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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**

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**

**John 6:35-40**

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 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**

**John 10:3-5**

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**

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**

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**

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**

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**

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**

**John 10:19-21**

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

**John 10:24-26**

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**

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**

**Ephesians 1:4**

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.