

“The Doctrines of Grace: The Atonement”
(Part #2)

I. What is the Atonement?

The Atonement is the work of God in Christ, by His obedience and death, by which He cancelled the debt of sin, appeased God’s holy wrath against us, and won for us all the benefits of salvation.

“Atone” (in its various forms) can mean: “to cover, to make amends, to ransom, to appease.” But the idea usually has to do to with **making peace through an acceptable sacrifice.**

What is the channel by which God’s grace is received? (Rom. 4:5; 5:1)

II. Is the Atonement Limited?

Answer? _____

The atonement is not limited in power but in extent. If the atonement had no limit, then everyone would be saved, even apart from faith.

III. How Limited is the Atonement?

- (Or, in what way is the Atonement limited?)

View #1:

A) Christ’s Death Was Sufficient for All – And Efficient for All

Position: Universalism!

- This is a heretical doctrine. Why?

Key Affirmations of the Next Two Views to which both of the given proponents adhere:

- 1) All would hold to the Sufficiency of Christ’s Atoning Death to Accomplish God’s Salvific Purposes
- 2) All would hold to the Efficacy of Christ’s Atoning Death
- 3) All would say that the Offer of Salvation is made in the Presentation of the Gospel

View #2:

B) Christ's Death Was Sufficient Only for the Elect – Therefore, Only Efficient for the Elect

Position: 5 Point Calvinists

#1) The View

View #1 Summary:

“Christ died for the purpose of actually and certainly saving people from their sin, but since not all are in fact saved, it requires then that He died for and hence saved a certain people “those whom the Father had given Him” (cf. John 6:39) i.e. The Elect”

Explain:

#2) Verses and Arguments

Key Passages for View #1:

- 1) John 6:37-40 – “All that the Father gives to Me” = The Elect
- 2) John 10:11-16 – “My own . . . My Sheep” = The Elect
- 3) Acts 20:28 – “the Church of God which He purchased with His own blood”
- 4) Ephesians 5:25 – “Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her”
- 5) Titus 2:14 – “who gave Himself for us . . . a people for His own possession”

Do some of these passages say that Jesus came to die for *those whom the Father gives to Him, or His sheep, or His Church?* _____

SO CLEARLY: A Key Mission of Christ in the World was to Ensure the Salvation of the Elect by Dying for them!

However, do the above reference state that Christ *only* or *exclusively* died for the elect?

#3) Challenges

- 1) The Bible never explicitly says that Christ only died for the elect.
- 2) Verses that seem to imply a greater sufficiency for the atonement than just the elect
 - 1 Timothy 2:6 – “(Christ) gave Himself as a ransom for all”
 - 1 Timothy 4:10 – “(Christ) is the Savior of all men, especially believers”
 - 1 John 2:2 – “He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world”
- 3) Can the Gospel legitimately be offered to all, if Christ did not die for all? (See Act 17:30)

View #3:

C) Christ's Death Was Sufficient for All – But Only Efficient for The Elect

C1) Christ died for the purpose of paying the penalty for the sin of all people -making it possible for any and all to be saved. God loves all and wants all to be saved. In his love for all, he sent Christ to make the payment for the sin of all. Belief in Christ is necessary, however, to receive the benefits of Christ's death and be saved. The gospel must be preached to all, and, upon hearing the gospel, any can come because Christ died for the sins of all people in the world.

➤ Position: Arminian

The position considered from this point on is C2:

#1) The View

C2) God's intentions in the death of Christ are complex not simple, multiple not singular:

- 1) Christ died for the purpose of securing the sure and certain salvation of his own, his elect.
- 2) Christ died for the purpose of paying the penalty for the sin of all people making it possible for all who believe to be saved.
- 3) Christ died for the purpose of securing the bone fide offer of salvation to all people everywhere.
- 4) Christ died for the purpose of providing an additional basis for condemnation for those who hear and reject the gospel that has been genuinely offered to them.
- 5) Christ died for the purpose of reconciling all things to the Father.

➤ Position: "4.5-4.9 Calvinists"

Affirmations of View #2:

- 1) We Affirm that the elect of God will all eventually be saved and that the non-elect, who will never repent and believe, will eventually be eternally condemned.
- 2) We Affirm that all people enter the world lost, including the elect.
- 3) We Affirm that all people saved must express faith in Christ.
- 4) We Affirm that some passages of Scripture do relate the effects of the atonement to the elect.

#2) Verses and Arguments

Key Passages for View #2:

1) 2 Peter 2:1

➤ Lost false teachers deny "*the Master who _____ them*"

2) 1 Timothy 2:6

➤ Jesus "*gave Himself a ransom for _____*"

3) 1 Timothy 4:10

- Jesus is “*the Savior of _____ men, especially of believers*”

The Questions that need answers:

- Was the ransom price paid for all or only for some?
- Are the lost sent to hell because of their sin alone or also for rejecting Christ? If they are condemned for rejecting Christ, than does that imply that the *potential* for their redemption existed?
- Who is the Gospel offered to? (John 3:16; Acts 17:30)

4) 1 John 2:2

- Jesus is “*the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the _____.*”

Briefly explain how God always “overdoes” things:

How does that relate to the redemption of Christ?

2 Key Accomplishments of the Redemption:

- #1 – It Demonstrates God’s Love for His Creation in General
- #2 – It Leaves Those Who Reject the Gospel Without Excuse!

2 Sub-Views from View #2:

#1 – Jesus Christ’s Aim in Dying for Sinners was the Same for the Elect and the Non-Elect Alike (C1)

Explain the Problem with such a view:

#2 – Jesus Christ’s Aim in Dying for Sinners was to Ensure the Salvation of the Elect – But, in so doing, God also Generously Made Sufficient Atonement for the Sins of the Whole World (C2)

Explain how this view accounts for statements made by Christ in John 6:37-40 and John 10:12-16:

#3) Challenges

- 1) If Christ paid the ransom price for all, how can you say all are not free?
- 2) How can people, who have had the purchase price paid for them, still be in bondage?
- 3) How can you sent to hell people who have the ransom price paid?
- 4) How do you account for passages where Christ says He came to die for His sheep?
 - John 6:37-40
 - John 10:11-16
 - Acts 20:28
 - Ephesians 5:25
 - Titus 2:14

5 Statements that are Undeniably Biblical, True, and Worthy of Consideration

- 1) God is Gracious and Merciful and Saves Sinners
- 2) Jesus Christ is the Only Savior of Mankind
- 3) One Must Repent and Believe to be Saved
- 4) Christians Must Call on All People to Repent and Believe and Those Who Do (Believe) Will Be Saved
- 5) We Cannot Save Anyone. Only God, by His Sovereign Power, Delivers Those Whom He Wills to Save