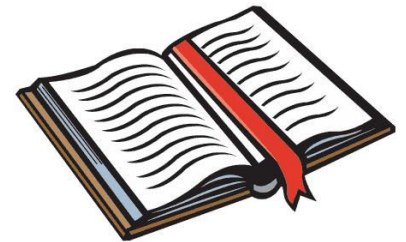


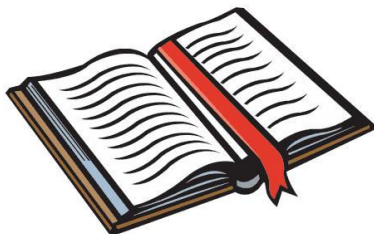
BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED - HE DIED FOR HIS PEOPLE

Jesus died to save some men. This is the teaching of **Matthew 1:21** and **Ephesians 5:25**.

Now, consider what **John 10:14-15** teach: *I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.* As a shepherd, He has His sheep. He knows His sheep, His sheep knows Him and He lays down His life for His sheep.



These are all simple observations we can extract from these two verses. Now we must ask: *Are all men the sheep of Jesus?* **Matthew 7:21-23** tell us that on the Day of Judgment, Jesus will say to some people that He never knew them! Not “once knew them”, but never!! So at the very least, we can say that there are some people whom Jesus knew not. These people can't be His sheep. Did He die for them on the Cross?



Come next to **John 10:26-28** ~ *But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*

Jesus says it very clearly to some of the Jews then that they were not of His sheep. In fact, He contrasted them to His sheep (who hears His voice, whom He knows and who will follow Him). Clearly then, there are some people who do not belong to this group called “My sheep”. To these people, Jesus will not give eternal life. So it is clear that when Jesus died on the Cross, He did not shed His blood for everyone, but only for His people, His sheep, His church.

Let's reason through this matter theologically. If indeed God has elected some to be saved, then it must be that not all men are God's elect. So all mankind are divided into elects and non-elects. (Note that we do not know who are the elects and non-elects; that is not written on our forehead).



It stands to reason, theologically, that those whom God the Father has elected for salvation are those whom God the Son will die to save. Assuming that there are only 10 persons in this world, why would God the Father chose to save only 7 of them and yet send His Son to come and die for all 10?



Consider also those who are now in hell. Did Jesus die for them? If He did, then why are they in hell and being punished for their sins? One may answer, "*Because they refused to believe in Jesus.*" The answer is not wrong, but may I ask, "*Is unbelief sin?*" If unbelief is sin, then did Jesus not die on the Cross for the sin of unbelief of that person as well?

God is just. If Jesus has bore the punishment of sin for me, then God will never punish me for the same sin again. But men are being punished in hell today for the sins they have committed. It stands to reason, theologically, that Jesus did not die for them. I recall that on the night in which He was betrayed, Jesus said, "*This is the blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*" (**Matthew 26:28**). His blood is shed for many, says Jesus. He did not use the word 'all'.

I am persuaded that Jesus died on the Cross to save some men. How many, I do not know, though I am convinced that it is a great number whom no one can number. **Revelation 7:9-10** tell me of a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues standing before Christ, clothed with white robes and praising God and Christ!

They are God's elect -- God has loved them, chosen them for salvation, and send Jesus Christ to come into this world to make atonement for their sins. God knows each and everyone of that great number, personally and individually. And it is because of election and particular atonement that motivates Paul to go on preaching the gospel, despite the most discouraging situation imaginable. (See **Acts 18:9-11**).

Jesus says: *I am the Good Shepherd. I know My sheep and am known by My own. I lay down My life for the sheep.* Thank God He did!