

**Redeemed by Blood –
The Intentional Precision
of ‘Grace Alone’
(Various Scriptures)**

Recap:

- Two weeks ago: Having a common spiritual inheritance – a sinful nature – we were born radically corrupted in every facet of our humanity. Natural man is spiritually blind, enslaved and dead, having neither the will nor the ability to seek God; and facing certain eternal doom. Conclusion? Humanity has a catastrophic need of grace.
- Last week: In a loving act before creation God chose some people to be saved, not because of human will or exertion, but only because of His sovereign good pleasure. (c.f. Eph 1:3-6)
- QUESTION – How then did God save those He elected? How did He satisfy Divine Justice?
 - Answer: At the cross where Jesus, being both human and divine, offered Himself as an atoning sacrifice; covering sin and turning away wrath.

For whom did Jesus die?

- The Dilemma:
 - Did Jesus die for all people everywhere in every time? Or did Jesus die for some people, certain people, given to Him by His Father?
 - Did Jesus die to potentially secure salvation for all? Or to effectually secure salvation for some – the elect?
 - (Recognize that all Christians limit the atonement is some way – either by saying it was only for some, or by saying it only becomes effective if you believe. And, unless you are a universalist, you are limitations by admitting that not all will be saved by it.)

A Widely Held view – A “General Atonement” for all people

- Jn 1:29, Jn 3:16, 1 Jn 2:2, 1 Tm 2:6, Heb 2:9 etc.
- But there are problems with this position.
 - Many follow this to its natural conclusion; that if all sin was paid for...then all sinners will be saved. (But this the Scriptures deny)
 - Isn't unbelief also a sin? If Jesus died for all sins, didn't He also die for the sin of “unbelief”?
 - If unbelief is the one sin not covered by the cross, then what about my past unbelief? Who paid for that? Did I atone for my unbelief by my faith?
 - John Owen: “Is this unbelief a sin, or is it not? If it is, then either Christ suffered the punishment due unto it, or He did not. If He did, why must that hinder them more than their other sins for which He died? If He did not, He did not die for all their sins.”
 - Is God ‘doubling up’ on justice?
 - Are there people in Hell, whose sins were paid for, but who simply didn't have the foresight to get their ticket validated?
 - Did Jesus not FULLY pay for sin on the cross?
 - Did the Christ of God suffer in vain?

The Biblical & Historical View – A Particular People for a Particular Redemption

- **What was the EXTENT of the atonement? For whom did Jesus die?**
 - **John 10:11 / Acts 20:28 / Ephesians 5:25 / John 15:13-14 / Matthew 1:21 / Romans 8:32-34**
- **What was the INTENT of the cross? What was it's purpose?**
 - **(see above verses) + Titus 2:13-14 / Romans 3:25**
 - **John 19:30**
 - **Jesus FINISHED the work; He did not make it 'finishable'.**
 - **A transaction was MADE...not "made possible".**
 - **Sinners were SAVED...not made 'savable'.**
 - **Redemption was ACCOMPLISHED...not half-baked.**
- **The cross was never about POTENTIAL. It was always INTENTIONAL.**

Some Other Considerations – “all”, “world”, “Hell” etc

- Scripture uses words like “all” and “world” in the same way we do (Luke 2:1, John 12:19, Acts 17:6 etc)
- Scripture often qualifies itself to make this clear:
 - John 3:17 is qualified by John 3:18
 - Romans 11:25 is qualified by Romans 11:5-7, and Romans 9:6.
- Consider then Revelation 5:9ff
 - Believers are “ransomed from” (out of) the world.
 - Those ransomed WILL become citizens of the Kingdom. (Did Jesus ransom ALL at the cross?)
- Does God love the world?
 - Yes...His love for the world clearly does not express itself in saving love for all.
- Objection: “This diminishes the love of God”
 - Answer: “This intensifies God’s love by announcing it as a discriminate, special, saving love that truly reaches it’s target” (Horton)

Some Other Considerations – “all”, “world”, “Hell” etc

- **Consider Hell** – if you insist that Jesus died for all people without exception, you are also saying that Hell is full of people for whom Jesus once died; for whom Jesus made full substitutionary atonement.
 - **Does God send His friends to Hell? (Jn 15:13)**
 - **Does God curse His friends? (Mt 25:41)**
 - **Would Jesus be satisfied to see those for whom He died, in torment? (Is 53:10-11)**
 - ***“If it was Christ’s intention to redeem all men, how deplorably has He been disappointed.” (Spurgeon)***
- **Objection** – **“But God wanted them to choose Him.”**
 - **Answer:** That would mean God’s concern for their ‘free will’ is greater than God’s love. But the Scripture says God’s love conquers the ‘dead will’ of those He chooses to save.
- **Note also, that God openly stated that not all sins were atoned for.**
 - **1 Samuel 3:12-14**
 - **John 3:36**

An Intentional Atonement with a New Covenant

- The Old Testament revealed that God deals with particular people using atonement and covenants.
 - “Never was the sacrificial system designed to remit the sins of those outside the covenant” (Horton)
- The New Testament reveals a single atoning sacrifice for a New covenant.
 - It was not made universally for all without exception.
 - It was made particularly for those who are part of the New Covenant.
- Consider John 17:17-19, “*Father –*
 - *Vs 17 – Sanctify THEM (not the world)*
 - *Vs 18 – For the purpose of mission*
 - *Vs 19 – For their sake I consecrate Myself (going to the cross)*
- Do you remember what John 17 is called?...the High Priestly Prayer.
 - What is the function of the High Priest?
 - To pray for His people (vs 9) and to make atonement (v19)
 - “You broaden the range of people for whom Jesus died a substitutionary death, and you compromise the integrity of what that death accomplishes....Efficacy is linked to particularity” (Azurdia)

Some Closing points of Application

- **It means that all those whom will come to accept Jesus Christ, are the objects of God's INTENSE, ETERNAL love.**
 - **He did not die as a hypothetical Saviour for an anonymous group of people.**
 - **HE DIED FOR YOU.**
- **It means that the Church is a truly exceptional body of people.**
 - **Christ did not die for any organization, club, party, nation, family, culture or group.**
 - **He died for His bride...the church.**
 - **How big a place ought it to have in your thinking, if it had a supreme place in Christ's thinking as He died upon that cross?**
- **It means global evangelism will triumph – all that Jesus bought back, the Holy Spirit WILL bring back.**
- **It means we must use the language of Scripture in evangelism; we do not diminish the integrity of the cross.**