *19

Message: “Atonement – The Work of God”. **Romans 14:16-20**

Deuteronomy 24:18-22 *19

18 “But you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this thing.

19 “When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

20 “When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.

21 “When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not glean *it* afterward; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.

22 “And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I command you to do this thing.



Mike Rowe, TV Show host, author, philanthropist, narrator, etc.

Message: "Atonement – The Work of God". **Romans 14:16-20**

Jesus during his ministry often ran afoul of Jewish leaders when he healed people on the Sabbath. Their concept was that healing was labor. Labor was undignified and should not be done on the Sabbath. Jesus challenges them with 2 points.

First, the Sabbath was made for humanity to honor and enjoy the results of their work. The Jewish leaders had made work undignified. As a result person could not even do good for another on the Sabbath without dishonoring the Sabbath.

Second, God had not stopped working even on the Sabbaths, if He did creation would implode. Jesus points to the reality that the priests in the temple worked on the Sabbath.



Jesus Teaching His Disciples James Tissot

Message: "Atonement – The Work of God". **Romans 14:16-20**

Jesus' point was that the Sabbath had been made not to restrain people from doing good or even as an escape from the drudgery of labor. Instead it was a time to enjoy the results, celebrate the accomplishments and refresh in preparation for coming work. Most of all it was a pause in time to worship the Creator for privilege and ability to work.

John 9:1-7



Jesus Teaching His Disciples James
Tissot

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John 9:1-7

1 Now as *Jesus* passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.

2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. 4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the* night is coming when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

6 When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.

7 And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.



Jesus Teaching His Disciples James
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The creation of Adam by Jan Bruegel, the Younger [1601-1678]

The Atonement redeems us not only spiritually but it redeems our labor as well. In Christ as Paul indicates the work of our hands honors God and blesses humanity. We were made to work and produce, that is part of the image of God in in us. **The Atonement heals the brokenness that turned work to labor and productivity to drudgery. For Christians, work should be viewed as a great good which honors God and others.**

Our work and labor is a blessing from God that fulfills His purpose for humanity from the beginning of creation. Adam and Eve were created to work and build things, to create value and have purpose.