

The Atonement: It's Necessity

Introductory remarks and book recommendations

I. The Importance of the Doctrine of the Atonement...

A. We need to be saved...

B. The Christian Gospel is the best news possible... John 3:16

II. The Atonement is the Distinguishing mark of true "evangelicalism..."

A. Our Lord's focus... Matthew 20:28; John 10:15

B. The heart of Apostolic preaching and ministry... I Corinthians 2:1-2

C. Paul's own testimony (and every true Christian)... Galatians 2:20-21

Lesson:

D. The Reformers emphasized the atonement as central...

E. The Bible teaches its centrality and significance (Redemption was accomplished...)

Ephesians 1:7; Acts 20:28; Hebrews 9:11-12, 14; I John 1:7; I Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 1:4-6; 5:9-10

III. The Question: Was the atonement absolutely necessary for the salvation of God's elect?

Briefly consider Paul's testimony concerning the power and wisdom of God in relation to the atonement...

Romans 1:16-18.

I Corinthians 1:18-24

A. Three Options...

1. No atonement necessary...
2. Hypothetical Necessity...
3. Consequent Absolute Necessity...

****A Brief Historical Excursion...**

IV. The Necessity of the Atonement and the Character of God...

A. Our conception of God is vital...

Question: What is the fundamental problem with Arminianism?

B. Two specific aspects of God's character point to the absolute necessity of the atonement...

1. God is perfectly just...

Sin must be punished...

2. God is supremely merciful...

John 3:16 cf. Romans 8:32

Homework: 1. Keeping these two aspects of God's character in mind—as they relate to “Consequent Absolute Necessity” go back and read Murray pgs. 13-17 (points 1-4) follow his advice to view them in coordination and in their cumulative effect.

2. Be prepared, next, time to discuss the significance of the Bible passages cited by Murray and what you have learned or has been reinforced from them in regards to the atonement.

3. Read Chapter II “The Nature of the Atonement” pgs. 19-50.