

**Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics**

Protestant Reformation Doctrines of Salvation

The Heights Church May 5, 2019

The Atonement – Was The Death of Jesus the only way to save the Elect? (Review)

- The Short answer to the question is **YES!**

And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. (Luke 24:25 – 27)

The Atonement – Was The Death of Jesus the only way to save the Elect?

Therefore, he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation* for the sins of the people. (Hebrews 2:17)

*The same Greek word is sometimes translated by both the words *expiation* and *propitiation*. Expiation is the **act** that results in the change of God's disposition toward us. It is what Christ did on the cross, and the **result** of Christ's work of expiation is propitiation—God's anger is turned away.

The Atonement – Was The Death of Jesus the only way to save the Elect?

Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with **better sacrifices** than these. For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to **appear in the presence of God on our behalf**. Nor was it to **offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year** with blood not his own, (Hebrews 9:23 – 25)

The Atonement – Was The Death of Jesus the only way to save the Elect?

for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has **appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.** And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, **so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time,** not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (Hebrews 9:26 – 28)

For it is **impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.**
(Hebrews 10:4)

The Atonement – What Did Jesus Do for the Elect in the Atonement?

1. Jesus perfectly **obeyed** all the requirements of the Law in the elect's place and was perfectly **obedient** to the will of God as our representative. (Active Obedience)
2. Jesus paid the penalty for all the sins of the *elect* through all of his sufferings in body and soul throughout his entire life lived in a fallen world and in his death on the cross. (Passive Obedience)

The Atonement – Christ’s obedience for the Elect (Active Obedience)

- Had Jesus only earned forgiveness for the elect’s sins they would have been “reset” to Adam and Eve’s original status of “Free Will” with the moral ability to choose to obey or not obey **BUT** would not have the **merit** required for heaven.

The Atonement – Christ's obedience for the Elect (Active Obedience)

- In order to merit heaven Adam and Eve needed to obey God perfectly for some probationary period so the elect need Christ to do this for them.

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, **not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law**, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith- (Philippians 3:8 – 9)

The Atonement – Christ's obedience for the Elect (Active Obedience)

- Did Jesus need to live a life of perfect obedience (righteousness) for his sake so that he could be a sinless sacrifice for the elect?
 - Jesus in his divine nature was sinless and had shared love and fellowship with the Father for all eternity.
 - If Jesus needed only sinlessness in his human nature and not also obedience, he could have come to earth for a short time and then died for all the sins of all the elect.

The Atonement – Christ's obedience for the Elect (Active Obedience)

- Jesus in his human nature needed to “fulfill all righteousness” for the *elect* so that all of the elect had a record of obedience that merited God's favor and eternal life with him. Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. (Matthew 3:13 – 15)

The Atonement – Christ's suffering for the Elect (Passive Obedience)

- Jesus paid the penalty for all the sins of the *elect* through all of his sufferings in body and soul throughout his entire life lived in a fallen world:

The Atonement – Christ's suffering for the Elect (Passive Obedience)

- Attacks by Satan in the wilderness for 40 days (Matthew 4:1 – 11)

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, **he was hungry**. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him,

The Atonement – Christ's suffering for the Elect (Passive Obedience)

"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you, 'and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test. "'Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him. (Matthew 4:1 – 11)

The Atonement – Christ's suffering for the Elect (Passive Obedience)

- **Suffering from growing from an infant to adulthood** In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he **learned obedience*** through what he suffered. And being **made perfect****, he became the **source of eternal salvation** to **all who obey him**, (Hebrews 5: 7 – 9)

*though always without sin and always obedient he acquired knowledge and experience of what it cost to maintain obedience in the midst of suffering

**Jesus never lacked any Godly character attribute but he did initially lack the broad range of experiences involved in perfectly obeying the Father without sin for a long time

The Atonement – Christ's suffering for the Elect (Passive Obedience)

- **Opposition from unbelievers:** Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. (Hebrews 12:3 – 4)
- **Death of John the Baptist and Lazarus:** And his disciples came and took the body and buried it, and they went and told Jesus. Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. (Matthew 14:12 – 13a) Jesus wept. (John 11:35)

The Atonement – Christ's suffering for the Elect (Passive Obedience)

- **Fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy:** He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:3 – 5)

The Atonement – Christ's suffering for the Elect (Passive Obedience)

- Fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy:

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. (Isaiah 53:10 – 11)

The Atonement – Christ's suffering for the Elect (Passive Obedience)

- As Jesus came to the cross his sufferings intensified. And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." (Matthew 26:37 – 38)
- Jesus Suffered on the cross in four different ways:
 1. Physical Pain and Death
 2. Bearing the Elect's Sin
 3. Abandonment
 4. Bearing the Wrath of God

The Atonement – Christ's suffering for the Elect (Passive Obedience)

1. Physical Pain and Death

- Death by crucifixion was one of the most horrible forms of execution ever invented.
- However, the Bible never claims that Jesus suffered more physical pain than any human ever has suffered or that Jesus's physical pain in any way reduces the elect's physical pain.

The Atonement – Christ’s suffering for the Elect (Passive Obedience)

2. Bearing the Elect’s Sin

- Jesus was perfectly holy so having to bear all of the elect’s guilt for all of their sin was more awful than the physical pain of crucifixion.
- God the Father put the elect’s sin on Jesus. Just as Adam’s sin was imputed to the elect (God thought of Adam’s sin belonging to every human except Jesus) so the elect’s sin was imputed to Jesus.
- This does not mean that God thought that Jesus had committed the sins or had had a sinful nature but that the guilt (liability for punishment) of the elect’s sins belonged to Jesus instead of the elect.

The Atonement – Christ's suffering for the Elect (Passive Obedience)

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way; and **the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.** (Isaiah 53:6)

Therefore, I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet **he bore the sin of many,** and makes intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:12)

The Atonement – Christ's suffering for the Elect (Passive Obedience)

For our sake **he made him to be sin** who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once **to bear the sins of many**, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (Hebrews 9:27 – 28)

He himself **bore our sins in his body on the tree**, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:24)