ARTICLE VIII
OF THE ATONEMENT FOR SIN

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that his atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord, bearing our sins in his own body, on the tree; That having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection. He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and an all-sufficient savior.

What is sin?

What is atonement?

What is grace?

- Eph 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom 3:23-24; John 3:16; Salvation is received by grace. How did saints receive salvation in OT?
- What is meant by a mediatorial office? What does a mediator do?
- …freely took upon Him, our nature. Jesus was not forced or obligated to redeem mankind. Jesus did not cease to be fully God, nor did He only partially become human.

ARIAN HERESEY

During the 4th century, Arius stirred up the church in Alexandria and other locations by asserting that "there was a time when the Son of God was not." That meant that the Son of God was created by the Father, and if this were so, Jesus could not be truly God.

Council of Nicaea convened to resolve dispute. Nicene Creed says "…God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God..."

God of God = God from God like human from human. Homoousius is a Greek term that means "of the same substance." This was used in creating the creed to underscore the fact that although He assumed human form, Jesus is not a different creation or of a different substance than the Father.

- Mat 18:11 explains the reason Jesus came in the flesh.
- Phi 2:7 (read 6,7,8)-Christ did not retain the advantage of being supernatural, took on the form of a slave, remained obedient, even unto death, even though obedience was the reason for his death.
- Heb 2:14, 1 Cor 15:3 reinforces the idea that Christ did die and why.
- Isa 53:4-7, 11-12, OT prophesies about the Christ dying on the cross and resurrection. He carried all the weight of everyone else's sin, yet He was treated as if He had committed the sin. It was OUR transgressions and OUR iniquities, not HIS. His chastisement brought us peace. His stripes healed us from the sickness of sin.
- 1 Pet 2:24 echoes the previous verse but includes that we are to be righteous.
- Rom 3:23-26 Who has sinned? How are we justified? What is propitiation? Explain just and justifier.
- Heb 12:2 He endured so we must endure.
- Heb 9:12-15 if a sinful priest can offer burnt offerings, and that be sufficient, how much more sufficient is a Sinless One offering his own blood as atonement?
- 1 John 2:2-3; 4:10 Our propitiation. Not just for Jews but all who believe. How do we know that we have come to know Him?
- " …yet without sin…" Why is this important to Jesus being The Christ?

- ” … honored the divine law…” even though Jesus was God and sinless, he still obeyed the laws God made for man. Why?

- ” … and by his death, made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins…” what does full and vicarious mean?
- We are told certain facts about His atonement.
    - -voluntary substitution
    - -the Just dying for the unjust
    - -a suitable AND compassionate Savior