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## Evangelism

Why do so many die apart from hearing about Christ is Christ died for them?

How can the gospel be offered freely if Christ only died for the elect?

### Unevangelized and Universal Atonement

Romans 10:17

Objective accomplishment and subjective application.

Universal possibility and particular actuality.

Universal atonement with its necessary corollary of universal accessibility disincentivizes missions.

If proponents of universal atonement believe that salvation only comes from hearing and accepting the gospel then their definition of universal atonement cannot claim that the cross of Christ objectively paid for sin. On the other hand, if they accept that Christ objectively paid for every person's sin then salvation must come not only by the proclamation of the gospel, but by other means as well. These other means are not found in Scripture.

### Unevangelized and Definite Atonement

Definite atonement acknowledges the universality of sin and the particularity of grace.

Acts 16:6-8

Matthew 28:18-20

2 Corinthians 5:20

Definite atonement is compatible with our responsibility to share the gospel. Matthew 22:1-14

William Carey – Revelation 5:7-9

David Livingstone – John 10:16

We evangelize because we know that God's Holy Spirit goes with us to empower the Word to bring life and salvation to those for whom Christ died.



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## Assurance

How can we tell someone God loves them and Jesus died for them if we do not know whether that person is elect?

How can I have assurance of salvation if I don't know that Christ died for me?

Matthew 5:43-45

Ephesians 5:25

John 15:13

The doctrine of definite atonement is the only doctrine of the atonement that not only sustains assurance, but grounds assurance.

- Christ's propitiation on the cross of God's wrath ensures we will not, even cannot, be recipients of God's wrath at the final judgment.
- The unity of the Trinity ensures the completion of salvation. Any form of universal atonement limits the effectiveness of the Son's atonement and weakens the power of the ministry of the Spirit.

## What About Those in Hell?

Did Christ's death on the cross pay for the sins of those already in hell at the time of his crucifixion?

If Christ has paid the penalty of the sin of those in hell, why are they still in hell?

### Double Payment

Ware – If the elect can be under God's wrath before salvation even though Christ has paid for their sin, why can't those in hell be under God's wrath even though Christ has paid for their sin?

We are born under the sentence of God's wrath, but only those who die apart from Christ experience the execution of the sentence of God's wrath.

Why are the elect born under the sentence of God's wrath if Christ has propitiated God's wrath for the elect?

There is only one payment for sin, but the application of Christ's payment happens when saving faith is exercised.



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Christ secured regeneration, faith, justification, sanctification, and glorification for the elect. Therefore we cannot say Christ paid for the sins of the non-elect in hell because of all that flows from that payment.

To say that Christ paid for the sins of those in hell diminishes the work of Christ. It must mean he did not make an actual payment since those in hell are paying for their sin.

## **Reconciliation**

Driscoll – In some sense, those in hell are reconciled to God by the death of Christ, but they are not reconciled in the same way as the elect because they remain in hell. Colossians 1:18-20

There are four things we can say about reconciliation and those that are in hell.

1. Saying those in hell are reconciled to God in any sense diminishes the reconciliation, or peace, those in Christ have with God.
2. Defining reconciliation in hell as those in hell recognizing Christ for how he is does not mean their hostility towards Christ is removed. The demons understood who Christ was during his lifetime and that did not bring about any repentance.
3. Reconciliation involves bowing the knee to Jesus but simply acknowledging the lordship of Christ does not mean there is true reconciliation.
4. Scripture does not support the idea that the rebellion is over. The rebellion is only over in the sense that the rebellion is contained to hell. This is not the reconciliation described in the Bible.

Philippians 2:9-11

The lordship of Christ will be acknowledged everywhere by every being. The reconciliation purchased by Jesus applies to heaven and earth, that is, the new heavens and the new earth. In that realm all things are reconciled to God by the blood of Christ.

There is no sense in which those that are in hell benefit from the death of Christ. This leaves us with definite atonement.