



**T.U.L.I.P.**  
**Wk. 3 Limited Atonement**  
**By Pastor Jody May 11/13/2022**

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**Romans 8:28-30 ESV**

<sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the **firstborn among many brothers**. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

**Romans 8:31-33**

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for **us**, who can be against **us**? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for **us all**, how will he not also with him graciously give **us** all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's **elect**? It is God who justifies.

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**[INTRODUCTION – Feeling a Special Love]**

You know I used to have something in my life that made me feel special. It set me apart, it made me feel a little, elite? I have a **SB Gold Card** which came with all the perks: free drinks on my b-day, free drinks when I earned so many stars for my purchases, an email letting me know when my favorite coffee came in or was on sale. But now SB is not so much into member perks and keeping loyalty through attention to customer details instead they offer the populace the same perks. In addition to that by choosing to be vocal on certain social issues they have shown they are not too concerned about the older generation. All an old guy like me wants is good black coffee, we don't spend the money on specialty drinks. Well, and for these reasons I no longer use their facilities although I will buy their coffee when it is on sale at the store. 😊

BUT I have found a replacement. Now I am a Cabela's Club guy, and instead of spending my \$20 a month on coffee at SB I give that to Cabalas for a new shirt or a box of ammo instead. Why? Because they are very particular to my needs and wants.



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---

- They track what ammo I buy and how much I spend and specialize my emails to include that info.
- They track what sizes I wear and the styles and brands I like and then they make sure I know things go on sale.
- They make special nights in which a couple of times a year they open early, and I get an extra 10% off when I shop in that hour.

Yes, I enjoy my membership at Cabela's, and I am loyal to them because of their particular attention to me, they know my name, and they are seeking to care for me, not randomly as Sam's does, or inclusively as SB does, but as if I am a member of, well a family.

Have you ever encountered something like that in your life, **where it just makes you feel special**, because something was curtailed to you. I remember mine and Heather's wedding. Two of her three brothers had worked in upper end dining and catering. And for our wedding, like it was no big deal, one of her brothers made these elaborate table centerpieces, the other one had set aside some special wine for our tables, then the other one tipped the server extra for exclusive use at mine and Heather's table. All these things were done out of love, a special devoted love that was done only for us.

See family our Lord and God, wants you to know that the way in which He loves you is very special and attentive to your needs. Part of the beauty of the Gospel is when we learn that God designs your Salvation, and those sins that we deal with that are particular to us, He is curtailing our path to get us away from them and to Him. He wants you to be loved exactly the way you need, paying attention to details that in how He is delivering is building your faith but that is only **limited** to those as we learned last week are called to his family. That brings us to this week's topic of the **Limited Atonement** of Christ. God ordained that we would be loved specifically and effectively so as to ensure our Salvation.

## **[REVIEW]**

It is important to take a moment to go back and visit what we have learned so far, so that there is no confusion as to what we mean about Limited Atonement.



**T.U.L.I.P.**  
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---

I will quickly review this chart for us first, and then go to the points in red below.

**5 Points of Arminianism**

**5 Points of Calvinism**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Human Free Will / Human Ability          | 1. Total Depravity / Total Inability         |
| 2. Conditional Election                     | 2. Unconditional Election                    |
| 3. Universal Redemption / General Atonement | 3. Limited Atonement / Particular Redemption |
| 4. Resistible Grace                         | 4. Irresistible Grace                        |
| 5. Fall from Grace                          | 5. Perseverance of the Saints                |

### **1<sup>st</sup> Total Depravity**

#### **Ephesians 2:4-5**

<sup>4</sup>**But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even **when we were dead** in our trespasses, **made us alive** together with Christ—by grace you have been saved -

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Unconditional Election**

#### **Romans 8:29**

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the **firstborn among many brothers**.

