

MATTHEW 21:44

Matthew 21:44 He who falls on this Stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed. Amplified Bible

Anyone who stumbles over that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone it falls on." NLT

The Stone is Jesus. We should allow our pride to be broken, but some allow their pride to harden their heart and are crushed in judgment.

Those who stumble over the Stone are those who receive conviction of the Holy Spirit over sin, righteousness, and judgment with a broken heart humbly seeking after God for rescue from sin and rejecting their own self-reliance. They allow the Holy Spirit to bring them to faith in Jesus as their personal Savior. Their old way of life is broken to pieces and dies and they receive a new birth and a new life which is eternal. Falling on the stone implies humility and repentance. Believers are called to submit to Christ, owning their need for mercy and grace.

Those who harden their hearts and reject the conviction of the Holy Spirit will face judgment and be crushed by this judgment.

What will you do about this cornerstone, Jesus? Will you allow in humility your pride to be broken or will you allow pride to harden your heart?

Daniel 2:34-35 The stone not cut by human hands crushes the statue representing earthly kingdoms, and symbolizes God's ultimate cleansing of earth and the establishment of His Kingdom on earth. "Crushing" signifies the complete destruction, and indicates the irreversible consequence of rejecting Jesus.

At the cross of Jesus, sin was crushed and the justice of God for removing sin was satisfied.

The justice of God was satisfied against sin at the cross because sin was condemned for killing the sinless Son of God (Romans 8:3). Jesus was not being punished for our sin by God. Jesus was not paying the penalty for our sin for God. Jesus was gaining the right as a Man to take away the sin of the world. The cross was an act of provisional reconciliation. God was in Christ, provisionally reconciling the world to Himself, not counting sin against us. God holds no one back from receiving the resurrected life of Jesus making a person born again of the Spirit. The new creation believer is saved by His life. Salvation is a judicial reconciliation produced by the infusion of the spiritual blood of Christ into the believer. The word atonement is not in the New Testament originally. You may ask, "Was the death of Jesus a real atonement?" No, the death of sinless Jesus was a provisional reconciliation. The word atonement is not a word found in the New Testament. The Old Testament word atonement means "to cover." Jesus did not cover up our sin. Jesus came to "die for our sin" meaning to "take away the sin of the world." We can only be truly reconciled to God by being changed into a new creation. Regeneration requires the infusion of His resurrection life into us. Rom. 5:10

When we sing the word atonement concerning the death of Christ, we should be defining the word as provisional reconciliation. Christ was not becoming sin in our place. He was the sin offering. Christ was not dying to pay for our sin. Christ was not dying as a substitute to pay our penalty. The death of Jesus saved no one. We are saved by receiving His resurrection life. To receive eternal life we must cooperate with Holy Spirit conviction and believe in Jesus for our sin removal and our restoration to righteousness. Salvation includes justification, sanctification, and glorification.

God's perfect justice has no need to punish anyone, especially His Son in our place. Sin has its own punishment. If we neglect so great a salvation, we are punishing ourselves eternally with separation from a loving, life-giving God. We are to blame if we reject

God's love. We will perish because of our own neglect. We do not perish to satisfy God's justice. We perish in spite of God's love because we don't believe.