

Title: **IF CHRIST DIED FOR ALL...?**

or

THE BLASPHEMIES
OF UNIVERSAL REDEMPTION

Text: Hebrews 10:28-29

Subject: *The Implications of Universal Redemption*

Date: Sunday Evening — September 28, 2008

Tape # Z-54a

Readings: *Ron Wood and Bobbie Estes*

Introduction:

Recently Bro. Simon Bell in Australia heard one of our sermons on FreeGraceRadio, “The Most Hideous Doctrine in the World,” in which I tried to expose the blasphemous heresy of universal redemption and proclaim the glorious accomplishments of our Redeemer at Calvary. He wrote expressing his joy and benefit in hearing the message, and asked if I might consider bringing a message dealing with the implications of the universal redemption heresy embraced by all will-worshipping idolaters. Well, I’ve been considering it with great delight. The title of my message tonight is — **IF CHRIST DIED FOR ALL...? Or THE BLASPHEMIES OF UNIVERSAL REDEMPTION.**

We will begin by reading Hebrews 10:28-29. Here God the Holy Spirit declares that those who despise the gospel of God’s free and sovereign grace in Christ shall be, in the day of judgment, be worthy of much sorer and more severe punishment than those who despised the law of God given by the hand of Moses to the children of Israel. Read the text with me, beginning at verse twenty-eight.

(Hebrews 10:28-29) “He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: (29) Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?”

There are many, many proper and very sober applications of this warning. Here God himself speaks of men who have **“trodden under foot the Son of God” have counted the blood of the Son of God, “the blood of the**

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covenant,” an unholy (common) thing, and have “done despite unto the Spirit of grace.”

I have come here tonight to tell you, and show you from the Word of God, that **those words very accurately describe the religion and the preachers of our day.**

I want you to hear every word of this message. I have chosen my words deliberately and purposefully. I have chosen them, either by the Spirit of Christ or by the spirit of antichrist. I will leave that for you to decide. But be sure you understand this — **THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE BETWEEN THE TWO!** Either I speak to you tonight as God’s messenger to your soul by the Holy Spirit of Christ, or I speak to you as a messenger of Satan by the spirit of antichrist.

This is the charge I have come here to make. I make it publicly. I make it boldly. I intend to do what I can to make it and sound it out in the widest possible circles among preachers and those who hear them.

Proposition: All preachers of Arminian, free-will, works religion, all preachers of the damning, blasphemous doctrine of Universal Atonement or Universal Redemption, that is to say — All who believe, teach and preach that the Son of God died to redeem and save all human beings, even those who perish at last in hell under the wrath of God, are guilty of this horrid crime: — **They tread under their feet the blood of the Son of God, count the everlasting blood of the covenant an unholy thing, and do despite unto the Spirit of grace!**

There is not today, never has been, and never can be any doctrine in all the world more dishonoring to God, more blasphemous to the Lord Jesus Christ, more contrary to the Spirit of grace and to the Word of God, or more damning to the souls of men than the doctrine of universal atonement.

Be sure you understand me. I will not argue with anyone about terminology. When I use the terms *Universal Atonement* and *Universal Redemption*, this is what I mean. — **Universal Atonement** is the damning delusion of men which teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ died to make atonement for the

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sins of all human beings without exception. It is the teaching that by his blood Christ merely made atonement possible for all, though he actually procured it for none. — **Universal Redemption** is that doctrine which says Christ shed his blood to redeem and save all people, that he made salvation possible for all and provided a way for all to be saved, though he did not actually secure and guarantee anyone's actual redemption and salvation by the shedding of his blood.

I do not know a preacher in this town who does not believe exactly what I have just stated to you. I hope that each of you who know preachers who are guilty of preaching this damning doctrine will get a copy of this message and give it to them. Maybe God will be pleased to save them. If you cannot afford to pay for it, I will. Just get the message to them.

It is clearly the teaching of Scripture that the Lord Jesus Christ actually and effectually redeemed and made atonement for every sinner for whom he died at Calvary. The death of Christ was not a crap shoot. Nothing was left to chance. He, by his sin-atonement blood, effectually and infallibly secured the everlasting salvation of God's elect (Isaiah 53:8; Hebrews 9:12).

But I want you to consider the absurd blasphemy of Universal Redemption. If Christ actually did die for those who are lost...What then? What are the implications of that doctrine? What are the necessary, inevitable, unavoidable, undeniable consequences of saying that Jesus Christ died to save all human beings?

