

Aim: To learn the meaning of some of the big words that Christians sometimes use.

Have you ever heard pastors or other people at church using really big words? Have you ever thought "What on earth are they talking about?" To day we are going to have a look at some of those big words and what they mean.

For each of the following words, ask if they have heard them and what they know about them.

Atonement

Let's say someone has broken the law and the judge says "You are sentenced to so many years in jail; you cannot come out until you have served your time and agree to obey the law in future. Then you will have paid for or atoned for your crimes.

We have all sinned and broken the law, the Ten Commandments; we deserve to die, but Jesus took our punishment or made atonement for us. Atonement is also described as "at-one-meant" which means "being of agreement." When we follow Satan we do not agree with God; that is why we need atonement.

Mercy

Let's imagine a person is caught speeding, they say "Sorry Officer, I didn't realise I was speeding – or whatever" the Police Officer has every right to give them a ticket; they have broken the law. But the Police Officer might show mercy, he might just caution them – tell them to be more careful in future.

We have all sinned and broken the law, the Ten Commandments; we deserve to die. In fact, Satan insists that we must die, and God has every right to agree. But God shows us mercy; He provided a way out; He didn't have to.

Justification

What if someone got a parking ticket, but someone else says "I will take your punishment, I will pay your fine." It would be just as if you had never broken the law.

This is justification. Jesus takes our sins - He has already taken our punishment on the cross – it is "just as if" we had never sinned.

Sanctification

Sanctification is not a word we use in English today, but if we have a look at an older version of the Bible, and then in a more modern version it can give you a good idea of what it means.

Read Hebrew 10:14 in the NKJV and then in the NLT. What does the new version of the Bible say instead of sanctify? It says "made holy"

Can you think of any other things from the Bible that are holy? (Sabbath, the Sanctuary and the things used in it, priests etc)

God wants to make you holy; just like the Sabbath is holy, just like the Sanctuary was holy. You are very special to God.

Jesus has already made atonement for your sins, and if you will let Him, He will Sanctify you, and Justify you, because God is merciful and He doesn't want anyone to die. He would like to save everyone, but He can only do that if you let Him.