

## **Series: Calvinism-What Does the Bible Say?**

### **Lesson: Christ's Atonement: Available to All**

1. The Bible teaches we have rebelled against God and violated His righteous, moral law, over and over again. We are all guilty. Any effort to atone for our sins ourselves is futile.
2. This is where the doctrine of the atonement of Jesus Christ becomes so precious.
  - In **Romans 5:11**, "the atonement" is referring to that specific thing which Christ did to save sinners. Christ's atonement is the difference between heaven and hell.
3. In this message, we will answer three questions from the Bible concerning Christ's atonement.

#### **I. What does Christ's atonement mean to you?**

- A. It means Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice for your sins. **1 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 10:12**
  - Christ kept the law, spotlessly. He was not dying for His sins, but for your sin and mine. **1 Peter 2:24, 3:18**
  - The wages of sin is death and Christ was paying that penalty. **Hebrews 9:26**
- B. It means Christ died as your Substitute. **Matthew 20:28; 1 Timothy 2:6; Romans 5:6, 8**
  - In **Matthew 20:28**, the word "many" doesn't mean a select number and some are excluded. "Many" simply means a large number. The Bible sometimes uses "many" in the sense of all mankind.  
Example: **Romans 5:15**
  - This makes possible our redemption from the bondage of Satan, death, and hell. **Colossians 1:13-14**
- C. It means Christ took the wrath of God for your sins. **1 John 2:2**
  - This means that through His death and our acceptance of His death as our Substitute, the wrath of a righteous God is turned away. This is what propitiation means.
- D. It means that you, as a sinner, can be reconciled to a holy God. **Colossians 1:20-21**
  - The enmity between God and man can be removed. This is all because of Christ's atoning work on the cross.

#### **II. Is Christ's atoning work available to all?**

- A. We have learned about a man-made theological system called Calvinism. Calvinism teaches a limited atonement. Christ only died for those that God elected before the foundation of the world. The rest of humanity? Christ didn't die for them.
- B. But the real issue is, what does the Bible say? The Bible clearly teaches that Christ died for all people. **Isaiah 53:6; 1 Timothy 2:6; Hebrews 2:9; 1 John 2:2, 4:14; John 6:51**

- His atonement is not limited to only an elect few. His sacrificial death is sufficient to save anyone and everyone.
- C. The Bible says, “...*in Adam all die...*” **Romans 5:12** teaches that the permeation of sin is universal.
- Christ is called the Son of Man, the second man, the last Adam.
  - Through the first Adam came the universal **problem** of sin and death. Through the last Adam (Christ) has come the universal **solution**.
  - “*In Christ shall all be made alive.*” The key is you must be **in Christ**. All that are in Christ overcome sin and death and are placed in the spiritual family of Christ.
  - You get in Christ by placing your faith in Christ. **Philippians 3:9**
  - Christ’s atoning work is available to all who will believe. Why? Because all have sinned. **Romans 3:22-23**

### III. If Christ died for all, why aren’t all men saved?

- A. One Calvinist wrote, “If Christ died for all men and all men are not saved, the cross of Christ is of no effect. Calvary is a sham.”
- This is like saying the Word of God is a sham because all men disobey it.
- B. We mustn’t confuse the **provision** of a Savior with the **applying** of salvation.
- **Illustration:** The blood of the Passover Lamb became efficacious only after it was applied to the doorpost per God’s instructions. The death of the lamb saved no one: the blood had to be applied. **Exodus 12:7, 12-13**
  - Christ has made a **universal** provision for sin, but there must be an **individual** application. **1 Timothy 4:10**
- C. How do you apply Christ’s atoning work on the cross to your heart? **Faith!**
- Salvation always follows and results from faith.
  - The Biblical reason all men are not saved; in spite of Christ having died for all, is that not all believe the gospel. “*Whosoever*” implies that some won’t. **Acts 10:43, 16:31; Romans 10:13**
  - **Illustration:** Brazen serpent in **John 3:14-16**.
- D. Christ has paid the full penalty for sin through His death on the cross and now offers the gift of eternal life. **Romans 6:23**
- But a gift, by its very nature, can be received or rejected.
  - Nobody will spend eternity in the lake of fire because of their sins. They will be there for rejecting Christ and the salvation He obtained and freely offers to all. **2 Corinthians 5:19**

### In Conclusion:

1. There is no such thing as a limited atonement. This is a man-made doctrine from hell that flies in the face of scores and scores of clear Scriptures.
2. No one can complain that God created human beings for hell. He created them all for His glorious presence. God made a way whereby He could be just and yet justify all sinners so they could be forgiven and spend eternity in His presence. **Romans 3:26**
3. Will you apply Christ’s atonement to your heart by believing on Jesus?