

A Study Of Limited Atonement

Limited Atonement-“Means that Christ’s reconciling act, though adequate for all humankind, is beneficial only for the elect. Those who have not been chosen by God may be edified by the example of Christ, but they will not be saved by his work.”

(*Presbyterians, Their History And Beliefs*, Walter Lingle, p. 36)

I. Limited Atonement And Predestination

“We call predestination God’s eternal decree, by which he compacted with himself what he willed to become of each man.”

(John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, vol. 2, ch.21, p. 926)

Romans 8:29-30 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Ephesians 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Matthew 26:34 Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

2 Thessalonians 2:14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

II. Limited Atonement And The Partiality Of God

“The rest of mankind, God was pleased, according to the unsearchable counsel of his own will, whereby he extendeth or withholdeth mercy as he pleaseth, for the glory of his sovereign power over his creatures, to pass by, and to ordain them to dishonor and wrath for their sins, to the praise of his glorious justice.” (The Westminster Confession of Faith)

“Those whom God passes over, he condemns; and this he does for no other reason than he wills to exclude them from the inheritance which he predestines for his own children.”

(John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, vol. 2, ch.23, p.947)

“Double predestination is the conviction that if God actively chooses some people, he therefore must choose not to choose some others.”

(*Presbyterians, Their History and Beliefs*, Walter Lingle, p. 103)

1 Timothy 2:3-For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

1 Peter 1:17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear

Acts 10:34-35 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality."³⁵ But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.

III. Limited Atonement And The Sacrificial Death Of Jesus Christ

"God calls human beings (or at least some humans) to a special relationship and destiny."
(*Presbyterians, Their History and Beliefs*, Walter Lingle, p.102)

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Acts 17:30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,