

30 September 2012: Preached by Preacher Joseph Poon

Topic: **TULIP - Limited Atonement**

Scripture Text: John 10: 22-29

1. Atonement is the salvation work of Jesus Christ to save sinners. There are 3 views of atonement. Firstly, universal atonement, which means Christ atoning work is to save everyone in this world. This is obviously untrue. Secondly, potential atonement, which means God did everything He could to provide atonement for all men and it depends whether the individual person chooses the atonement or not. It means potentially everyone could be saved and it depends on our choice. Thirdly, actual atonement. It means God sent His Son Jesus Christ to save the elect and none of them will be lost. He actually saves the elect and applies His atoning work that they will be saved. None will not be lost at all. This is the biblical teaching and also the Calvinistic view.

2. Atonement involves a sacrifice because there is sin that is committed and God has to judge sin. To turn God's wrath, we need an atonement to satisfy His justice. Jesus Christ is called the Lamb of God as He is the substitute for us. He took our place and God's wrath was upon Him. God is then appeased with the atonement of Christ our Saviour. Reconciliation then takes place. Christ atoning work is to reconcile God with man.

3. Limited atonement has infinite value and power. It is sufficient for all. But it is limited in God's intention to save the elect only. It is only a work applied to the believers. John 10:26 is a verse which shows limited atonement: "Ye do not believe because ye are not my sheep". It is not the other way round. So, the fact that we believe is because we are His sheep.

4. Believing in limited atonement does not mean that we don't go to preach to anyone. Salvation is freely offered to all but unless you are the elect, you will always be rejecting God. The means of salvation is through preaching the Gospel. We obey the commandment of God to preach. God will do His work of saving

5. Matthew 20:28 states that Christ gave His life for many, not all. He took the place only for the elect. When we see the phrase "Saviour of the world", it means that Christ is the only Saviour this world can ever have. For God so loved the world tells us that God genuinely loved sinners. He wants everyone to come under Him, but only those who are the elect will come unto Him. God loves the world but none of us will ever turn to Jesus by our self so God has to work in the hearts of some (elect) to believe in Him. This will cause us to well up in thankfulness. Christ bore all the sufferings on the cross for us, the elect who has believed in Him.