

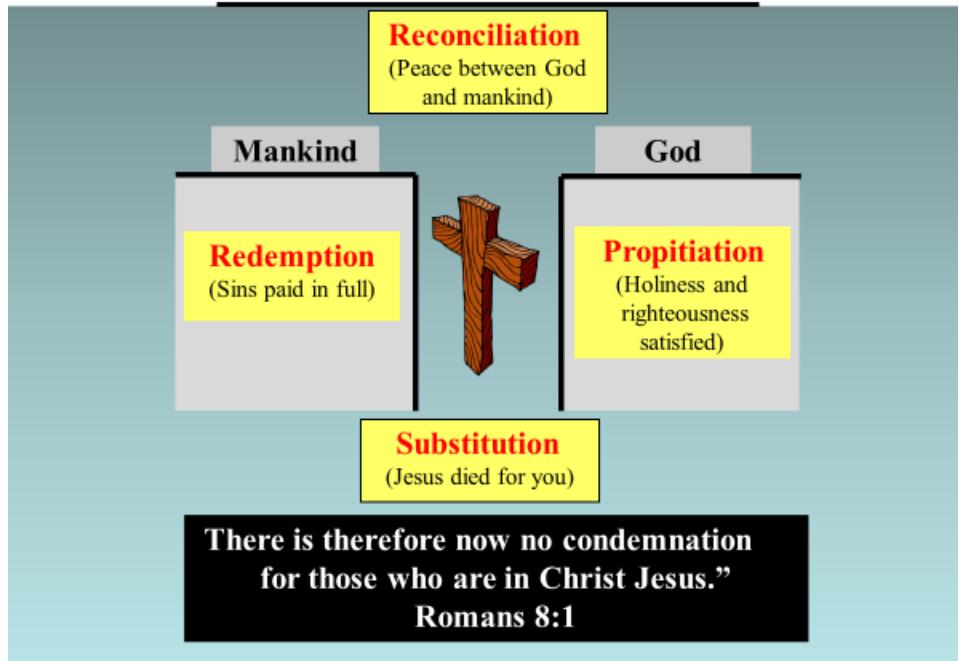
Soteriology: Studies Concerning Salvation

Lesson 4. The Extent of Salvation

3/31/2019

Review: The Provision of Salvation

The Death of Jesus Christ



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☒ Is the provision of Jesus for salvation Limited or Unlimited?

I. Definitions:

- ❖ Unlimited Atonement (general or universal atonement): Jesus died for the sins of mankind without exception.
- ❖ Limited Atonement (definite atonement, particular redemption): Christ died for the sins of the elect alone, and no atonement was provided for the rest of mankind.

Did Christ bear the sins of the elect alone on the cross, or was his death for the sins of all human beings?

II. The Argument for Limited Atonement

A. Calvinism's limited atonement

The principles of Calvinism are summarized by T.U.L.I.P. (total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace, perseverance of the saints)

B. Limited atonement – a logical argument

1. Four different words or aspects of the atonement are clearly seen in Scripture. These four words are ransom, reconciliation, propitiation and substitute.
2. These four aspects of Christ's atonement all speak of Christ as having actually accomplished something in His death.
3. The obvious conclusion is that one cannot hold to a true unlimited atonement without also requiring universal salvation.
4. If not universal salvation, then all of these aspects of the atoning work of Christ become nothing more than a possibility that relies upon man to make them a reality.
5. Therefore, the death of Jesus is only for the elect and actually accomplishes the salvation of the elect.

Is this logical argument for limited atonement consistent with the Scriptures?

III. Unlimited Atonement Verses

A. Jesus is the Savior of the World

 John 1:29 "*Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*"

1. The image is of the Levitical sacrifices. The people's guilt was viewed as *transferred* to the sacrificial animal and *taken away*. (compare Isaiah 53:6–12; 2 Corinthians 5:21). Note that this covered all the people's sin.
2. "sin" is singular. It refers to the collective and all-embracing sin of the world.
3. "world" – not for Israel only, but for the entire world.

 John 3:14-18

:14 "*As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,*

(Provision was made for all!)

even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;"

:15 "*so that whoever believes in Him have eternal life.*"

:16 "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*"

:17 "*For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.*"

:18 "*He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*"

NOTE: John 3:18 is meaningless if Jesus did not die for all!

(also see John 16:7-9)

 1 John 4:14 "*We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.*"

B. Substitution

BOOK 2 Corinthians 5:14 one died for all

"For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;" (:15 "and He died for all so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.")

BOOK Romans 5:6 "For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly."

C. Ransom / Redemption

BOOK 1 Timothy 2:5-6 ransom for all

"For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time."

D. Propitiation

BOOK 1 John 2:1-2 propitiation for the sins of the world

"My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world."

E. Reconciliation

BOOK 2 Corinthians 5:19 reconciling the world

"namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation." (:20 "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.")

NOTE: If reconciliation is only for the elect, how can this verse be applied?

F. The death of Jesus was also for those who will not believe.

BOOK Hebrews 2:9 "But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that be the grace of God He might taste death for everyone."

BOOK 1 Timothy 4:10 "we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers."

BOOK 2 Peter 2:1 "But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves."

 **Jesus died for every member of the human race!**