

Limited Atonement

The Story of the Successful Savior

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I. Review of ‘Total Depravity’ and ‘Unconditional Election’

A. Total Depravity: The Bible’s View of Sin and Sinners

1. All people who are born of Adam became sinners when Adam originally sinned

2. All people who are born of Adam are born sinners by their very nature

- a. A person does not become a sinner, when he or she commits his or her first sin
- b. A person commits sin, because he or she is a sinner by nature
- c. Adam’s fallen nature was passed on to his offspring
- d. From conception, at birth, and as children—God judges all people to be sinners
- e. According to our born-with-sin nature—All mankind deserves the wrath of God

3. The Bible declares and proves that all people are sinners by practice

- a. Through all time and in all places—God universally declares that all are sinners
- b. Sins of the tongue—Who can deny committing sins of the tongue?
- c. There are sins of the core level of the heart—Deceitfulness—Lust
- d. There are sins that occur in the mind—Anger—Covetousness
- e. Sins of omission (Good that we fail to do—But should be doing)
- f. In His preaching—Jesus set an unattainable standard of good
- g. God judges all the self-claimed ‘non-sinners’ to be sinners
- h. Those who sin ‘little’ are as guilty as ‘big sinners’
- i. The best of men never ceases to be a sinner
- j. In Romans the Holy Spirit took almost three chapters to prove that all are guilty

4. Sinners are powerless to recover themselves by their own will and ability

- a. An unborn again natural man has no will to come to God (He has no ‘*want to*’)
- b. An unborn again natural man has no ability to come to God (He has no ‘*can do*’)
- c. The Bible’s analogies of regeneration show the passiveness of man in the process
—The Bible likens regeneration to a birth—Can a man cause his own birth?
—The Bible likens regeneration to raising from the dead—Can the dead raise himself?

—The Bible likens regeneration to a new creation—Can the uncreated create himself?

B. Unconditional Election: The Foundation of Salvation

1. The Bible is clear that God elected and predestinated His children to eternal life

- a. God gave His elect people to Christ in the Covenant of Grace before time began
- b. God even placed His elect children *“In Christ”*—All of salvation hinges on this

2. God’s election is unconditionally His choice—Not based on anything in the chosen

- a. Election praises God’s grace (Eph 1:6)—So, it can’t be a reward for man’s choice
- b. Election is not of man’s will or works—Election is of God’s will (Rom 9:16)
- c. Election is not of works—Election is of God’s purpose, call and love (Rom 9:11)
- d. Election is not because of good works—Election is unto good works (Eph 2:10)
- e. Election is not because we have brought forth fruit—Election is so we will (Joh 15:16)
- f. Election is not because men approach God—It causes men to approach (Psa 65:4)
- g. Election is not brought on by belief—Election is the foundation to belief (Act 13:48)

3. Election is just as essential to salvation as crucifixion and ‘born again’

- a. Since man will not come—God must be the one who comes to whom He will
- b. Since man cannot come—God (who has the ability to come) comes to whom He will
- c. Since man does not choose God—God must be the one who does the choosing

4. Romans 9 plainly teaches that as God elected Isaac, Jacob and Moses

—God elected His children to eternal glory

II. Thoughts about sin and grace

There is so much bad in the best of men

—*That salvation by grace is the ONLY possibility.*

There is NOT so much bad in the worst of men

—*That salvation by grace is an impossibility.*

Salvation by grace, and grace alone

—*Is essential for the best of men*

—*And sufficient for the worst of men.*

Salvation that is solely by grace, and wholly by grace

—*Is the only salvation that intermeshes with Bible truth.*

III. Limited Atonement (Jesus died for the specific people God chose & gave to Him)

A. Jesus’ atonement is not limited in power—It is limited in scope

Joh 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should **give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.**

B. Jesus never tried to save everybody—Jesus did, does, and shall save His people

Mat 1:21 ...thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save **his people** from their sins.

