Atonement: Limited Versus Unlimited
2 Peter 2:1

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1983 (Rev. 86,89,05,09)

"But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction." 2 Peter 2:1

"Atonement" is an Old Testament term used by those in the Reformation to describe the New Testament concept of "redemption." "Redemption" (Gr. "agorasanta") literally means "to buy out of the slave market."

1	**<u>Atonement Not In View</u>*** **Context is a "false profession" of redemption, no teaching here of the unregenerate being redeemed. These "false teachers" made the claim they were redeemed in order to "smuggle" into the church their false teachings, however, through their "destructive heresies" denying Christ, they directly contradicted their profession of redemption.**
2	**<u>Unlimited Atonement In View</u>** **Context is "redemption" showing that Christ "bought" redemption for all people, even the unsaved false teachers. However, as a result these lost individuals face damnation showing that the redeemed can be lost or can ultimately lose the benefits and position of redemption.**
3	**<u>Limited Atonement In View</u>*** **Context is "Christ's Lordship" and the "denial" of the "Sovereign Master" (Gr. "despotes") by the false teachers thus sealing their fate of judgment. Christ, as Lord, "bought:" (1.) some for "redemption;" and, (2.) the rest He owns for the "judgment" when He takes final possession. Christ is "Lord" over all men and their destinies.**

A New Systematic Theology of the Faith, Robert Reymond, Nashville: Nelson, 1998, p. 700;
"1,2 Peter," Edwin Blum, Expositor's Bible Commentary, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981, p. 276;
2 Peter & Jude, John MacArthur, Chicago: Moody, 2005, Pp. 72-73;