



Redemption Accomplished

Systematic Theology II:
Soteriology



Introduction

- How does Jesus' obedience relate to our salvation?
- What is Imputation?
- What is Penal Substitutionary Atonement?
- For whom did Jesus die – all people who have ever existed or for all who would ever believe?



The Active and Passive Obedience of Christ

Active Obedience- Christ's positive and perfect obeying of God's law on behalf of everyone who would ever believe.

Passive Obedience- The suffering of Christ endured through his life and death by bearing the penalty of God's Law.



Scriptural Proofs

- Leviticus 18:4-5
- Matthew 3:14-15
- Romans 2:13
- Romans 10:5



Scriptural Proofs

- Hebrews 5:8
- Romans 5:19
- Galatians 3:10-12
- Galatians 4:4-5
- Isaiah 53:7
- Philippians 2:8



Imputation

Imputation- The act in which God accounts the sin of believers to be Christ's and the righteousness of Christ to be the believer's, accomplished by Christ's vicarious life and death for all those who would ever believe



Stephen Nichols on Imputation

- “The word imputation comes directly from the Latin. It is an accounting term; it means "to apply to one's account." Expenses are debited and income is credited. The old King James word is "reckon."



Statement on Christology on Imputation

- “For us,
He kept the law,
atoned for sin,
and satisfied God's wrath.
He took our filthy rags
and gave us
His righteous robe.”



Scriptural Proofs

- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Romans 4:6-8
- Philippians 3:4-8
- Zechariah 3:1-5



Heidelberg Catechism Question 60

- “Only by true faith in Jesus Christ; that is, although my conscience accuse me, that I have grievously sinned against all the commandments of God, and have never kept any of them, and am still prone always to all evil; yet God without any merit of mine, of mere grace, grants and imputes to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never committed nor had any sin, and had myself accomplished all the obedience which Christ has fulfilled for me; if only I accept such benefit with a believing heart.”



Penal Substitutionary Atonement

Penal Substitutionary Atonement- Christ was a legal substitute for believers on the cross and that he bore the penalty for the sins of all believers that is due to them.



Scriptural Proofs

- Leviticus 16:15-16
- Isaiah 53:5-6
- Galatians 3:13-14
- Matthew 26:28
- Hebrews 2:17



Limited (Definite) Atonement

Limited Atonement- Jesus Christ, in his penal substitutionary death, has atoned for the sins of his people, and not for those who are unelect



Theological Problems with Unlimited Atonement

- It conflicts with Penal Substitutionary Atonement
- It makes Jesus a rogue member of the Trinity, which destroys the unity of the Trinity



Scriptural Proofs

- Matthew 1:21
- Ephesians 5:25-27
- John 10:11
- John 10:14-15
- Hebrews 2:17



The Modern Day Attack on Justification

- The Roman Catholic Church (some things don't change!)
- The New Perspective on Paul/The Federal Vision (N.T. Wright, Peter Leithart, Douglas Wilson)



Further Resources

- William Shedd, Dogmatic Theology, Vol. 2, chapter on Justification
- Brandon Crowe, Why did Jesus Live a Perfect Life? The Necessity of Christ's Obedience for our Salvation
- Alan Strange, The Imputation of the Active Obedience of Christ in the Westminster Standards



Further Resources

- The Pactum podcast, Episodes 23 and 24
- The Everlasting Righteousness by Horatius Bonar
- The Doctrine of Justification by James Buchannan
- The Institutes of Elenctic Theology by Francis Turretin, section on Justification



Questions?

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- Or just ask afterwards!