

## Clarence Larkin on Three Views of the Christ's Atonement

(see: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/larkin/dt/07.cfm> )

[ **Bold emphasis and [ ] commentary is offered by M. J. Greene** ]

1. "Some hold that the Atonement was in the nature of a COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION. In a commercial transaction there must be a "buyer" and a "seller," a "thing to be sold," and a "price to be paid," and if the thing sold was 100 horses, the "buyer" would want to be sure that he not only got the right number, but the right ONES. On this view of the Atonement Jesus paid with His blood only for a certain number, and they the ones He had chosen, the ELECT. The advocates of this view hold to the theory of a LIMITED ATONEMENT." [ **This is the classic Calvinist view, expressed by the "L" of TULIP. It is the predominant false view among professing believers.** ]

2. "Others claim that as the Bible represents the Atonement as made for ALL men, therefore all men will be saved. These persons are consistently UNIVERSALISTS." [ **This is the classic view held by the unsaved, the lost world except those who do not believe in any conscious afterlife; and to a lesser degree the view is held by some Liberalists claiming faith in Christ Jesus. It is a false answer to the question, "Who is saved from hell in eternity?" no matter what belief system advocates the view.** ]

3. "The third class holds the view that the nature of Christ's Atonement was not the mere payment of the debt of a few..." [ **although it is the all sufficient payment** ], "the elect" [see 1]; "**neither does it save all men**" [ see 2 ], "but it was such an assumption of the penalty of the Law" [ **complete fulfillment** ], "that God can now honorably and justly forgive any man his sin who repents" [ **repent here means the initial turning to God from idols (1 Thess 1:9) as the only turning required for salvation but points to subsequent repeated turning (repentance) from all things non-Christ like in order for the believer to remain in unbroken fellowship; and that broken fellowship repeatedly restored when 1 John 1:9 and 1 John 2:1 is applied to the repentant believer** ] "and accepts Christ as his Saviour. This latter view must be the correct view, for it is the only view that corresponds with the facts. For the Scriptures distinctly teach in such passages as-"WHOSOEVER cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37), that salvation is not limited to any special class; and the demand for repentance and faith shows that if men are to be saved, they are to be saved on certain conditions" [ **belief in and receipt of the Gospel of grace as paying all penalty for their sin**], "and not merely because Jesus died on the Cross. Jesus then is the "Advocate" of only those who are saved" [ **This reflects the cross is offered to all but is efficacious only for those who turn from idols to God, receiving the simple Gospel of grace as their only justification.** ]

**KEY:** See [www.pprsinc.com](http://www.pprsinc.com) "Transformation not Reformation" comparing salvation to sanctification. See also *Things Which Become Sound Doctrine* by J. Dwight Pentecost.