

LATIMER STUDIES 78

FOR US AND FOR OUR
SALVATION

*'LIMITED ATONEMENT' IN THE
BIBLE, DOCTRINE, HISTORY, AND
MINISTRY*

BY LEE GATISS



The Latimer Trust

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‘This book is a masterful, mini-treatise on the characteristically Reformed view of God’s purpose and achievement in the cross of Christ that goes by the name of limited atonement or particular or definite redemption. The author knows his way around, and his deployment of exegetical, historical and pastoral evidence adds up to a very full case of his position. The question is more important than is sometimes realised and I heartily commend this clear-headed, warm-hearted treatment of it.’

**J.I. Packer,
Board of Governors’ Professor of Theology,
Regent College, Vancouver.**

‘Limited atonement is often described by those who reject it as “a textless doctrine” and thus dismissed. Lee Gatiss here offers a clear and succinct exposition of the concept, showing how scripture, theology, and church history all offer a powerful cumulative case for the doctrine of particular redemption. This is an excellent introduction to the topic, setting forth the positive while handling objections with care and respect.’

**Carl Trueman,
Professor of Historical Theology and Church History,
Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia**

‘This little book blends careful and extensive research with accessibility. Even those who remain unconvinced of the biblical and theological credentials of limited atonement as it is popularly taught must abandon caricature and agree that its advocates are conscientious exegetes who take the cosmic scope of God’s purposes seriously and can also be passionate evangelists. Those who are committed to this position will discover their debating partners are not all proof-texters with no regard for logical or theological consistency but instead have valid concerns which should be addressed rather than parodied. This often far too heated a debate needs some serious cooling. Here is a largely successful attempt to provide an even-handed and irenic introduction to the issues. Wherever you stand you will benefit from reading this book.’

**Mark D. Thompson,
Head of Theology,
Moore Theological College, Sydney**

‘Every page a feast of good things! I defy anyone to read this book without finding it easy and informative, with something to feed the mind and warm the heart on each page. Whether, in part one, concentrating on exegesis of texts, or, in part two, surveying historical theology, or, in part three, drawing out practical implications. Gatiss writes in a comfortably readable style, deploys a covetable breadth of reading and a mastery of his subject, and preserves an irenically gracious spirit. The centrally important topic of “limited atonement” could not be more persuasively or helpfully presented.’

Alec Motyer,
Old Testament Editor of *The Bible Speaks Today* series

‘The last thing Lee Gatiss wants to accomplish by this short book is to renew theological conflict characterized by more heat than light. Rather, Gatiss makes his case patiently, respectfully, firmly - beginning with Scripture, traversing historical and systematic theology, and ending with pastoral reflections. Those who disagree will find themselves much better informed; those who are sympathetic to the argument and who understand the biblical and theological connections between definite atonement and penal substitution will rejoice to see the case freshly made. After all, it draws believers to the foot of the cross in humility and stunned awe before the Redeemer whose perfect obedience accomplished the wise and gracious plan of our Creator and Judge. While he works through the details of text and logic, Gatiss does not lose sight of the massive and central place of the cross in the panoramic biblical display of God’s redemptive purposes.’

D.A. Carson,
Research Professor of New Testament,
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois

‘Lee Gatiss has given us perhaps the most thorough examination of the doctrine of limited atonement in decades. Few stones are left unturned and a compelling case is mounted. The argument is well-nuanced and the author tries carefully to avoid tribal extremism or strained exegesis. His closing section on how preachers phrase their explanations of the cross in evangelism is worth careful pondering.’

Julian Hardyman,
Senior Pastor, Eden Baptist Church, Cambridge

FOR US AND FOR OUR SALVATION

‘Lee Gatiss has given us an extraordinarily rich resource for thinking through a specific question: the scope of Christ’s saving work. He recognizes that the question, “For *whom* did Christ die?” is inseparably bound up with the more crucial question, “What did he *accomplish* in his death?” Drawing together scriptural exegesis and historical debates, this book dispels caricatures and displays the strength and relevance of this doctrine for the church today. Regardless of where the reader stands on particular redemption, *For Us and For Our Salvation* will be an indispensable resource for understanding the biblical arguments and historical issues.’

Michael S. Horton,
Professor of Systematic Theology and Apologetics,
Westminster Theological Seminary, California

‘To my shame, I have never seriously looked at limited atonement. It was a jaw-dropping realisation for me when this book explained the implications of the doctrine. As the book examined all of the most relevant scripture texts, my personal conviction grew that God’s overwhelming and overflowing grace could never be expressed by limited atonement. But I must read it again and – more to the point – I must read all the scriptures again. This book has, if nothing else, made me think about biblical theology in an important area that I had neglected.’

David Instone-Brewer,
Senior Research Fellow in Rabbinics and the New Testament,
Tyndale House, Cambridge.