Session 43 - Atonement and Roman Catholicism

Question: *Describe the atonement in both the OT and the NT. Does the Roman Catholic Church violate the once alone atonement of Christ?*

*Describe the atonement in both the OT and the NT.*

1. Atonement comes from a Hebrew word that means to cover. The idea of atonement is that sin needed to be covered in order for forgiveness to be possible.
2. The certain of the OT Sacrifices in the Tabernacle/Temple, listed in Leviticus, specifically “made atonement” for the sins of Israel.
3. In the NT, we find out that Jesus suffering, bleeding and dying made atonement, that is, covered the sins of the whole world.
   1. Romans 3:21-26 [**21**](http://biblehub.com/romans/3-21.htm)But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— [**22**](http://biblehub.com/romans/3-22.htm)the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: [**23**](http://biblehub.com/romans/3-23.htm)for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [**24**](http://biblehub.com/romans/3-24.htm)and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [**25**](http://biblehub.com/romans/3-25.htm)whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. [**26**](http://biblehub.com/romans/3-26.htm)It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
4. In the NT, we also find out that the OT sacrifices of animals on the altar derived their efficacy from the once for all sacrifice of Christ.
   1. Hebrews 10:1 - For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.
   2. Col. 2: 16-17 - [**16**](http://biblehub.com/colossians/2-16.htm)Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. [**17**](http://biblehub.com/colossians/2-17.htm)These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

*Does the Roman Catholic Church violate the once alone atonement of Christ?*

1. The Roman Catholic Church violates the once for all atonement of Christ when they teach their priests to change bread and wine into Jesus body and blood, and then offer that body and blood as a sacrifice to appease the Father, making atonement and also as an offering on behalf of other temporal and eternal benefits.
   1. Private Masses done by priests are taught to be efficacious ex opera operato, that is by the mere performance of the Mass.
2. The Bible teaches that Jesus is a unique priest, different from OT priests in, offering his body and blood as a one time for all-time sacrifice on the cross of calvary.
   1. Hebrews 7:27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.
   2. Hebrews 7:11-19 - [**11**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/7-11.htm)Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? [**12**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/7-12.htm)For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. [**13**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/7-13.htm)For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. [**14**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/7-14.htm)For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

[**15**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/7-15.htm)This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, [**16**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/7-16.htm)who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. [**17**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/7-17.htm)For it is witnessed of him,

“You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”

[**18**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/7-18.htm)For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness [**19**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/7-19.htm)(for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

* What is the difference between Universal Atonement and Universal Salvation?
  + Universal Atonement means Jesus covered/paid for the sins of the whole world. This is biblical.
  + Universal Salvation means that Jesus’ sacrifice means everyone will go to heaven. This is an unbiblical teaching.
  + Atonement only leads to salvation for those who receive Christ’s atonement through faith.