



Reformed Theology –Part 4  
Limited Atonement: Various Scriptures  
From Sermon 11.15.20

Read *John 10:11 & 26*

Review from Sunday's sermon: Limited Atonement is easily the most controversial of the 5 tulip doctrines. Many Baptist and other groups have even adopted a 4-point Calvinism that excludes Limited Atonement. We believe, once you start with Total Depravity, even this doctrine falls right in line with Scripture. Historically, again, both Arminians and Calvinists have believed the atonement to be limited. The main point of division is the question: By whom is it limited—by man or by God?

1. Define both "atonement" and "limited"

- Atonement: The full satisfying of the sin price/penalty by Christ's substitutionary death
- Limited: Both sides: The atonement is only applied to believers. Calvinists: Jesus did not die for everyone. He died for the elect.

1a. What has been the contemporary Calvinist issue with those terms?

"Limited" has caused much misunderstanding in the church world. Many believe it qualified the value or merit of Christ's death. Atonement is much more an Old Testament word and act—meaning to cover or cover over. Jesus' death in no way covers our sin or "sweeps it under the rug"

1b. What are the better/clearer Bible terms? Propitiation (atonement) & actual or definite (limited)  
See also *Romans 3:21-26, Hebrews 2:17, & 1 John 4:10*

2. What is the belief that everyone is going to heaven, regardless of faith, belief, & sin? Universalism

2a. How do we know this to be utterly false? The Bible makes it crystal clear that the vast majority of humanity is forever lost. See Matthew 7:13-14

3. Discuss the Sufficient vs. Efficient teaching. Again, the Reformed Doctrine has nothing to do with the value or merit. If God sovereignly chose everyone for salvation, Christ's death would be fully sufficient to pay for all their sin.

3a. Do we believe the Gospel is offered to everyone? Yes. In fact, by command we preach to the entire world. We have no idea who's elect and who's not.

See *Matthew 24:14*

3b. Would anyone putting their faith and trust in Jesus Christ be saved? Yes. See Romans 10:13

3c. Then, how is the atonement limited? Only those elected and granted life can see/hear/respond to that saving Gospel message...making it effective/efficient.

4. Review the Potential vs. Actual argument. The Arminian position would contend Jesus died for everyone potentially, but no particular one actually. The Calvinist would state Jesus' plan before time began was to come and redeem the elect.

4a. Was there a possibility that no one would accept Jesus Christ and be saved? The Arminian: "Yes". The Calvinist: "Impossible" = God guaranteed there would be a Church to be His witness, missionaries, ambassadors, and preachers of the Gospel in the world. See also Ephesians 3:8-11