



Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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UNLIMITED ATONEMENT

Unlimited atonement is the efficacious work of Christ on the cross on behalf of mankind. As a noun, it means reconciliation after enmity or controversy and includes satisfaction or reparation made for wrong or injury. As a verb, it has several related meaning such as “to make up for errors, to be in accordance, to make reparation.” In the OT, the meaning of atonement is related to the Hebrew verb *kaphar* *כָּפַר*, meaning “to recover, to pass over.”

During the OT times, animal sacrifices were used “to cover” the sins, which represented the propitiation of God the Father by the judgment of Christ who covered our sins By His spiritual death on the Cross [Psalm 103:3, John 1:29] and thereby established reconciliation between man and God [Colossians 1:20-21].

Atonement in the OT refers to the use of animal sacrifice to represent the saving work of Christ. Animal sacrifices could not truly atone for sins. The concepts of OT and NT are brought together in Romans 3:23-26.

Atonement is unlimited because when Christ was judged on the cross-for sin –He paid for the sins of the entire human race and not just for the elect [Romans 5:6, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 1 Timothy 2:6, 4:10, Titus 2:1, 1 John 2:2, Hebrews 2:9]. Christ did not die only for the believers, that is, limited atonement.

Unlimited atonement eliminates sin from unbeliever’s indictment at the Last Judgment, because Christ died as a substitute for all and was judged for all sins of the human race. At the cross of Jesus, God the Father rejected all the dead works of all men since Christ is the perfect atonement. Human good will be part of the unbeliever’s indictment at the Last Judgment [Revelation 20:12-15].

Since all the sins of all men were judged at the Cross-, under the Law of double jeopardy they cannot be mentioned at the Last Judgment. Unlimited atonement covers sin only and not unbelief. The unbeliever in indicted at the Last Judgment because he did not believe in Christ while on earth [John 3:18, 36].

The Great White Throne Judgment (GWT) is the venue of the Last Judgment for all unbelievers of all generation to the Lake of Fire [Revelation 20:11-15]. Sins will never be an issue and will not be mentioned at the GWT. Every sin has already been judged at the Cross [1 Peter 2:24] and since Christ is the Judge of the GWT, He cannot mention that which He already paid for –the reason for which He judged by God the Father [John 5:22, Revelation 20:11].

At GWT scene, there will be two sets of books. One is the Book of Life, which includes the names of every person who has believed in Christ. The second book, composed of two volumes, is the book of human good works of all unbelievers- from which their condemnation is solely based [Revelation 20:12].

No amount of human good works can atone for sin of any person. The justice of God cannot accept anything less than God's own perfection and righteousness. Sinful man cannot in any manner pay for his imperfection and unrighteousness.

Christ is not a debtor (οπηιλετες), that is, one who owes something to another. Debt (οπηιλεμο), here is metaphorically applied- because it demands an act of expiation and thus payment by way of punishment.

Death came through sin [Romans 5:12], which is rebellion against God-which involves forfeiting of the life. The separation from God caused by forfeiting of the life could be removed only by a sacrifice by which the victim and the one making the offering has become identified.