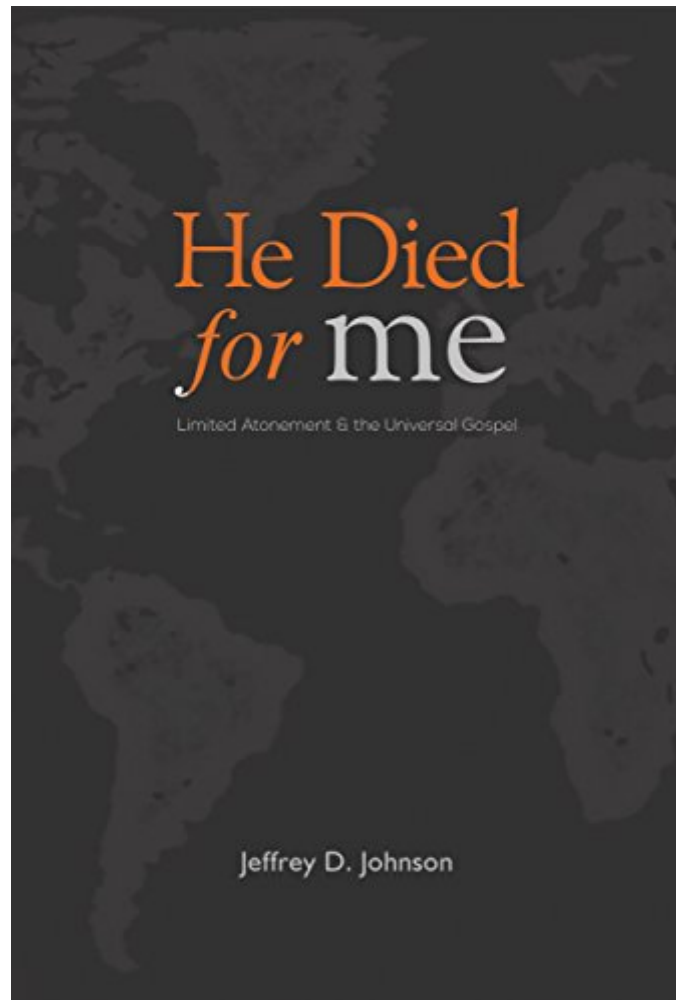




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He Died For Me: Limited Atonement & The Universal Gospel



Synopsis

LIMITED ATONEMENT & THE UNIVERSAL OFFER OF THE GOSPEL Clearly outlining the historical and theological differences between Hyper-Calvinism, High-Calvinism, Moderate-Calvinism, and Low-Calvinism, Jeffrey D. Johnson provides a robust yet concise explanation of how the universal and free offer of the gospel is congruent with the doctrine of limited atonement. What Others Are Saying About He Died for Me... Jeffrey Johnson "He Died for Me is a worthy participant in the ongoing discussion on the extent of the atonement. He particularly offers useful theological and historical insights into the universal aspect of the work of Christ as per the generally accepted formula "sufficient for all, efficient only for the elect." Those involved in the debate should read this monograph as they fine tune what they believe to be the true Biblical and Reformed position." •Curt Daniel, Pastor, Faith Bible Church, Springfield, IL "Lack of historical perspective and careful nuance often hamper discussions and debates on the extent of the atonement. This is true among Calvinists and non-Calvinists. That's why you need to read He Died for Me. In this book Jeffrey Johnson revives the old Lombardian distinction between limited efficacy and universal sufficiency, and he assesses the various ways the Reformed tradition has sought to harmonize the two. Next, Johnson seeks to move the conversation forward by relating the question of the atonement's extent to the doctrine of union with Christ. In so doing, he makes an excellent case for a moderate Calvinism that lays a solid basis for the free (and sincere) offer of the gospel. I highly recommend it!" •Bob Gonzales, Dean, Reformed Baptist Seminary, Sacramento, CA Jeffrey Johnson describes his latest book, He Died for Me, as essentially about an "in-house debate among Calvinists, and that it is. But I think even non-Calvinists would learn a great deal from this book. It is an excellent introduction to the historical debate concerning the efficacy and sufficiency of the atonement that ought to be read by anyone interested in the issue. Whether one agrees with Jeff's final answer or not, he or she will certainly come away with a better understanding of the issue, both biblically and historically, and, no doubt a better understanding of his or her own position as well. As for me, I approached the book with a fairly high degree of skepticism, but it surprised me in several ways. First of all, I was surprised to discover that I did not understand the historical background of the debate nearly as well as I thought I did. Second, I was surprised to discover that I hadn't been nearly as consistent in my thinking on the matter as I thought I had been. And third, I was surprised that the book won me over; Jeff convinced me of his position. The book is also written in a very clear and accessible way. So, to say the least, I highly recommend it. Even if you are not convinced by Jeff's arguments in the end, you will still certainly learn a lot from the book. However, you

may just end up being as surprised as I was – you may just end up agreeing with it!"

