BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace
Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more
intimately and becoming more effective servants of
God in the world

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Soteriology V

Atonement, Divine Calling, Conversion

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Atonement

- ✓ The connection point of all major doctrines of soteriology
- ✓ Major theme in Scripture

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Historical Views of Atonement

- ✓ Classic or Ransom Theory (God vs. Satan)
- ✓ Satisfaction Theory (God's wounded honor)
- ✓ Moral Influence Theory (God's love only)
- ✓ Governmental View (demo of justice)
- ✓ Universal Reconciliation
- ✓ Penal Substitution Theory (penalty for sins and appeasing God's wrath)

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Old Testament Atonement

- ✓ OT sacrificial system provides necessary background
- ✓ Main verb = "to cover"
- ✓ Method = sacrifice
  - ❖ Adam and Eve
  - ❖ Abel
  - ❖ Noah
  - ❖ Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
  - ❖ Passover
  - ❖ Levitical Sacrifice
  - ❖ Day of Atonement

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Old Testament Atonement Observations

- ✓ OT saints not saved by works
- ✓ Forgiveness was real and temporary
- ✓ OT sacrifices limited—real forgiveness ultimately based on value of the death of Christ and not the death of the animal
- ✓ OT sacrifices point beyond themselves to Christ (Hebrews)

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New Testament Atonement

- ✓ Gospels (John 1:29; Luke 22:19; Luke 22:37; Mark 10:45; John 15:13; John 11:49–50)
- ✓ Paul (1 Cor 15:3; 5:7; 2 Cor 5:21; Gal 3:13; 1:4)

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Soteriological Concepts Related to Atonement

- ✓ Ransom (Mark 10:45; Matt 20:28; 1 Tim 2:5–6)
- ✓ Sacrifice (Heb 9:26; 10:10)
- ✓ Substitution (2 Cor 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24)
- ✓ Redemption
- ✓ Propitiation
- ✓ Reconciliation

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Extent of the Atonement

- ✓ For whom did Christ die? The elect only or the sins of every person?
- ✓ Limited Atonement (particular)

The atonement is limited to a definite or particular number of people, namely the elect of God. Christ's death was not to make possible the salvation of all humans but to render certain the salvation of the elect. Thus, the atonement is not just provisional. It is actual. Christ actually purchased salvation for the elect.

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Extent of the Atonement

- ✓ Passages that seem to indicate Christ died for a particular group (Matt 1:21; John 10:15–16)
- ✓ Passages that seem to indicate that the objects of God's love are selective (Rom 1:7; 8:29; 9:13; Col 3:12; 1 Thess 1:4; 2 Thess 2:13)

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Logical Arguments for Limited Atonement

- ✓ Limited vs. universal doctrines are inconsistent
- ✓ Double payment problem
- ✓ Not consistent with work of Trinity in salvation
- ✓ Actual atonement (Limited) vs. potential atonement (Universal)

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Extent of the Atonement

- ✓ **Universal or Unlimited Atonement**: Christ died for every person but His death is only effective for those who believe the gospel
- ✓ Passages that seem to indicate Christ died for everyone (John 1:29; 3:16–17; Rom 5:6; 1 Tim 2:6; 4:10; Heb 2:9; **2 Pet 2:1**; 1 John 2:1–2)

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Evaluation of Unlimited/Universal Atonement

- ✓ Many proof-texts do not take context into account
- ✓ Some do not take translation into account
- ✓ It cannot be that Christ's death provided satisfaction of wrath for everyone
- ✓ In final analysis—Limited Atonement is the end-result

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Divine Calling

Definition
The doctrine of divine calling refers to the call of God that invites and draws the unsaved person to Christ in a saving relationship.

- ✓ Historical Views
  - ❖ Pelagian/Liberal
  - ❖ Lutheran
  - ❖ Arminian
  - ❖ Reformed

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Divine Calling

- ✓ External Call—general call met by various responses (Matt 11:28; Rev 22:17)
- ✓ Internal Call—the Spirit of God illumines the darkened mind to believe (Matt 22:14; Num 16:5; Ps 65:4; Acts 16:4; Rom 8:28–30)
- ✓ It is an effectual call—irresistible

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Conversion

Definition

A willing response to the call of God which includes sincere repentance and faith in Christ for salvation.

- ✓ Examples (Acts 15:3; Luke 15:11ff; 1 Thess 1:9)

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Two Aspects of Conversion

Negative—Repentance
- ✓ OT language = "turning"
- ✓ NT language = "changing of mind"
- ✓ Not just sorrow for sin (2 Cor 7:9)
- ✓ Command of God (Acts 3:19; 17:30; 26:20)
- ✓ Jesus called for repentance (Luke 5:32)
- ✓ A gift from God (Acts 11:18)

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Two Aspects of Conversion

Positive—Faith
- ✓ NT language—*pistis* ("faith, trust, belief") and *pisteuo* ("believe in, have faith in, entrust"; 240x in NT)
- ✓ Two elements of faith—Belief that something is true and personal trust in this truth
- ✓ Genesis 15:6; Acts 10:43; John 1:12
- ✓ Faith is also a gift from God (Eph 2:8; 1 Cor 12:3; 1 Tim 1:14; Heb 12:2)

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