God is all about adding to His Glory being the Chiefest of beings (BC #1), so He takes the dead and brings them to life, and the same Spirit that blew into the dust to bring man to life is now the same Spirit that breathes into men resurrecting their dead souls (Ez. 36:26). God does this for the purpose to bring more glory to Himself by growing His Family. Family that He knew



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before creation, family that was birthed in His mind not by man, but by God, family that was chosen by Him while we were still sinners (Rom 5:8). Therefore, and this brings us to today, God must save them, so the plan is to send the firstborn of many brothers to save those whom He is calling.

Now we will go through this chart on the screens.

<p><b>3. Universal Redemption or General Atonement</b></p> <p>Christ's redeeming work made it possible for everyone to be saved but <b>did not actually secure the salvation of anyone</b>. 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 <b>did not actually put away anyone's sins</b>. Christ's redemption becomes effective only if man <b>chooses to accept it</b>.</p>	<p><b>4. Limited Atonement or Particular Redemption</b></p> <p>Christ's redeeming work was <b>intended to save the elect only and actually secured salvation for them</b>. His death was a 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 <b>secured everything necessary for their salvation</b>, including faith which unites them to Him. The gift of faith is infallibly applied by the Spirit to all for whom Christ died, therefore <b>guaranteeing their salvation</b>.</p>
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**Main Point:**

**Limited Atonements guarantees the Salvation of God's Family.**

**[READ TEXT]**

**Romans 8:28-30 ESV**

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**Romans 8:31-33**



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<sup>31</sup>What then shall we say to these things? If God is for **us**, who can be against **us**? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for **us all**, how will he not also with him graciously give **us** all things? <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God's **elect**? It is God who justifies.

**[PRAY]**

1. **Limited Atonement** stands on the Truth of Unconditional Election.

<sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for **us all**, how will he not also with him graciously give **us** all things?

Verse 32 is only realized/revealed in the context of verses 28-29. The three biggest rules of biblical interpretation is Context, Context, and Context. We want to be careful as people of God's Word that take seriously Sola Scriptura that we interpret God's Word rightly and so that it is not used to defame His name nor keep us from reaching Him.

**What about Passages where is says God wants to save all?**

Some people have used this verse to make a case for Unlimited Atonement, the offer of Salvation is for every person, if you so choose it. They get that from the phrase "**for us all**".

Paul is saying in that statement, 1<sup>st</sup> "us" means I am with you in this condition, that Jesus came and died for me. 2<sup>nd</sup> the "all" are the **elect** from verses 28-29. He's saying Jesus was given up as a sacrifice, and atoning work for those that God preordained that He would save. Paul sees the beauty of this and proclaims:

<sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God's **elect**? It is God who justifies.

V.33 shows that he has been talking about the elect, and if God chooses to send His Son specifically for the elect then no one can bring a charge against them, not man, not the world, not even the devil Himself, BECAUSE whatever that person has done has been covered specifically by Christ Work on the



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---

Cross. It's not if it will save but that it is an assurance of Salvation. In other words, Limited Atonement, that it is Limited in its' scope to God's Elect, is what ensures that they will be saved for God Himself is applying His Son's sacrifice to their need for redemption. God is the one assuring atonement for sin, He is the one giving it!

How about another "ALL" passage?

**2 Peter 3:9**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that **all should reach repentance.**

So, you may be thinking, aha, God desires all to be saved! I would be your right but again all can mean multiple things and in this text it is certainly not an universal all. We have to be careful not to project our wants on scripture so let me simply ask you to look at who is it written to?

**2 Peter 1:1**

**1** Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

**To those** who have **obtained a faith** of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

All is simply all of those that have been saved already. We can't take that scripture out of 2 Peter and apply that to all people of the whole world. It was written for a specific group of church people of which Peter is helping them cope with life, not to be despondent and to give up, but to wait on God for their Salvation. If you take that out of context it loses the power it holds for those in the church.

