



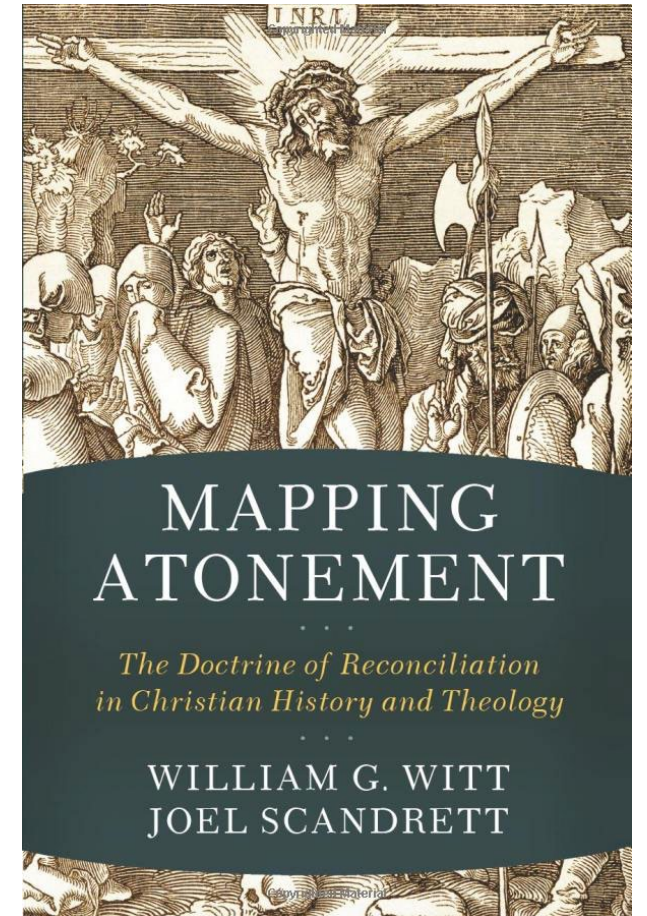
The “A” Word

THE VAST AND RICH THEOLOGY OF ATONEMENT

SUNDAYS IN LENT

Atonement & Christus Victor

- Hebrew Perspective
- Atonement and the Incarnation
- Atonement as Christus Victor
- Atonement as Divine Love
- Atonement as Reconciliation



Atonement & Christus Victor

- Christus Victor = Christ the Victor
- Name comes primarily from a book by Gustaf Aulén, *Christus Victor: A Historical Study of the Three Main Types of the Idea of Atonement*
- Aulén (1879-1977) was a professor and then bishop in the Church of Sweden
- Draws heavily on other theologies of atonement



Christus Victor: A Historical Study of the Three Main Types of the Idea of Atonement

- Satisfaction Theory
 - Latin or Objective View
- Subjective Theory
- Ransom Theory
 - Classic view of the early Church
 - What Aulén renames “Christus Victor”





Atonement & Christus Victor

- Portions of this view were held by many for the first ~1000 years
- Irenaeus, Origen of Alexandria, Augustine of Hippo
- Predominant theology of atonement until Anselm of Canterbury publishes *Cur Deus Homo*



Ransom or not?

- Aulén argues that the crucifixion was not a payment of ransom to the devil
- Rather, it was a liberation of humanity from the bondage of sin, death, and the devil
- Not payment, but a trap laid for Satan