Isa 53:8 ...for the transgression of **my people** was he stricken.

Joh 10:11 I am the good shepherd: **the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.**

Joh 10:15 ...and **I lay down my life for the sheep.**

Joh 10:26 But ye believe not, because **ye are not of my sheep**, as I said unto you.

Joh 10:27 **My sheep hear my voice**, and I know them, and they follow me:

Joh 10:28 And **I give unto them eternal life**; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

Joh 10:29 My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

Joh 10:30 I and *my* Father are one.

Joh 19:30 ...he said, **It is finished**: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

C. The accomplishments in Jesus' finished work of atonement

1. Christ is our redemption (pays our debt, buys us back, frees the captives)

Heb 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

2. Christ cleanses us and removes sins from us (purifies us in the sight of God)

Rev 1:5 ...Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

3. Christ is our reconciliation (makes God to be at peace with us)

2Co 5:18 ...God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ...

4. Christ is our acceptance (makes us acceptable to God)

Eph 1:6 ...he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

5. Christ is our substitution (suffers God's wrath because of our sins in our place)

Isa 53:6 ...the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

6. Christ is our remission (removal of the consequences of sin)

Mat 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

7. Christ is our forgiveness (the same Greek word as is translated remission)

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins...

8. Christ is our righteousness (God accounts Christ's righteousness as ours)

2Co 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

9. Christ is our perfection

Heb 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

10. Christ is our justification (the legal declaration of righteousness and innocence)

Rom 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved...

11. Christ is our salvation

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace...

D. Let us look at the ramifications of the finished work of Jesus on the cross

1. From the Bible, we have found many things that Christ accomplished on the cross

- a. Christ paid the debt, bought back, and freed all He died for —(Redemption)
- b. Christ purified in the sight of God all He died for —(Washed in the blood)
- c. Christ made God to be at peace with all He died for —(Reconciliation)
- d. Christ made all He died for acceptable to God —(Accepted in the Beloved)
- e. Christ suffered God's wrath in the place of all He died for —(Substitution)
- f. Christ removed the consequences of sin from all He died for —(Remission)
- g. Christ brought God's forgiveness for all He died for —(Pardon from sin)
- h. Christ gave all He died for His righteousness —(Imputed righteousness)
- i. Christ made all He died forever perfect —(As perfect as He is perfect)
- j. God has justified all Christ died for —(Declared them righteous and innocent)
- k. Christ did, does and will save all He died for —(The Successful Savior)
- l. Christ has accomplished salvation for each and every one for whom He died

2. With these finished works—What could keep anyone Jesus died for out of heaven?

- So, if Jesus died for all people—Then all people must get to heaven
- Yet, the Bible is clear that all people will not be in heaven

3. The Bible's answer is that Jesus did not die for all people

- Jesus died for God's elect people—For His people—For those God had given Him
- And thanks to Jesus' finished work—Each one Jesus died for must get to heaven
- Jesus' salvation is successful salvation—He saved all He came to save
- A side note: The wicked do not go to hell because Jesus did not die for them
- Evil men go to hell because of their sins—Limited atonement harms no one

4. Each and every one for whom Jesus died must end up in heaven with Jesus

- Jesus is not a weak beggar—Wishing men would come—But no power to bring
- Jesus is not a 'wanna-be' Savior—Wanting all to come—But unsure any will
- Jesus is the Almighty God—Who came to save His people from their sins
- Jesus is the Almighty God—Who finished what He came to do

- Jesus is the Almighty God—Who satisfied God regarding salvation
- Jesus is the Almighty God—Who will get His people to heaven
- Limited Atonement—The Bible truth that truly honors the success of Jesus

5. What is the difference between Primitive Baptist and others?

- Primitive Baptists believe in ‘**Salvation by grace—And GRACE ALONE**’
- Primitive Baptists believe in ‘**Salvation by God—And GOD ALONE**’
- Primitive Baptists believe in ‘**The SUCCESSFUL SAVIOR**’