

What Is Reformed Theology?

“Doctrines of Grace – Part III: Particular Redemption (Limited Atonement)”

I. Introduction

A. Question: For whom did Christ die?

1. Most would answer “for every man in every land.”
2. Yet further questions:
 - a. What did Jesus accomplish by His death?
 - b. What did His death do?

B. Most evangelical Christians have been taught or assume that Jesus dies for all people on condition that they repent.

1. Epicenter of debate is on the design of the atonement.

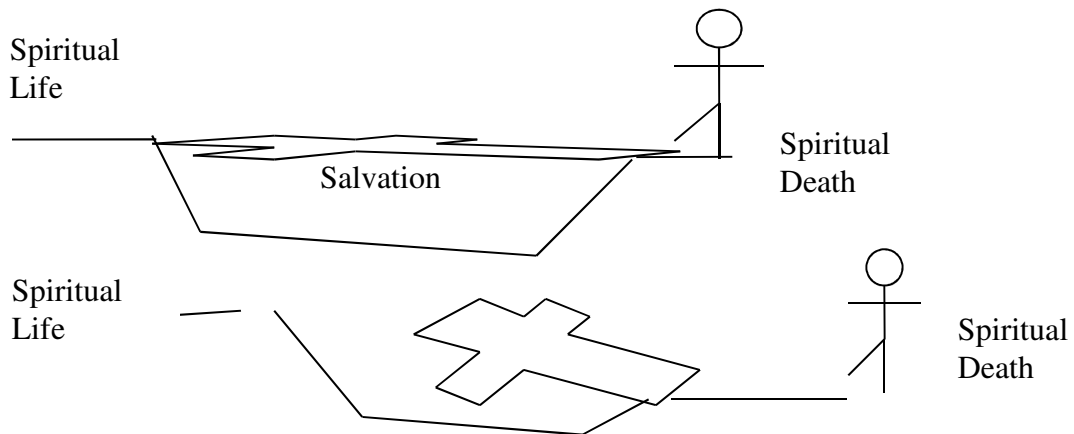
C. Christ’s atonement did accomplish salvation and not simply make salvation possible.

1. Review of radical depravity and election.

II. Exploring the doctrine of particular redemption.

A. Which is it: possible salvation or actual salvation?

1. Boettner



B. Texts that reveal Christ's work as achieving full salvation – actual reconciliation, justification, and sanctification.

1. Matt. 1:21; Luke 19:10; Gal 1:3-4; I Tim 1:15; I Peter 3:18; Col. 1:21,22; I Cor. 1:30; Gal 3:13; Col 1:13-14; Titus 3:5-6

2. Life guard illustration.

C. Jesus came into the world to save sinners who had already been given to Him by the Father.

1. John 6:35-40, John 10:11, 14-16

D. The High Priestly Prayer – John 17:1-9, 20, 24

E. Having been adopted we now have sonship, redemption and forgiveness. Now, Eph. 1 and 2 make sense. – Eph.1:3-2:10.

F. The argument from logic. If election is true, why would Jesus die for the non-elect?

III. Exploring objections

A. There are two categories of texts which speak of Christ dying for the “world” or “all.”

1. **World**: John 1:9, 29; 3:16-17, 4:42; I John 2:12; II Cor. 5:19; I John 4:14 (See also Genesis 12:3).

2. All: John 12:31-33; Romans 5:18; Heb. 2:9; II Peter 3:9; I Timothy 2:4-6; II Cor. 5:14-15

3. Responses to these texts:

a. Most texts are found in the apostle John's writing. Of the four gospel writers, he most clearly teaches the sovereign predestination of God.

b. Secondly, John's usage of the terms "world" and "all" cannot be understood as meaning all people everywhere. The following usages by the same author make the point: John 1:10; 8:26; 12:19; I John 5:19.

c. These expressions in the text are intended to show that Christ dies for all men without distinction and are not intended to mean that Christ died for all men without exception.

1. John 12:32

IV. Consequences

A. All of Jesus' blood, shed on the cross, is effective.

1. No waste.

2. Note floor illustration.

B. Your names were among those laid on His back and carried through the agonies of the cross.

1. Throwing the life preserver, which is helpful, vs. preserving life.

C. He particularly saved you.

1. John 6:35-40