I have drawn up a list of indictments against every preacher and teacher of this blasphemous doctrine. I lay these **fourteen charges** against all who teach that the Lord Jesus Christ died for those who perish in hell under the wrath of God. These are serious, stern indictments. I do not make them lightly; but make them I must.

Perhaps some of you still imagine that your pastor is a bit hard-nosed about this thing, a little too strict, a little too straight-laced, too dogmatic. If you will give me your attention and listen to what I have to say tonight, I think you will have a different opinion when you leave here.

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1. The teaching that Christ died to save all men **MAKES MAN HIS OWN SAVIOR.**

If the Lord Jesus only made redemption possible, if he only rendered men savable and put them in a savable condition, if he only made it possible for man's sins to be put away, then any who are saved are saved, not because of what he did, but because of what they do!

- To Justify Themselves by Their Works.
- To Make Themselves Righteous by Their Obedience.
- To Regenerate Themselves by Their Will.
- To Sanctify Themselves by Their Personal Holiness.
- To Preserve Themselves by Their Diligence.

The Word of God declares that the Lord Jesus Christ actually did put away the sins of his people and actually obtained eternal redemption for us by his blood.

Hebrews 1:3 “Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”

Hebrews 9:12 “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us.*”

Hebrews 10:14 “For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”

2. The doctrine of universal atonement **REDUCES THE LOVE OF GOD TO NOTHING.**

At first glance some would say, “That cannot be right. The universal redemptionist says God loves everyone. You say God only loves the elect.” My point exactly!

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The Word of God highly commends the love of God displayed in the death of his Son and in our redemption by his blood. We rejoice to sing...

Could we with ink the oceans fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade -
To write the love of God above
Would drain the oceans dry,
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.

We delight in the love of God! But what kind of love is that which does not secure the salvation of its objects when it has the power to do so? **If God loves all men alike, he has a strange way of showing it!**

- Ask Noah's neighbors about that.
- Ask the Sodomites of Lot's day.

If God loves all men alike, what does the love of God have to do with anyone's salvation? Absolutely nothing! But that is not the teaching of Scripture. The Word of God declares that those who are the objects of God's everlasting, predestinating love are also the objects of his effectual call and the possessors of his eternal inheritance (Jeremiah 31:3; Eph. 1:3-14).

(Jeremiah 31:3) "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."

(Ephesians 1:3-13) "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: (4) According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: (5) Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, (6) To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. (7) In whom we

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have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; (8) Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; (9) Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: (10) That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him: (11) In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: (12) That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. (13) In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,”

3. The notion of universal atonement is as blasphemous as it is unscriptural because **IT REDUCES THE WISDOM OF GOD TO FOOLISHNESS.**

We worship and serve the all-wise, omniscient Lord God, wonderful in counsel and infinite in knowledge. But where is the wisdom of forming a plan for the salvation of a people whom he knew would never be saved? Where is the wisdom of God in sacrificing his darling Son for people who were already in hell when he made the sacrifice? That is not the wisdom of God which Paul describes and glories in as he declares the everlasting purpose of God toward his elect in the Book of Romans (Romans 8:28-39; 11:33-36).

Romans 8:28-34 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. (29) For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (30) Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. (31) What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us? (32) He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him

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up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? (33) Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. (34) Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."

Romans 11:33-36 "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out! (34) For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? (35) Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? (36) For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen."

4. Universal redemption is **A DENIAL OF THE JUSTICE OF GOD.**

According to the Word of God redemption is primarily and act of divine justice.

Psalms 85:8-13 "I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly. (9) Surely his salvation *is* nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land. (10) Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed *each other*. (11) Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven. (12) Yea, the LORD shall give *that which is* good; and our land shall yield her increase. (13) Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set *us* in the way of his steps."

Proverbs 16:6 "By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD *men* depart from evil."

Isaiah 45:20-21 "Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye *that are* escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god *that* cannot save. (21) Tell ye, and bring *them* near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? *who*

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hath told it from that time? *have* not I the LORD? and *there is* no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; *there is* none beside me.”

Romans 3:24-26 “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: (25) Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; (26) To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”

If Christ was punished for my sins and I must also bear the punishment for them, the justice of God is gone! In fact, the justice of God gives us as much hope as the grace of God.

From whence this fear and unbelief?
Has not the Father put to grief
His darling Son for me?
And can the righteous Judge of men
Condemn me for that debt of sin
Charged to my great Surety?

