

UNLIMITED ATONEMENT

Request: “One of the five points of Calvin theology is limited atonement. Calvin’s theology asks, “for whose sins did Christ atone?” They use Matt.26:28 (many) and Jn.17:9 (not world) as proof texts for limited atonement. What say you?”

This same idea of the many (tous polus / plus 1cc if) and much more (polus mallon) are used by Paul in Romans 5:14-19. Yet the proponents of limited atonement do not use the same argument with total depravity.

“**For as** through the one man’s disobedience the many were made (kathistemi / a.p.ind 3pl) sinners, **even so** through the obedience of the One the many will be made (kathistemi / f.p.ind 3pl) righteous.” (Rom.15:19)

However, the doctrine of unlimited atonement was under attack very early in the church age by the doctrine of limited atonement. Both Paul and John fought against this false doctrine.

“He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for our sins only, but also for those of the whole world.” (1 Jn.2:2)

This lesson will study five aspects of the doctrine of Unlimited Atonement.
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1. Atonement means to cover sins with the blood of Christ so as to appease or propitiate the wrath of God (Gen.3:21; 4:3-5; Rom.5:12-21).

Under the OC, there was the Day of Atonement. It was held on the 10th day of the 7th month each year. Two goats were offered on Yom Kippur. One goat was slain for a sin offering and the other goat was released as a sin bearer (scape goat) (Lev.16).

This shadow Christology lesson taught Israel yearly that their sins were covered by the blood of Christ that appeased the wrath of God on their behalf (Heb.9:22-28; 10:1-7).

2. Atonement is the propitious offering for sin under divine judgment

(Jn.3:18-19) “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (Jn. 3:36)

“Whom God displayed publicly as a **propitiation (hilasmos) in His blood** through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed.” (Rom.3:25)

God receives the atonement and the believer receives at least nine communion factors of the blood of Christ. These nine communion factors are celebrated by believers in the cup of the Eucharist (1 Cor.11).

Reconciliation	(2 Cor.5:17-19)	Peace with God	(Rom.5:1)
Redemption	(1 Pet.1:18-19)	Cleansing	(1 Jn.1:7-9)
Propitiation	(1 Jn.2:2)	Forgiveness	(Eph.1:7)
Justification	(Rom.5:8-11)	Victory in angelic conflict	(Rev.12:11)
		New covenant	(1 Cor.11:25)

3. The substitutionary spiritual death of Jesus Christ for mankind is the basis of unlimited atonement (Jn.1:29; 1 Pet.1:18-19).

The Greek preposition (huper) [for, on behalf of] is used for substitution in Rom5:6-8; 1 Cor.15:3-4; 2 Cor.5:14-21; 1 Tim.2:4-6; 1 Pet.3:18.

The Greek preposition (anti) [for, in place of] is used for substitution in Mark 10:45; 1 Pet.2:24.

4. Although the substitutionary spiritual death of Jesus Christ is unlimited in its atonement, the application of it is limited to human volition (Jn.3:16; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Titus 2:11; 1 Tim.4:10).

“He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (Jn.3:18)

“The Lord is not slow about His promises, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” (2 Pet.3:9)

This means that while all could be saved only those who believe the gospel of Jesus Christ will be saved.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” (Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9)

God didn’t send His only begotten Son to the cross on some limited trip on behalf of God and man (Heb.1:1-5; 2:9; Phil.2:8-11).

5. Unlimited atonement is the reason that sin will never be an issue at either the judgment seat of Christ for believers or the Great White Throne Judgment of unbelievers.

The Judgment Seat of Christ (JSC) will be basically about evil being substituted for spirituality (2 Cor.5:5-10; Rom.14:9-12).

The Great White Throne Judgment (GWTJ) will be basically about evil being substituted for salvation (Rev.20:11-15; Jn.5:24).

“The condemnation of the unsaved is not now the sins which Christ bore on His body on the tree. But the condemnation rests on the fact of the rejection of Jesus Christ as the sin bearer.”
(True Evangelism by Chafer, pg.34)

“And He (Helper / Holy Spirit) when He comes, will convict the world concerning **sin**, and righteousness, and judgment; concerning **sin**, because they do not believe in Me.”
(Jn.16:8-9)