

**Bible Study on Hermeneutics – Handout Session 16**  
 Controversial Doctrines, Practices, and Passages – Limited Atonement  
**Grace Bible Chapel**  
**June 13th, 2010**  
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**Understanding Calvinism – continued from previous lessons -**

Five doctrinal positions were determined by the Synod of Dort (1618/1619) to counter the five statements of the Remonstrants. These became known as the Five Points of Calvinism. The points are all interconnected – but, each can easily be supported individually from Scripture.

**A Comparison of Arminianism with Calvinism – Point Three**

<b>Arminianism</b>	<b>Calvinism</b>
<p><b>Universal Redemption or General Atonement</b>            Christ's redeeming work made it possible for everyone to be saved but did not actually secure the salvation of anyone. Although Christ died for all men and for every man, only those who believe on Him are saved. His death enabled God to pardon sinners on the condition that they believe, but it did not actually put away anyone's sins. Christ's redemption becomes effective only if man chooses to accept it.</p>	<p><b>Particular Redemption or Limited Atonement</b>            Christ's redeeming work was intended to save the elect only and actually secured salvation for them. His death was substitutionary endurance of the penalty of sin in the place of certain specified sinners. In addition to putting away the sins of His people, Christ's redemption secured everything necessary for their salvation, including faith which unites them to Him. The gift of faith is infallibly applied by the Spirit to all for whom Christ died, therefore guaranteeing their salvation.</p>

\*Source "The Five Points of Calvinism, Steele & Thomas, Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing, 1963

**The Atonement**

By definition: "the atonement is the covering over sin, the reconciliation between God and man, accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ. It is that special result of Christ's sacrificial sufferings and death by virtue of which all who exercise proper penitence and faith receive forgiveness of their sins and obtain peace" (Unger's Bible Dictionary, Moody 1977, page 106). "The word atonement is an Anglo-Saxon term which has the force of 'at-one-ment,' a 'making of one.'" It speaks of a process of bringing those who are enemies into harmony and unity, and thus it means reconciliation" (Wycliffe Bible Dictionary, Moody 1975, page 175). It is by the atonement of Christ that His elect are redeemed (purchased) so that they might be able to stand before God absolved from the guilt of their sins, dressed in the righteousness of Christ by His substitutionary death. It is a radical change in the absolved person's standing before God. It has to do with the legal side of salvation. God through the atonement has made those for whom He died no longer guilty of their sin. It is therefore a change from condemnation to no condemnation. It is the foundation basis necessary to justify the sinner. The Scripture tells us that God first "foreknew" some individuals that is "before loved" them out of His own will. Those then He foreknew He predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son. Therefore atonement follows the plan of God based on "foreknowledge" He determined to reconcile certain individuals to Himself – that is restore the relationship. Atonement is a key component in that restoration. It is not to be confused with the calling of God, the process of regeneration, the process of sanctification, or glorification. It is an essential for these things to occur. It is the basis of the justification of man with God.

**General thoughts on studying this subject:**