– Keith Troop, Pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Bloomington, IL
Jeffrey D. Johnson is the author of *The Church: Why Bother?*, *The Absurdity of Unbelief*, and *The Pursuit of Glory*. He is a pastor at Grace Bible Church in Conway, Arkansas, where he resides with his wife, Letha, and their four children. Click the button on the top right to gain instant access to your Kindle Book today!

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Customer Reviews

An excellent look at the Doctrines of Grace from a more balanced perspective. Jeffrey does an admirable job of wading into these treacherous theological waters. I'm certain some on the extreme end of the Calvinist scale will find it too soft, but as said - his views are a far more balanced and scripturally-defensible position. I definitely appreciate his efforts and recommend this to anyone who either is struggling with this area of theology, or who just enjoys reading and studying about theological positions.

While this book goes through great efforts to explain many details in the debate on the extent of Christ's atonement, it severely confuses and distorts the entire debate. Johnson argues for the position of Moderate Calvinism in this book. He stated, "Moderate Calvinists affirm both limited atonement and the universal and sincere offer of the gospel" (Loc. 191). This is simply not true and confuses the debate. Moderate Calvinists believe in Unlimited Atonement, not Limited Atonement. This seems to be a careless mistake by Johnson. The term Limited Atonement means Jesus did not die for anyone but the elect. Therefore it is impossible to say you believe the death of Christ was sufficient for all, while the atonement is limited. If he died for all, then the atonement is not limited it is unlimited, even if the application is limited. It would be better for Johnson to ditch his fondness of saying he believes in Limited Atonement, since he doesn't. To reduce confusion in this debate one should ask themselves if Christ made atonement for the sins of the whole world while he was on the cross. If they answer yes, they believe in Unlimited Atonement. If they answer no, they believe in Limited Atonement. I highly recommend the book *Extent of the Atonement* by David Allen for anyone who wants an exhaustive historical review of the debate. "Moderate Calvinists" – that is, those who reject a strictly limited atonement – believe God's saving design or intent in the atonement was dualistic: (1) he sent Christ for the salvation of all humanity so that his death paid the penalty for their sins, thus rendering all saveable; and (2) Christ died with the special purpose of ultimately securing the salvation of the elect. High Calvinists believe in a strictly limited intent that they argue necessarily requires that Christ provided a satisfaction only for the elect, and thus he secures salvation only for the elect."Quote by Allen, David L.. *The Extent of the Atonement: A Historical and Critical Review* (Kindle Locations 211-217). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

Jeff Johnson describes his latest book, *He Died For Me*, as essentially about an "in-house debate among Calvinists, and that it is. But I think even non-Calvinists would learn a great deal from this book. It is an excellent introduction to the historical debate concerning the efficacy and sufficiency of the atonement that anyone interested in the issue ought to read. Whether one agrees with Jeff's final answer or not, he or she will certainly come away with a better understanding of the issues, both biblically and historically, and, no doubt, a better understanding of his or her own position as well. As for me, I approached the book with a fairly high degree of skepticism, but I was surprised by it in several ways. First, I was surprised to discover that I did not understand the historical background of the debate nearly as well as I thought I did. Second, I was surprised to discover that I hadn't been

nearly as consistent in my thinking on the matter as I thought I had been. And, third, I was surprised that the book won me over. Jeff convinced me of his position. In addition, the book is written in a very clear and accessible way. So, for all these reasons, I highly recommend it. Even if you are not convinced by Jeff's own arguments in the end, you will certainly learn a lot from the book. However, you may just end up being as surprised as I was. You may just end up agreeing with it!

Recently finished reading Jeff Johnson's "He Died for Me", it was hard to put down. It was an education as I did not know about High-Calvinism. Of the 5-pointers, thought it was just Hyper-Calvinists and then everyone else. It was also helpful to know why they believe the way they do, even if I do not believe this is accurate. I like how he dug deep into all the various positions, although touching on federal headship in 1st half of the book, letting the reader ponder why these positions are inaccurate. I also like how introduced the missing link (election) at the close of the book as an exclamation point. I found the book so encouraging as it strengthened my love for the Gospel.

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