

# Westwood Baptist Church



*Grounded. Growing. Going.*

Worship Guide for April 3, 2022

## Sermon Notes

### Why the Cross Matters

#### Substitutionary Atonement: David's Willing Substitute...and Ours

Psalm 40:6-8; Hebrews 10:5-10

For the next two weeks leading up to Resurrection Sunday, we will consider the cross of Christ, what happened there and why. We will think about two doctrines that are central to the gospel, Substitution and Redemption. We will think about what makes the 'good news' so good. We will do this by first looking back through the eyes of King David, through the lens of the Old Testament, because "without the Old Testament we could not know Jesus properly". (Motyer)

David knew that Abraham "took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son" (Genesis 22:13). David was raised hearing the account of how God spared the first-born sons of Israel under the blood of the Passover lamb. David, like all the Israelite worshippers, laid his hands on the head of an animal that died as a substitute to "make atonement for him" (Leviticus 1:4).

Later, Isaiah saw all this more clearly as he recognized that ultimately only a person could substitute for persons, and he recorded the amazing prophecies of the Suffering Servant who "was pierced for our transgressions" (Isaiah 53:5).

Penal Substitution may not be a phrase you immediately recognize, but it is a truth we regularly preach, teach, and sing. All that we see and hear from Abraham, David, and Isaiah looks to ahead to Jesus. Jesus was completely sinless. When he died on the cross, it was not for his own sin, but he was a willing substitute for others. He absorbed fully God's righteous wrath against us, because of our sin, and freed us from the penalty of sin and freed us to love God and others the way we were created to do.

"It is only in viewing Christ as our penal substitute that we truly understand the depth of God's holy love for us, the horrendous nature of our sin before God, and the glory of our substitute — Jesus Christ our Lord — whose obedient life and penal death achieved our right standing before God and the full forgiveness of our sins." (Stephen Wellum)

In his heritage, David saw a substitute.

In his worship, David needed a substitute.

In his prophecy, Isaiah saw the Substitute.

In the New Testament, we see Jesus as our Substitute.

Applications:

## Weekly Discipleship Guide

### Know

**What does God intend for me to know?**  
**In your journal, use the following prompts to write some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

I never knew...	I was reminded...	A question I still have...
I was challenged...	I was convicted...	A truth I could share...
I was encouraged to...		I need to dig deeper into...

### Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?**  
**In your journal, use the following questions to write some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

Is there a command to obey?	Am I convicted to confess any sin?
How am I compelled to exalt God?	Is there a sin to avoid?
Is there a promise to claim?	How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel?
Is there a principle to follow?	How can I pray for someone else?
Is there an example to follow?	What am I compelled to love or desire?

### Do (Yield)

**How does God's Word call me to yield my life? In your journal, write your answers and thoughts in response to the following questions.**

How would you explain penal substitutionary atonement? Why is it such a precious doctrine to both know deeply and defend rigorously? Why is it vitally important to how we shape our evangelism?

What difference should the penal substitutionary atonement of Christ make in a believer's life right now, every single day, and not *just* at the moment of conversion?

What difference does the truth of penal substitutionary atonement make in our response to and celebration of Jesus' resurrection?

*\*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.*

#### Westwood Staff

**Gerald Hodges:** Lead Pastor  
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