Complete atonement Christ has made
And to God’s utmost justice paid
All that His people owed.
Payment God cannot twice demand,
First at my bleeding Surety’s hand,
And then again at mine!

5. Those who preach universal redemption blaspheme God in their preaching by **REDUCING THE OMNIPOTENCE OF ALMIGHTY GOD TO IMPOTENCE WEAKER THAN THE WILL OF MAN!**

Isaiah declares that the Lord’s arm is not short that it cannot save. But the Arminian tells us plainly that God cannot save multitudes for whom Christ

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died because, though it is his will to do so, because they will not let him save them!

6. Those who preach universal atonement blaspheme God by **ASSERTING THAT THE IMMUTABLE GOD IS, AFTER ALL, FICKLE, MUTABLE, AND CHANGEABLE.**

We are told that God loves all men now, while they live on the earth, but that he will cease to love them when they die and he casts them into hell! Does that sound like God to you? Oh know! Our god changes not!

Malachi 3:6 “For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.”

Job 23:13 “But he *is* in one *mind*, and who can turn him? and *what* his soul desireth, even *that* he doeth.”

James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

7. I lay the charge of blasphemy against all who teach that Christ died for all, even for those who perish in hell, because **IT ROBS GOD OF HIS GLORY IN SALVATION.**

The primary aim of the Triune God in saving sinners is his own great glory (Eph. 1:3-14). But these men tell us that man has every reason to boast because it is he, not God, who makes him to differ from others!

8. Universal atonement is a blasphemous doctrine because **IT DENIES THE SATISFACTION OF CHRIST.**

It denies that Christ, by his precious blood shed at Calvary, has satisfied anything.

- Not the Prophets.
- Not the Types.
- Not the Law.

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- Not the Justice of God!
- 9. Universal redemption is a blasphemous, damning heresy, for it **AFFIRMS THAT THERE ARE MULTITUDES IN HELL FOR WHOM THE LORD JESUS CHRIST DIED IN VAIN!**
- 10. Universal redemption is a doctrine most clearly unscriptural and blasphemous inasmuch as **IT SEPARATES THE PRIESTLY OFFICE AND WORK OF CHRIST,** declaring that Christ sacrificed himself for and died in the place of a people for whom he refused to pray (John 17:9, 20).

(John 17:9) “I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.”

(John 17:20) “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;”

- 11. Universal atonement is a blasphemous doctrine in that **IT MAKES THE CROSS OF CHRIST A MISCARRIAGE AND ASSERTS THAT HE SHALL NEVER SEE OF THE TRAVAIL OF HIS SOUL AND BE SATISFIED** (Isaiah 53:10-11).

(Isaiah 53:10-11) “Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. (11) He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.”

- 12. Universal redemption is as useless as it is blasphemous because **IT GIVES SINNERS NO REASON TO LOOK TO, TRUST, AND HOPE IN CHRIST.**

The basis of our hope is redemption accomplished. If Christ died to save the damned, there’s no reason for you to trust him. His death doesn’t mean a thing!

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Psalms 130:7 “Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD *there is* mercy, and with him *is* plenteous redemption.”

Isaiah 40:1-2 “Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.
(2) Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.”

13. Universal atonement is as useless as it is blasphemous because **IT OFFERS BELIEVERS NO REASON TO LOVE, OBEY, AND GLORIFY CHRIST.**
14. Above all else, I lay this charge against every preacher of universal redemption. He blasphemes God in that he **DECLARES THAT JESUS CHRIST IS A FAILURE,** a weak, frustrated, defeated failure, rather than the sovereign, effectual Savior of his people!

Noel Smith was my first theology professor. He taught biblical interpretation and theology at Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO. As he endeavored to describe hell, this is what he wrote: — “What is hell? It is an infinite negation. And it is more than that. I tell you, and I say it with profound reverence, hell is a ghastly monument to the failure of the triune God to save the multitudes who are there. I say it reverently. I say it with every nerve of my body tense. Sinners go to hell because God almighty himself couldn’t save them! He did everything he could. He failed!”

To that I say, “Blasphemy! God save us from such heresy and save his church from the influence of such evil doctrine.” That which such heretics trample under their feet, we cherish as precious. It is the very food upon which we feast and live (Ezekiel 34:19).

(Ezekiel 34:19) “And *as for* my flock, they eat that which ye have trodden with your feet; and they drink that which ye have fouled with your feet.”

- Particular Redemption!

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- Effectual Redemption!
- Accomplished Redemption!

Amen.