

PLUCKING THE T.U.L.I.P. LIMITED ATONEMENT

INTRODUCTION

- A. Calvin completed his Institutes of the Christian Religion in 1559. In 1903, McAfee consolidated that theology under the T.U.L.I.P. acronym.
 - 1. Total Hereditary Depravity
 - 2. Unconditional Election
 - 3. Limited Atonement
 - 4. Irresistible Grace
 - 5. Perseverance of the Saints
- B. The third tenet is “Limited Atonement”.
 - 1. “The doctrine of salvation, which is said to be reserved solely and individually for the sons of the church, is falsely debased when presented as effectually profitable to all” (John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book Third, Chapter 22, Paragraph 10).
 - 2. “Christ’s redeeming work was intended to save the elect only and actually secured salvation for them. His death was a substitutionary sacrifice of the penalty of sin in the place of certain specified sinners” (David N. Steele & Curtis C. Thomas, The Five Points of Calvinism, Defined, Defended, Documented, page 17).

I. CHRIST DIED FOR ALL

- A. **Romans 5:18** *“Therefore, as through one man’s offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man’s righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.”*

Just as thoroughly as Adam’s sin brought death to mankind, so, too, did Christ’s sacrifice of Himself bring justification.

- B. 2nd Corinthians 5:14-15** *"For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."*

He did not die for some. He did not die for a few. He died for all!

- C. 1st Timothy 2:5-6** *"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."*

Nor was He a ransom for some. Neither was He a ransom for a few.

- D. Hebrews 2:9** *"We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone."*

For whom did Jesus taste death?

II. CHRIST SPECIFICALLY DIED FOR THE LOST

- A. Isaiah 53:6** *"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and Jehovah has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."*

Jehovah laid on His Son the iniquity committed by all straying sheep.

- B. Luke 19:10** *"The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

He did not come to seek and to save the elect, but the lost.

- C. Romans 5:6-8** *"When we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

It couldn't be more clear: Christ died for ungodly sinners.

- D. 1st Corinthians 6:9-11** *"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor*

drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."

Unrighteous people cannot inherit God's kingdom, but those same unrighteous people can be, and many times have been, washed, sanctified, and justified.

- E. **1st Timothy 1:15** *"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."*

1st Timothy 4:10 *"We trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe."*

Christ's purpose was to save sinners, in particular!

- F. **1st Peter 3:18** *"Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit."*

The Just One died for those who are anything but just.

- G. **1st John 2:1-2** *"If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."*

For whom did Christ propitiate sins?

III. GOD DESIRES ALL TO BE SAVED

- A. **John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

God loves the **world!** **Whoever** believes! Whom does that exclude?

- B. **1st Timothy 2:3-4** *"God our Savior... desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*

He wants everyone saved.

- C. **Titus 2:11** *"The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men."*

God's saving grace is manifest to all.

- D. **2nd Peter 3:9** *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*

It has never been God's will that any soul perish.

- E. **1st John 4:14** *"We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world."*

The Son is the Savior of the world.

IV. CHRIST DIRECTED THE GOSPEL TO BE PREACHED TO ALL

- A. **Matthew 28:19** *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*

Preaching everywhere seems rather pointless if God's just going to arbitrarily decide whom to save and whom to damn.

- B. **Mark 16:15-16** *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."*

The commission to evangelize necessarily implies that lost people can be persuaded to be saved.