A REFUTATION OF CALVINISM AND THE CORRECT ALTERNATIVE

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Calvinism teaches that the death of Jesus was a penal substitutionary sacrifice intended specifically to save the elect, often called "Limited Atonement". It holds that Christ's death actually secured, rather than just made possible, the salvation of those chosen by God, guaranteeing their faith and perseverance.

Calvinists teach that Christ died in payment only for the sins of the elect—those God chose for salvation before the foundation of the world—rather than for every individual who has ever lived.

According to Calvinism the work of Jesus at the Cross was not merely to provide a potential for salvation, but to effectively redeem, save, and satisfy the penalty of sin for specific individuals.

Under this framework, everyone for whom Christ died will be saved, as his death for them was fully effective and purposeful.

According to Calvinism, the atonement was designed to pay the penalty for the sins of only the elect securing their justification and redemption.

The blood of Jesus inaugurated the New Covenant for the elect. The blood of Jesus is the blood of the new covenant, which purchases for the elect a new heart, new life, faith, and obedience according to Calvinism. Jesus says that in Luke 22:20: "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." The new covenant is not an offer of salvation according to Calvinism. According to Calvinism it's an accomplishment of salvation in the hearts of God's people. He gives them a new heart and a new spirit, a gift of life, gift of faith, and a gift of obedience.

According to Calvinism, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will never perish. Believe on him, and you will become a full and complete participant in the perfect salvation, the perfect payment for sins, the perfect propitiation of the wrath of God, the perfect obedience for imputation, the perfect deliverance from death and hell and Satan and into the everlasting glory of God. All of that is yours — it's yours for the believing because of Jesus's death. But, according to Calvinism, you cannot believe in the Lord Jesus Christ unless you are one of the elect. According to Calvinism, God must regenerate a person before he can believe in Jesus.

Calvinist's can say to everyone, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will never perish." But the non-elect will never do so because they are totally depraved and dead to spiritual awareness having no ability to call upon Christ for salvation, according to Calvinism.

The focus of Calvinism concerning the atonement of Christ is totally unbiblical, a smear on the character of God, and a satanic deception that leads true believers into moral failure and the lost into despair.

THE FOLLOWING REFUTES CALVINISM AND GIVES THE TRUE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT OF THE CROSS OF JESUS.

The blood of Jesus did inaugurate the New Covenant for the elect. The blood of Jesus is the blood of the new covenant, which makes available to all humanity a new heart and a new life. Jesus says that in Luke 22:20: "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." The blood of Jesus did inaugurate the new covenant. The "elect" are repentant, cooperating sinners who believe and receive Jesus as personal Lord and Savior. Sinners who cooperate with Holy Spirit conviction and allow Him to bring them to faith in Jesus do have the ability to respond and receive Christ. Hebrews 9,10,11

The Old Covenant with its emphasis on "atonement" could never take away sin for the repentant sinner. Old Covenant atonement was a covering for sin concerning the nation of Israel. Isaiah 44 is addressed to the nation of Israel as a collective entity rather than as individuals.

> **In Isaiah 44, God calls Israel His servant, asserting they are established by Him, and this reinforces a divine, unbreakable commitment to the nation. God will never forsake His covenant relationship with Israel. Romans 11**
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> **Isaiah 44 urges Israel to remember God's promises and their covenant relationship with Him. They should reject idol worship.**
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> **While Isaiah 44:22 deals with blotting out transgressions, in this context it is within the scope of restoring the nation rather than individual salvation.**

"Atonement" never saved any person from personal sin. "Atonement" never gave any person eternal life. The blood of bulls and goats could never take away sin. The Apostles never spoke of Jesus as being an atonement for sin. Old Covenant atonement was for preserving Israel as God's servant and reminding them of personal sin and the need for the Messiah who would save them from sin. People who are saved have always looked to the Messiah for that salvation. Faith in Jesus, the Messiah, has always been the way of salvation and eternal life.The Day of Atonement ritual purified the Temple and the people from their defilement caused by their sin. This "covering" allowed Israel to remain in relationship to God and continue their mission. Israel was chosen by God with a mission to be a kingdom of priests and a light to the nations. They were to share God's saving grace with the Gentiles. The Day of Atonement once a year allowed them to continue their mission by ceremonially cleansing the nation and restoring their covenant relationship with God. The shedding of blood reinstituted God's covenant with Israel every year. The shedding of Jesus' blood initiated the New Covenant of the New Testament. We are supposed to recognize the glaring differences

between the sacrifices of the OT and the sacrifice of Jesus in the NT. The Old Testament blood of atonement sacrifice was not a picture of the shed blood of Jesus for the New Covenant. It is a contrast. The Greek New Testament never uses the word atonement to refer to the Cross of Jesus. Jesus came to take away the sin of the world and not to cover up our sin. Atonement should only be used to refer to the covering for the sin of Israel to help preserve their assignment. The blood of animals (for atonement) was not for saving any individual Israelite from eternal separation from God. Hebrews 9,10

