

edict? Unless the king places his royal authority behind the edict, it may be viewed as expressing his desire or wish or preference, but it will not be viewed as the law of the land. Those who love the king may obey the edict (out of love to him), but if need arises and their stomachs growl, even those who respect the throne may disobey the edict; and those who neither love the king or respect his office may view the edict as a license to take their fill of the game in crown lands with impunity. And the king's officers may remonstrate with and chide the edict breakers, but they will not enforce the edict, because no authority to do so has been delegated to them.

Once again (by way of review), a law is a rule of conduct, promulgated by some competent authority, and enforced by appropriate sanctions. Penalty is necessarily involved in law; and in the Atonement Christ bore the penalty of the transgressed Law on our behalf.

- (d) But the further question may be raised, Why guilt? Why not simply penalty? Why should Christ take our guilt upon Himself? And how can one person bear the quilt of another?"

Once again (by way of review), "guilt" is liability to transgressed law. In the legal sense a person who is guilty is one who in the eyes of the judge and/or jury is regarded as having committed an unlawful act and as being deserving of an appropriate punishment. A guilty person is a person who has broken the law and is worthy of punishment.

If we say that the Atonement involves the bearing of guilt, does this mean that Christ on the cross is regarded as one who has broken the law and is worthy of punishment? The answer is yes. Does this mean that I am no longer regarded as legally guilty of my sin (technically, that my sins are no longer imputed to me or charged to my account)? The answer is yes. Does this mean that I am no longer guilty in fact of having committed any sins? The answer is no. I am still the one who did it, that is, the one who transgressed God's Law; and I am still the one who deserves the penalty (and will be forever; thus God's grace will be magnified throughout all the eons of eternity future). But legally the guilt of my sin has been imputed to Christ, and legally Christ has become guilty through my sin, and legally Christ's righteousness has been imputed to me, and legally I have become righteous through Christ's righteousness.

- (e) Christ has borne both my guilt and my condemnation; thus I no longer stand under the guilt or condemnation of the Law, and there is no more legal guilt or condemnation resting on me!

"Arise, my soul, arise, Shake off thy guilty fears.
The bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears.
Before the throne my Surety stands,
Before the throne ray Surety stands;
My name is written on His hands.