

He ever lives above For me to intercede,
His all-redeeming love, His precious blood to plead.
His blood atoned for all our race,
His blood atoned for all our race,
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

Five bleeding wounds he bears, Received on Calvary.
They pour effectual prayers; They strongly plead for me.
'Forgive him, oh, forgive,' they cry,
'Forgive him, oh, forgive,' they cry,
'Nor let that ransomed sinner die.'

The Father hears Him pray, His dear Anointed One;
He cannot turn away The presence of His Son.
His Spirit answers to the blood,
His Spirit answers to the blood,
And tells me I am born of God.

My God is reconciled; His pard'ning voice I hear.
He owns me for His child; I can no longer fear.
With confidence I now draw nigh,
With confidence I now draw nigh,
And 'Father, Abba, Father,' cry."

(Charles Wesley)

d. Inadequate Theories of the Nature of the Atonement

(Note: An excellent treatment of theories of the atonement and their adherents is found in H. D. McDonald, *The Atonement of the Death of Christ* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985).)

(1) The Ransom to Satan Theory

Origen of Alexandria (A.D. 185-254) held that, by their sin, human beings had sold their souls to Satan, who held them in bondage; and that the death of Christ was a ransom paid to the devil in exchange for their souls. However, once Christ's soul was in Satan's clutches, the devil found that the holy presence of the Son of God in his kingdom of evil was a torture to him, and that it was too painful for him to try to hold Christ captive, and thus he had to let Him go. And so Satan forfeited both the purchase and the price, both the prisoners and the ransom, both men's souls and Christ!

Gregory of Nyssa (335-395) held that, by their sin, human beings had sold their souls to Satan, who held them in bondage. Satan decided to bargain with God for the release of these human slaves; and saw an opportunity to get the best of the transaction. He believed that, in His state of humiliation, Christ was weakened, and could easily be made subject to his evil, power; and thus he demanded Christ as the ransom. God agreed to do this, and Satan released his captives. But alas, Christ's divine nature was hidden under His humanity, and Satan gulped down the hook of deity along with the bait of flesh! So Christ was brought into the devil's realm, but His divine nature was too powerful for Satan to hold, and Christ