So, Jesus is not an atonement for sin. Jesus does not cover up sin. Jesus takes away sin in the repentant, and cooperating sinner. The blood of Jesus secures that salvation through the New Covenant established in His blood. But it is the resurrected life of Jesus imparted to and infused in the believing sinner that gives eternal life, a new heart and a new life in Christ. This is why the death of Jesus is for all humanity, but resurrection life is only imparted to cooperating, repentant, and believing sinners.

2 Corinthians 5:14,15 1 John 2:2 1 Timothy 2:5-6

Penal substitutionary atonement and all other atonement theories about Christ are false teachings because Jesus was not an atonement, a covering for sin. THE FOLLOWING SUBSTITUTIONARY WORK OF CHRIST SATISFIES ALL SCRIPTURE.

THE SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH OF JESUS

The sinless death of Jesus was a transaction between Heaven and Earth by which sin and Satan were defeated and Jesus arose with the right to transform believing sinners into new creations in Christ.

Hebrews 2:14 Revelation 21:4 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18 Colossians 2:15 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Cooperating with Holy Spirit conviction, believing sinners are rescued from sin by the resurrected life of Jesus through the indwelling Holy Spirit of Christ who lives eternally in the born again believer and seals the believer with eternal life.
Romans 5:1,10,11,16-19 Romans 8:1-9,15-39

The shed blood of Jesus was for all people and makes their salvation, reconciliation, and eternal life possible.
Hebrews 2:9 1 John 2:2 John 3:16;36

Atonement in the Old Testament is in contrast to reconciliation through Christ in the New Testament.
The blood of bulls and goats could never take away sin. Hebrews 10:4
The Lamb of God takes away the sin of the world. John 1:29

Jesus came to stop the Levitical priesthood and sacrifice of animals and in His blood sacrifice Jesus established the New Covenant. Hebrews 10:9 The Old Covenant never gave eternal life to a person. In contrast, the New Covenant makes eternal life possible to any person who cooperates with God and believes in Jesus for eternal life. John 3:16

The shedding of animal blood inaugurated the Old Covenant.
The shedding of Christ's blood inaugurated the New Covenant. Hebrews 9:22

Jesus Christ was humanity's God-given Substitute for Adam, and Jesus died sinless to redeem creation. 1 Peter 1:19 Romans 5:12-21
Sin reigned through death, but grace reigned through the sinless death of Jesus and to all who believe in Jesus Christ. Romans 5:18
Believers in Christ have received Jesus as their replacement for being solely in Adam.
Believers are now "in Christ".

Believers in Christ have been redeemed from the curse of the Law. Galatians 3:13
Believers in Christ have been rescued from sin's dominion. Colossians 1:14
The resurrected life's blood of Jesus cleanses the believer from all sin. 1 John 1:7
Believers in Christ have eternal life. John 5:24

Isaiah 53:3-12 A substitutionary view <u>but not penal</u>:
verse 3 He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief and as it were we hid our faces from Him. He was despised and we did not think highly of Him. 4 Surely our griefs He has borne and our sorrows He carried and yet <u>we thought</u> Him to be stricken, smitten by God and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities, the <u>discipline for our peace was upon Him</u> and by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray, every one to his own way we have turned and God has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted and yet He did not open His mouth as a lamb to the slaughter. He was led and as a sheep before its shearers is silent so He did not open His mouth. 8 From prison and from judgment He was taken and His generation did not consider that He was cut off from the land of the living and was stricken for the transgressions of My people. 9 And they assigned Him a grave with the wicked and with the rich at His death although He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in His mouth. 10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief when You make an offering for sin. His soul shall see His seed and He shall prolong His days and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. 11 The labor of His soul He shall see and be satisfied. By His knowledge, shall My Servant make many righteous, for their iniquities He shall bear.
12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great and with the strong He shall divide the spoil upon that He poured out unto death His soul. With the transgressors He was numbered and He bore the sin of many and for the transgressors made intercession.

