

preceding verse, where the writer speaks of persons "being reconciled" to God through the death of his Son. So, according to New Testament teaching, atonement to God through Christ is reconciliation to God through Christ. Had the rendering of the Revisers been adopted from the beginning, the world would have become accustomed to their word; and, instead of speaking of the doctrine of atonement, we should have spoken of the doctrine of reconciliation.<sup>1</sup>

It is a well-known fact, however, that atonement signifies reconciliation or at-one-ment. The latter is an etymological definition, and one that gives an accurate signification. The term is composed of the two words, *at* and *one*, and the termination *ment*. The verb arose from the Middle English form of such phrases as "to be at one," meaning to agree or be reconciled, and "to set at one," meaning to make to agree or cause to be reconciled; and the noun was originally used to express the reconciliation of two estranged parties, especially the setting at one of God and man, who were previously at twain.

The root of the word for atonement in Hebrew means to cover, or to cover over; and, in the ritual of atonement, the idea expressed is that of covering sin so that it is figuratively hidden or removed from

<sup>1</sup>The Greek is *τὴν καταλλαγὴν*, and signifies a change from enmity to friendship.