

## The Doctrine of the Atonement of Christ – Part Three

**Introduction:** Sinners are enslaved by the power of sin and Satan.

John 8:34; 44; 2 Corinthians 4:1-4; Ephesians 2:1-2

### I. The Death of Christ as a Redemption Price

**Mark 10:45** (See also Matthew 20:28; Exodus 6:6-7; 13:11-15 [Num. 3:44-51; 8:14-19]; 1 Corinthians 5:7)

The Greek word translated *ransom* here is *lútron*, which may be defined “as a price paid for release from slavery or captivity, a *ransom* ... [And it is used] figuratively, of the cost to Christ in providing deliverance from sin, [as a] *price of release*, [a] *ransom*, [a] *means of setting free*” (Friberg #17559, BibleWorks).

Robert Reymond was correct in his assessment of the patristic view of the atonement as a ransom to Satan when he wrote that:

[The view] conceiving of Christ’s cross work as terminating upon Satan gradually disappeared for lack of scriptural support. But it does raise the question, to whom then was Christ’s death as a “ransom” paid? And the answer must, of course, be: Christ’s death as a ransom was paid to God whose holiness and justice had been offended by man’s transgression of His law. Anselm [the late 11<sup>th</sup> to early 12<sup>th</sup> century theologian] saw the fallacy in the patristic view and rightly declared:

As God owed nothing to the devil but punishment, so ... whatever was demanded of man, he owed to God and not to the devil.

So once again we must conclude that the cross of Christ in its redemptive character has a Godward direction. (*A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith*, p. 657)

### **Romans 3:23-24**

The Greek word translated *redemption* here is *apolútrōsis*, which is defined as follows by *The Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*: (1) literally, as an action, a buying back of a slave or captive through payment of a ransom; hence *setting free, release* (HE 11.35); (2) figuratively; (a) of rescue from sin *redemption, deliverance* (RO 3.24); (b) of the release of the body from earthly limitations and mortality *liberation, deliverance* (RO 8.23); (c) of Christ as the one who sets free from sin *redeemer, deliverer* (1C 1.30). (Friberg # 3198, BibleWorks)

### **Romans 8:23**

### **Colossians 1:13-14**

### **1 Peter 1:17-19**

### II. The Death of Christ as a Victory Over Satan

**Genesis 3:15** (See also Rev. 12:9, 14-15; 20:2)

**Matthew 12:22-29** (See also Luke 11:18-22; John 12:27-31; 16:11; 1 Corinthians 15: 22-25)

**Hebrews 2:14-15**

**1 John 3:8**

**Colossians 2:13-15**