Verse 4 does <u>not</u> say that Jesus was stricken by God as if He was being punished.

Verse 5 does not say that Jesus was punished to bring us peace. It does say that the disciplined life of Jesus brings us peace. Hebrews 5:8 explains this by saying that Jesus learned obedience by what He suffered. Not that Jesus was ever disobedient, but that He experienced every situation of life in which He remained disciplined and obedient. Jesus became the perfect Second Adam by dying sinless and was given by the Father all authority, power, and judgment.

Verse 10 does not say that God was punishing Jesus or pouring out His wrath on Jesus. It does say that God was allowing all our sin to bruise Him and the purpose was to condemn sin (Romans 8:3). Sin has been sentenced to removal from all creation (Revelation 20,21,22).

Verse 11 says that omniscience of all our sin was laid on Jesus at the Cross.

By His knowledge, He bore our iniquities. And the purpose was to bring many people to righteousness. By His death and resurrection, Jesus condemned sin to the fullest. He arose with all power and authority to judge sin and remove sin through future specific judgments.

On the Cross, Jesus bore the wrath of the combined sin of all men in His conscious mind as God gave Him total omniscience of humanity's sins which are always actions that are against God. Jesus died a physical death under the abuse of our sin as He suffered physically, mentally, and emotionally. The discipline of our peace was upon Him because His sinless death was required to condemn sin to the utmost. Hebrews 5 describes His discipline as learning obedience. Jesus responded obediently to every temptation of man. He was obedient even unto physical death. During three hours of darkness, Jesus felt alone and forsaken under the abuse of our sin, however He had perfect faith that the Father was watching over Him and fulfilling all Scripture and orchestrating the defeat of sin, death, Satan, and all its ramifications. The Cross and His resurrection was sufficient for making salvation possible for all people but the remedy must be applied by faith in each individual person (Colossians 2:12). We are saved by cooperating with the Spirit and allowing Him to bring us to saving faith. We are then regenerated by His resurrection power, and we are now saved by His life in us (Romans 5:10). His sinless death made provision for our access to sin removal and being made a new creation in Christ. Through our faith in Jesus, He becomes our Second

Adam whereby we are buried with Him in baptism (identification with death to our sole relationship to Adam and to sin's bondage) and raised with Him to newness of life. The result of Jesus' one act of righteousness (sinless death),was justification that brings life for all men. Adam committed one act that brought condemnation to all men. So Jesus is humanity's God-given substitute for Adam, and any person who cooperates to the point of saving faith has justification for eternal life (Romans 5:18-19). The sinless death of the holy and perfect Second Adam condemned sin as to its guilt and as to its sentence of removal from all creation. Romans 8:3 By His knowledge, He bore our iniquities (Isaiah 53:11). And the purpose was to bring many people to righteousness. By His sinless death, Jesus condemned sin to the fullest. God the Father raised Him with all power and authority to judge sin and remove sin. The believer's sin is judged and removed at the moment of regeneration because God promises to complete the work He began in us. The believer enters Heaven totally sinless and totally righteous (a new creation). The desire of the true believer is to cooperate with sin removal through sanctification, and the desire of the true believer is to do righteous actions initiated and led by the Spirit of Christ.

For three hours on the Cross sin tortured Jesus. All our sin was laid on Him by His knowledge of all sin being against God. Jesus is God. Sin administered abuse to our Savior in every way possible and the Savior condemned sin by His sufferings. Sin said, "This is the heir, let us kill Him, that the inheritance may be ours," and sin slew Him, and cast Him out of the vineyard. Sin is now known to be the cruel and detestable thing which God has always declared it to be. Because of this worst act of sin, all heaven and earth knows that sin deserves to be removed from all creation. For three hours God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. For three hours it felt to Jesus as if the Father had forsaken Him yet He knew that the Father was at work fulfilling all Scripture and watching over the Son who He loves. The one act of righteousness that brought redemption to fruition was the act of Jesus dying sinless, thus condemning sin to the utmost. The Father raised Jesus from the dead giving Him all power and authority to remove sin from all creation, and in particular to remove sin from the born again believer in Him. The law was powerless to remove sin in us due to our sinful nature, but God sent Jesus to be the sin offering. Jesus died sinless condemning sin to the utmost. Jesus

was humanity's God given substitute for Adam whereby the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who are born again and live by the Spirit.

Romans 5:18; 8:3,4 Isaiah 53:11 Psalm 22 Mark 12:1-10 Matthew 28:18-20