The Path to Victory

- The totality of Jesus' life
- The fullness of the Trinity

The Path to Victory

The totality of Jesus' life

- Birth



The Path to Victory

The totality of Jesus' life

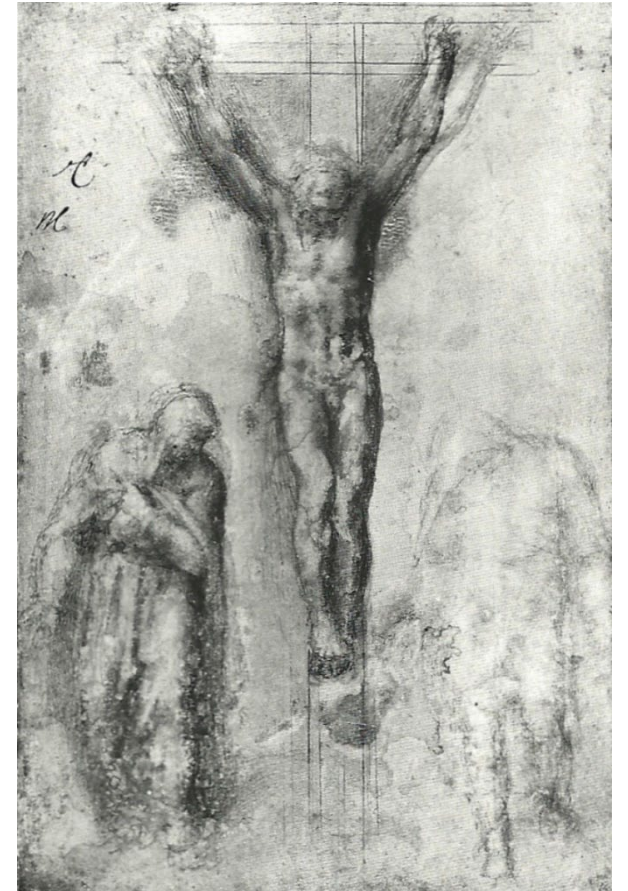
- Birth
- Temptations



The Path to Victory

The totality of Jesus' life

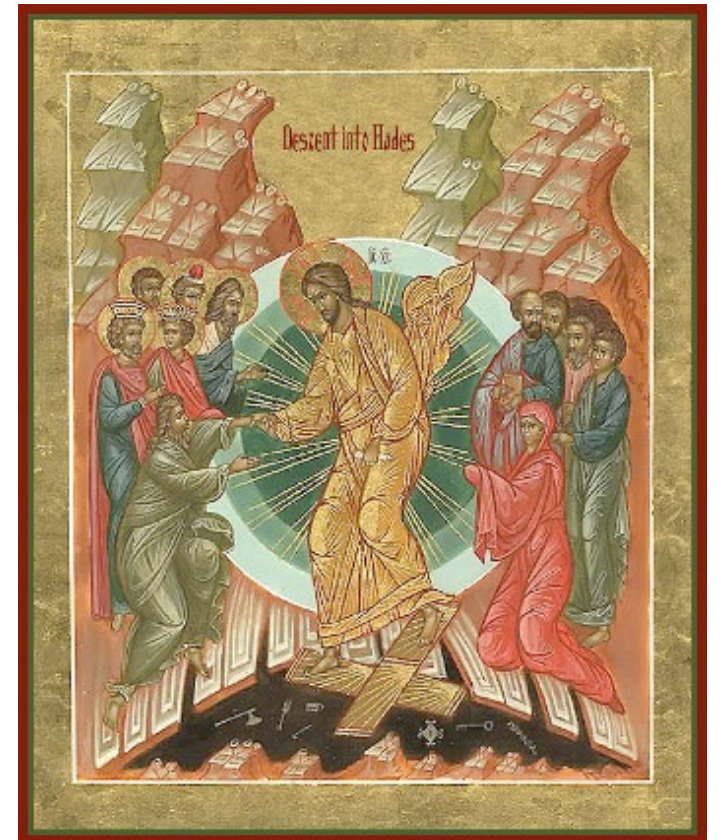
- Birth
- Temptations
- Death



The Path to Victory

The totality of Jesus' life

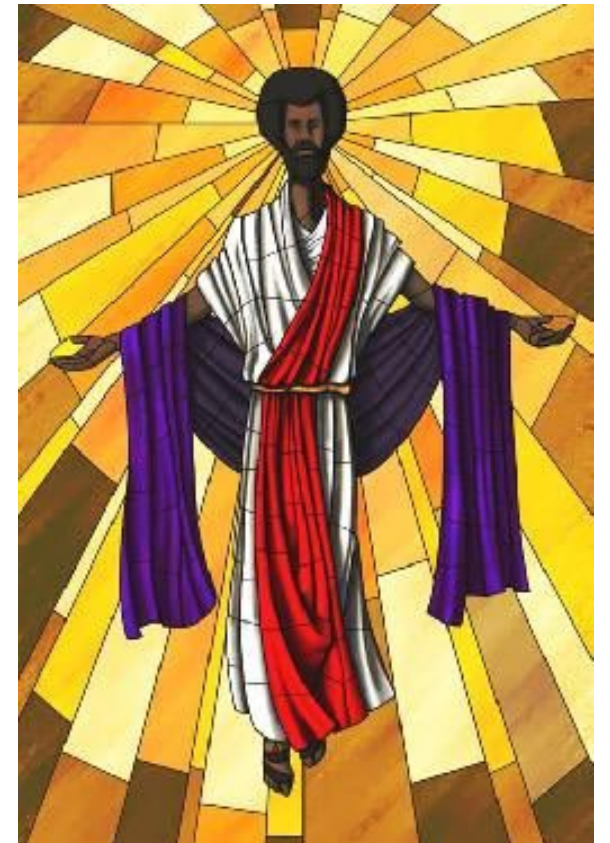
- Birth
- Temptations
- Death
- Descent



The Path to Victory

The totality of Jesus' life

- Birth
- Temptations
- Death
- Descent
- Resurrection



The Path to Victory

Methodius of Olympus—

“Therefore it was that by a man He procured the safety of the race; in order that men, after that very Life and Truth had entered into them in bodily form, might be able to return to the form and light of the Word, overcoming the power of the enticements of sin; and that the demons, being conquered by one weaker than they, and thus brought into contempt, might desist from their over-bold confidence, their hellish wrath being repressed.





Atonement & Christus Victor

Three points of the one movement

- Divine love is primary



Atonement & Christus Victor

Three points of the one movement

- Divine love is primary
- Forgiveness is a free gift



Atonement & Christus Victor

Three points of the one movement

- Divine love is primary
- Forgiveness is a free gift
- In God's love, God forgives freely

COMING UP

ATONEMENT AS...

3/19: DIVINE LOVE

3/26: RECONCILIATION