

Christ suffered on our behalf as our race representative, but not instead of us, nor as an absolute substitute, nor as an exact equivalent.

We have a true picture of the Atonement in the story of the Prodigal Son. The boy wants to come home, and the father receives him at the first opportunity. But legalism steps in, in the case of the older brother. He wants the demands of strict justice met. The father is satisfied that the son is restored to his father's home and heart, and to a life of righteousness.

The Divine Purpose.

To understand the Atonement, we should see God, realize His purpose, know His heart.

The whole "scheme of human redemption" is manward on God's part. It is from God and for man. It is God's means of accomplishing His original purpose concerning man. That purpose was to make man with the nature and character of God. This is what He at first undertook when He said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." He designed to make man so that he should live the life of God.