If I read that generally speaking as an Arminian preaching to a congregation I am saying that when people make you upset just be patient God works slower than you. He really doesn't want them to perish but can't help it if they do because that is up to their choosing of God, just be patient He may still save some yet.



**T.U.L.I.P.**  
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---

On the other hand, when I preach that to those in this church, because the Apostle's message is for all churches, here is what the proven doctrines of Reformed Faith it say:

- Wives be patient with your husbands when they do stupid things, when they don't communicate, when it seems they don't care, God is saving them through your sacrifice, God is using you making hem Holy (1 Pet 3:1-6), keep investing in that relationship, be patient towards them as God is to you.
- Men be patient with your wives, love her as Christ loved the church, sacrifice (Eph. 5:25-27), study her (1 Pet 3:7-9), woo her, date her, engage with her, for God desires that she not perish but through your love save her, be patient towards them as God is to you.
- Parents never, never, never stop praying for your kids in here, the church is equipped and is here to help you build up your kids in the way they should go so they will not depart from them (Prov. 22:6). Put stock in what you have done and keep doing it. Be patient with them don't provoke your children into rebellion (Col. 3:21). Be patient with them as God was patient with you as a child!
- All people in this church, remember Sanctification is slow to you because God is the one doing the Salvation perfectly, and that means fully. He will not leave that up to us, therefore you can even enjoy these days knowing that all He has set out to save will be saved for Jesus has never lost anyone given to Him!

The Gospel retains its' power to save when you read it righ, in the right context, and keep in mind the things you have already learned about he Doctrines of Grace.

OK Jody what about John 3:16!? What about it!?

**What about John 3:16** <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." – We have been taught to read that as, "whoever wants to" but **the Greek actually just says "those that are believing into Him may not perish"** it's not making a statement on free will but it is actually quantifying who those are that will be



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---

saved, the ones actively believing... Jn. 3:16 must be read **in the theme of chapter 3 with a conversation he started with Nicodemus.**

- Being born of the Spirit is unconditional of you, it moves like the wind (v.8)
- As the serpent was lifted in the wilderness to the Jews, only those that believed that the action of looking at that serpent. (v.14)
- So as the Son of Man will be lifted up, a title for the Messiah of the Jews, and only the ones believing in Him will be the ones being saved.
- God so loved the world meaning **God loved the world in the way I had been describing to you Nicodemus - this way, that the ones you will see believing into Him, are the ones that the Spirit has ascended on UNCONDITIONALLY, like the wind, by the Father's will.**
- **Jn. 3:16 is the affirmation that God is the one doing the SAVING not man believing he can come to God as He wants. Limited Atonement stands on and verifies Unconditional Election**

**2. Limited Atonement tells how we are saved through Covenant Promises.**

Atonement is the way in which God deals with our sin. Sin cannot be brushed under the rug, it can be forgiven but it also **must be paid for**. The word **atonement** points to how God saves us, by making a **Covenant** with His people and keeping it. **Atonement is covenantal language**, and it is found all through the OT, especially in Leviticus which is the main book in the OT to explain how a covenant works.

**Leviticus 17:11**

<sup>11</sup>For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make **atonement** for your souls, for it is the **blood** that makes **atonement** by the life.

**Blood** is the only thing that makes **atonement**, the giving of one life for another and that is how we are saved. God can only forgive where atonement has been provided. Before time when God saw our sin, he elected to save His children and made an agreement with the only being powerful enough to save us, **His Son**, eternally and effectually:





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---

### **Galatians 1:3-5**

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the **Lord Jesus Christ**, <sup>4</sup> who **gave himself** for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the **will of our God and Father**, <sup>5</sup> to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Jesus makes the sacrifice, blood for blood, a life for a life, and he pays for the sin, SO THAT we then can THEN be forgiven. It was specifically planned out to be given to those that are called by God. It is a **Limited Atonement** for Jesus came only to give His life for His bride, those preordained (Rom. 8:29) to become the first of many brothers.

