5. The Exodus is a defining or framing story for Judaism, Jesus, and Paul. How can it become a story that helps you frame your life?

6. How would you explain the propitiating death of Christ to an educated 13-year-old?

7. What are some of the ways we can come to terms with God's judgment and wrath, even if it still bothers us?

8. How might not coming to terms with God's wrath impact our walk with God?

**The Gospel Journey Back to God
(A Series on Romans 1–4)**
"What Jesus' Death Accomplished for Us"
Romans 3:21-26

The death of Christ was an act of _____ that redeems those who put their faith in Jesus by making us right through his atoning/propitiating sacrifice.

What Jesus' Death Accomplished for Us

1. Justification

   "Justification" and the verb "to justify" are from the same _____ as the word "righteousness."

   Righteousness is a validating performance record that _____ doors. (Tim Keller)

   Righteousness refers to a moral record you bring to God, your spiritual credentials. Every religion shows you how to acquire a good moral or spiritual _____ that will open the door for you to a god or gods.

   In Christianity the only _____ credentials are God's credentials, his righteousness.

   We are given God's credentials, his GPA, his resume, his _____.

   To be justified means that a new status has been bestowed on you, a new status with all the rights, privileges and benefits of that _____.

   2 Corinthians 5: 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

   The biblical doctrine of justification is that God imputes/credits Christ's righteousness to _____.

2. Redemption

   To redeem means to buy back or liberate through a _____.

   The _____ story of God redeeming Israel from slavery in Egypt is more than a story from the past that Israel simply tried to remember; it's THE story by which and in which Israel and first-century Judaism saw its whole story. And knowing that story is essential for understanding what redemption in Christ means.

   In Paul, redemption comes not from slavery but from _____. We not only sin, we are under the POWER of sin. Sin is a master and we are sin's slaves. Jesus liberates us from slavery to sin by paying our debt for us.

3. Atonement/Propitiation

   (ESV) Romans 3: [25] whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood

   Propitiation refers to the removal of God's wrath against _____.

   It was God himself that went to the cross. There is only one God in three persons. You can't pit the persons of the _____ against each other. (See Mark 10:45; John 10:14-15; Galatians 2:20)

   The idea that God doesn't get angry at and judge us for our evil is the new invention, a new invention birthed in the comfort of our cushy lives where we have no fear of marauding armies, where we never have to kill and butcher our own food, and where the last Americans to fight in a horrifying war against evil that killed _____ million people will soon be all gone.

   The reality of God's wrath can become a settled conviction by facing the evil in our own hearts and the evil in our own world. Then we'll marvel at God's grace and his unbounded and incomprehensible sacrifice. It will change the way we worship and the way we _____.

"Why I have changed my mind about Penal Substitution" by Daniel Hames (https://bit.ly/2QBB1Y5)

"Penal Substitution in the Early Church" by Brian Arnold (https://bit.ly/2QXmKF1)

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Have you ever received access to someone who is really well connected in your field of work or of interests or very well known? How did you gain that access?

3. Read Romans 3:21-26. How does the idea that "righteousness is a validating performance record that opens doors" help you to better understand this passage?

4. What are some of the problems with pursuing justice or helping the poor and marginalized in an all law, no gospel grace universe?