

'In Christ Alone' not included in American Church Hymnbook

An interesting topic was aired on Radio Ulster's Sunday Sequence (11 August) concerning the decision of one of the American Presbyterian denominations (of which there are quite a few) to not include in a new hymnbook the popular modern hymn "In Christ Alone".

You can read details of their decision in this newspaper article located on <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/my-song-of-praise-was-dropped-from-a-us-hymn-book-all-because-of-one-word-29485090.html>

This just represents the latest challenge to the biblical truth of '**Penal Substitution**' concerning Christ's loving and willing vicarious sacrificial death on the Cross for His people.

Two of my articles that deal with this issue are located firstly on http://www.takeheed.net/Take_Heed_2010/Current_Concerns/Jan_2010/Enemies_of_The_Cross.htm

and then secondly (in the article concerning '**Steve Chalke's Hypocrisy**' and specifically making reference to the lines in question from "In Christ Alone") on http://www.takeheed.net/News_From_The_Front/JUNE2006.htm

In the Evangelical Dictionary of Theology under the heading of 'Satisfaction' we read the following –

"The Bible however plainly teaches that the death of Christ was a sacrifice... The NT conception of sacrifice in turn cannot possible be understood apart from the OT conception of sacrifice, and there it is very clear that the sacrifice is not simply a gift to God or a mode of communion and fellowship with God. The only explanation which satisfies the OT data is that the sacrifice is propitiatory in character and appeases the wrath of God by removing the guilt of sin through a substitutionary bearing of the penalty... the guilt of our sin is removed by the satisfaction which Christ renders to God against whom the sin is committed. Hence Christ is called the Lamb of God. When God is propitiated by Christ's blood we are redeemed from the curse of the law and reconciled to Him. The concept of satisfaction then is a theological term which embraces in its connotation all the major categories used in the Scriptures to describe the meaning of Christ's atoning work, as it relates to God and to the sinner. The most crucial passage is Romans 3:21-26."

If Christ did not 'satisfy' the wrath of God on the cross in the sense of removing/expiating our guilt as sinners then the wrath of God would still remain on us just as it does with all unsaved people (John 3:36).

I took issue on a precious occasion with the words of Keith Getty in one of his hymns (when he referred to Christ as 'Son of Adam') but on this occasion I stand fully with him on what was written.

Cecil Andrews – 'Take Heed' Ministries – 21 August 2013