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Section: Doctrine of Christ (Christology)

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q63. For whom did Christ die?**

Christ died only for those people whom the Father had given Him: the elect.

* **Introduction**

**Limited Atonement (also known as Definite Atonement and Particular Atonement):** Christ’s work on the cross was not done for every human to ever live; rather, it was done exclusively for God’s elect, who are chosen people from throughout all of human history and represent every tribe, tongue, and nation. In doing this, Christ accomplished substitutionary atonement for the chosen ones by cancelling the debt of all their sin, appeasing God’s holy wrath, and earning all the benefits of their salvation.

* **Christ Died Only for Those People Whom the Father Had Given Him**

**Matthew 1:21** “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

He shall be called Jesus, for or because, He WILL save His people from their sins. GOD SAVES! Hear the confident and clear language from Scripture. Jesus WILL save His people!

**Romans 8:1-9** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

**John 6:35-40** Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

There is a specific people God the Father gives to God the Son (Jesus), and these people WILL come to Him.

**John 6:37-40** “All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

ALL that God the Father gives to God the Son (Jesus) WILL come to Jesus.

Jesus says, “I have come to do the will of the Father. And this is the Father’s will that I (Christ Jesus Himself) shall lose nothing of all that the Father has given Me.” ‘

What comes about is what God decreed. A situation in which God “hopes” for something to happen is not possible. That kind of God does not exist. The triune God is sovereign over all things and always purposeful in His acting.

God’s eternal, unchanging, effective will was that Christ come to redeem and lose none of those whom the Father gives Him. The Father does not give Jesus all of mankind, or else all of mankind would be saved.

**John 10:1-30** “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. 11I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

19There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. 20Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” 21Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

22At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, 23and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. 24So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” 25Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, 26but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. 27My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29My 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. 30I and the Father are one.”

**John 10:3-5** “To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

Jesus is the good shepherd. Jesus is not the shepherd of all mankind, but He has sheep that are His “own.” Jesus calls “His own sheep” by name and leads them. Jesus will bring out all “His own.” Jesus’s own sheep will follow Him because they know His voice. Jesus’s sheep will not follow strangers but will flee from strangers

**John 10:7-10** So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Those sheep who hear Jesus’s voice and follow Him, they enter life through Jesus.

We have life in Christ Jesus alone! He is the only way, the only door that leads to life!

* **Limited, Particular, Definite Atonement**

Jesus has His own sheep, they know His voice, they follow only Him, and they find true life in Him; He saves His own sheep!

**John 10:11** “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

The atonement of the good Shepherd is of perfect value and is for and applied to a specific scope—a particular people.

This atonement is: Limited—Christ’s work on the cross was not done for every human to ever live.

This atonement is: Particular—Christ’s work on the cross was done exclusively for God’s elect, who are chosen people from throughout all of human history and represent every tribe, tongue, and nation.

This atonement is: Definite—In doing this, Christ accomplished substitutionary atonement for the chosen ones by cancelling the debt of all their sin, appeasing God’s holy wrath, and earning all the benefits of their salvation.

Christ Jesus’s atonement mission, that which He perfectly accomplished, was a Limited, Particular, and Definite Atonement.

Praise God for this. Praise God that we have a Redeemer who perfectly willed and completed all that was required. Praise God that we have an all-powerful, all-wise, intentional God who loved the elect from eternity past and completes the mission to save them. Praise God for the Limited, Particular, and Definite Atonement!

**John 10:14-15** “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

Jesus knows His own intimately. He has and will have a deep communion with His own, like that deep, eternal communion He has had with the Father for eternity. If God has mercifully saved you, then this is how you are known.

**John 10:16** “And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

All throughout the gospel of John, the writer is aiming to teach that God’s people are not an ethnic-specific people.

**John 1:13**

**John 3:16**

The group He was speaking to specifically was a group of Jews.

**John 9:40-41** Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

Jesus was addressing the Pharisees and continued to address them with the illustration of the sheep and Himself as the Good Shepherd. Jesus has His own sheep that are not from the Jews only.

**John 10:17-18** “For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

**John 10:19-21** There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

Jesus was speaking to a Jewish audience that included the Pharisees.

**John 10:24-26** So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep.”

Jesus responds, “I told you,” declaring “not only have I told you but the very works I have done prove that I am the Christ.” Why don’t they believe Him?

In verse 26, Jesus says, “The reason you do not believe is because you are not among My sheep!” Jesus did not say they were not His sheep because they didn’t believe. Jesus clearly says, “You do not believe BECAUSE you are not among My sheep.”

Not one drop of Christ’s blood was wasted. It was a perfect atonement, accomplishing exactly what God decreed it to, namely atonement for a Limited, Particular people—the elect.

**John 10:27-29** “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 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. 30I and the Father are one.”

God the Father has given Jesus a specific people whom He is calling His sheep. This group of sheep are securely given, purchased, and redeemed by God the Son, and no one can change that! All of this is based on the Limited, Particular, Definite Atonement.

* **Who Are the Elect?**

The sheep whom Christ calls His own and for whom Christ Jesus lays down His life, most assuredly saving them, are called the elect.

**Unconditional Individual Election:** Before creation existed, God chose which individual human beings would receive salvation from sin, death, and God’s eternal wrath. This choice to redeem certain ones is not based on any so-called goodness, will, or work in them; rather, it is based on the freedom and grace of God in Christ Jesus alone.

**John 17:6&9** “I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.” “I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.”

**Ephesians 1:4** … [God] chose us [the elect] in him before the foundation of the world …

Jesus declares that he is **not** praying for the world, but only for those whom the Father has given Him. These are the elect.

**1689 Confession of Faith**: It pleased God, in His eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, His only begotten Son, according to the covenant made between them both, to be the mediator between God and man; the prophet, priest, and king; head and savior of the church, the heir of all things, and judge of the world; unto whom He did from all eternity give a people to be His seed and to be by Him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.

**1689 Confession of Faith**:The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience and sacrifice of Himself, which He through the eternal Spirit once offered up to God, has fully satisfied the justice of God, procured reconciliation, and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father has given unto Him.

**1689 Confession of Faith**:To all those for whom Christ has obtained eternal redemption, He does certainly and effectually apply and communicate the same, making intercession for them; uniting them to Himself by His Spirit, revealing to them, in and by His Word, the mystery of salvation, persuading them to believe and obey, governing their hearts by His Word and Spirit, and overcoming all their enemies by His almighty power and wisdom, in such manner and ways as are most consonant to His wonderful and unsearchable dispensation; and all of free and absolute grace, without any condition foreseen in them to procure it.

To all whom Christ has obtained eternal redemption He does certainly and effectually apply this redemption. Christian, Jesus called you one of His own sheep. He laid down His life to redeem you from your sin. You were chosen by the Father to be given to the Son. This was all done outside of you and not owing to anything in you. This was and is the will of God to work and to save His elect people.

God’s acting is always intentional. There is no flippancy with God. He has from eternity past chosen a people to redeem.

When the fullness of time had come, the Father sent the Son to take on flesh and die in the place of all those whom He had given to the Son. Jesus did this work, and now we who have been saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ Jesus alone are the benefactors of this great sacrifice.