Family this covenantal doctrine has to be protected to teach it as an unlimited atonement, means that God did not know **who it was** HE was providing Salvation for which also means **He did not know** how to save them. **Atonement points to the private nature and an intimate knowledge of Jesus' connection with the person being saved.**

### **Ephesians 5:25-27**

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as **Christ loved the church** and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Christ is the model for how husbands should know and love their wives.

What does it take to be a good husband:

- The husband does not love other brides outside his own, it would cheapen his love, it would break covenant promises to be dedicated to her, and it leaves her with a sense of being cheap.
- The husband gives his love to His bride in the form of protection, and provision. He gives her a stable home by which we she can nest, bring forth life, develop into a mother, and provide care for the next generation of name bearers.
- The husband would also show that he doesn't think too highly of himself for he diminishes his opportunity to make descendants and decreases



**T.U.L.I.P.**  
**Wk. 3 Limited Atonement**  
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---

his ability to work more and to work better - *"He who loves himself loves his wife"* (Eph. 5:28).

In the same way Jesus is the model for all of that!:

- Jesus gives his love to His church keeping His covenant promises to her and to His Father, never forsaking her for another, even when Satan offered Him the Prostitute of Babylon during His temptation Jesus denied Him so we would know He came to save those who are His.
- Not only does He provide and protect but His is our Propitiation that means in place of He gives us His righteousness and He takes our sin - *"Whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins."* - Rom 3:25
- We don't receive general love from Jesus God says it is specific, it is covenantal, and it will complete what it sets out to do.

This all brings us to the best part of Limited Atonement.

**3. Limited Atonement describes how we are **loved without Limit by Christ:****

In the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John The Lord identifies Himself as Jehovah, the "Good Shepherd" from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. In the following passages it shows that Jesus knows personally those that are called by God.

**John 10:14**

*<sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,*

The ones that Jesus knows HE lays down His life specifically for them.

**John 10:15**

*<sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

It means at the cross Jesus lays down His life for His specific sheep, the elect one's of the Father. Not all men are included in that term, "My sheep". Then to those standing right there with Him at that moment he says:



**T.U.L.I.P.**  
**Wk. 3 Limited Atonement**  
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---

**John 10:26**

<sup>26</sup> but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep.

Those who do not believe are not included in the number that Jesus is dying for. He dies for His sheep. Furthermore, when He calls them by name they follow because the father has given them to Him.

**John 10:27**

<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

Salvation is the work of an almighty and Sovereign God.

**John 10:29**

<sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one."

Why do we believe in the Limited Atonement simply because Christ and the Apostles taught it.

**Matthew 1:21**

<sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

**[CHALLENGE/APPLICATION]**

Here's what this means for those that choose to accept the truth of scripture. Our sins, the ones that we have already done today had been seen by God, they have been weighed and they have been measured and it was declared that Jesus' sacrifice would be enough that it would cover that. – He came to save His people from their sins...

There is no sin, that was left uncovered in the pre-creation talks of the Trinity, it was known, and it was paid for. It means for us His people, since it is not a general atonement than the sin we now battle with, that we don't want to give up, that sin is the one that Jesus is patiently working out of you lest you perish. You see when you believe that God loves you that specifically,



**T.U.L.I.P.**  
**Wk. 3 Limited Atonement**  
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---

that He knows you that intimately, **it makes you want to be done with that sin.** He has paid for it and it should make you start hating that sin that you find so hard to let go of.

**(Example of how my Father changed...)**

**Seeing the dedication of Jesus helps you to stop being dedicated to self.**

Today, if you are getting tired of sin it is because you are seeing how Jesus is loving you better than you have ever known. Come to him, repent, let go of that which holds onto you, and follow Him, for His sheep know His voice.

**[PRAYER]**

**[COMMUNION]**

**[BENEDICTION]**

Go in the name of the Father,

Go in the name of the Son,

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit,