

Equip Academy

Who Jesus Died For // Particular Redemption

Opening Discussion

Which of the below is true?

1. Christ died for some of the sins of all men
2. Christ died for all the sins of some men
3. Christ died for all the sins of all men

What did Jesus accomplish by His death? Is salvation possible for everyone or did it actually accomplish salvation for the elect?

Particular Redemption in Church History

Unhelpfully named

- The L in TULIP but not helpful to the cause of Reformed theology

Highly controversial

- John Wesley: "The whole tenor of the New Testament is flatly contrary to definite atonement" and the doctrine contains "horrible blasphemies."
- Karl Barth: "The grim doctrine of limited atonement."
- D. Broughton Knox: "A textless doctrine."
- R.T. Kendall: "How many Christians would ever come to the view of limited atonement merely by reading the Bible?"

Understood clearly

- Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter VIII:6:
"The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience, and sacrifice of Himself, which He, through the eternal Spirit, once offered up unto God, hath fully satisfied the justice of His Father; and purchased, not only reconciliation, but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father hath given unto Him."
- "The belief that Christ's death pays the ransom for a particular people and His salvation is definite." (Masters, *Reformed Theology*, p19)

Nowadays – the minority position

- Universal redemption vs particular redemption

Particular Redemption in the Bible

What did God the Father actually intend to do in sending His Son to die for us and did Jesus do it?

- Redemption – 1 Peter 1:18-19, Galatians 3:13
- Propitiation – Romans 3:23-25
- Reconciliation – 2 Corinthians 5:18-19
- Atonement – Hebrews 2:17

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Christ's work is a real and definite salvation for God's own chosen people. He actually secured all of these things for the elect.

Bible texts to support the position

- Isaiah 53:8
- Matthew 1:21
- Matthew 20:28
- Acts 20:28
- Ephesians 5:25

"Christ dies as Someone for some people. He dies as King for His people, as Husband for His bride, as the Head for His body, as Shepherd for His sheep, as Master for His friends, as Firstborn for His brothers and sisters, as the Second and Last Adam for a new humanity."

Henri A. G. Blocher, *The Scope of Redemption and Modern Theology*

Particular Redemption: Answering Objections

- "The Bible says the complete opposite"
- "This doctrine limits the mercy of God"
- "We don't need to evangelise"

"There is no inconsistency or incoherence in the teaching of the New Testament about, on the one hand, the offer of Christ in the gospel, which Christians are told to make known everywhere, and, on the other hand, the fact that Christ achieved a totally efficacious redemption for God's elect on the cross."

J.I. Packer, *Concise Theology*

Particular Redemption in Pastoral Practice

What does this doctrine do and how is it helpful?

Motivates us towards evangelism

- Whosoever will may come

Grounds our assurance

- The price has been paid, the penalty borne, the law satisfied and condemnation removed

Enhances the personal aspect of God's love for us

- Galatians 2:20

"We say Christ so died that He infallibly secured the salvation of a multitude that no man can number, who through Christ's death not only may be saved, but are saved, must be saved and cannot by any possibility run the hazard of being anything but saved."

CH Spurgeon as quoted in *The Doctrines of Grace* by J.M. Boice & P.G. Ryken

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Recommended Resources

The Doctrines of Grace by James Montgomery Boice & Philip Graham Ryken

Redemption Accomplished and Applied by John Murray

Reformed Theology by Jonathan Master

Compel Them to Come In: Calvinism and the Free Offer of the Gospel by Donald Macleod

Article: *Sacred Theology and the Reading of the Divine Word: Mapping the Doctrine of Definite Atonement* by David Gibson and Jonathan Gibson

<https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/sacredtheology.html>