

a. The Cross

- i. Jesus on the cross is both God and Israel
- ii. They meet on the cross and evil does all that it can do; the Creator does all He can do
- iii. By his suffering and death Jesus absorbs evil and defeats it.
- iv. The cross echoes the message of the liberation from Egypt and the return from exile in which God saves, but this time in person.
- v. The cross says God has assumed responsibility for the evil in the world by embracing its consequences and forgiving those who commit evil

b. ATONEMENT AND THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

- i. All theories of the atonement are abstractions from the real events. They are ways of trying to understand how God was dealing with evil on the cross of Jesus. They can be helpful but they cannot replace the event.
- ii. The story of the cross comes closer to the event itself because it is a description of it.
- iii. The Eucharist is a reenactment of Jesus' own interpretation of what God was doing.
  1. Jesus is given to the world and for the world.
  2. This giving involves his death
- iv. Actions of love and forgiveness make the death of Jesus a reality in a still broken world
- v. The Theory which Wright likes the best is Christus Victor-On the cross Jesus was victorious over the powers of evil.
- vi. Paul's judicial or penal theme in his letters stresses that Jesus paid the penalty for us.

1. Jesus' death is thus an act of love—"greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."
  2. This act of love summons our acts of love to one another
- vii. Forgiveness foreshadows the time when we will actually be sinless and thus guiltless.
  - viii. The Eucharist embodies and expresses that forgiveness and enables the life of the spirit which moves us towards sinlessness.
  - ix. The cross summons us to a life of death and resurrection, repentance and forgiveness in our daily living. The cross is the place where God loved us the most.
  - x. It points to God's way and away from the way of James and John
  - xi. We are called to implement God's way of dealing with evil, the way of suffering love.
  - xii. The church is both part of the solution and part of the problem, as was Israel.
  - xiii. When God came down to deal with evil, what did it look like?
    1. God leading an army of avenging angels to destroy evil by killing evil doers?
    2. God coming as the suffering servant who died in love for the world?