

<b>Lesson Aim</b>	To understand the theology related to infant death and how this is comforting for godly Christian parents.
<b>Steps to Learning</b>	Read the <a href="#">Canons of Dort, Head 2, articles 1-4</a> and <a href="#">Hebrews 10:1-18</a> . Also discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
<b>Discuss</b>	<p><b>Our sermon today was about limited atonement. What does this refer to?</b> It refers to the biblical teaching that Jesus Christ’s death on the cross was effective to atone for or take away the sins of God’s elect.</p> <p><b>Why is the atonement necessary for God’s elect?</b> Because God’s people, his elect, like all people, have sinned against God. Therefore, we should receive everlasting punishment of body and soul. God’s justice demands this.</p> <p><b>Because of our sin, we need Christ to satisfy God’s justice. Why can’t we satisfy God’s justice?</b> Peter, in <a href="#">1 Peter 1:18-19</a>, argues that we could not ransom ourselves through anything (like silver and gold) but could only be ransomed through the precious blood of Christ. The focus of the Scriptures with respect to the atonement of our sins is on God giving us his only begotten Son to be a sacrifice for our sins. Paul makes this argument in <a href="#">2 Corinthians 5:21</a> where he links our justification to Christ who was imputed with our sin and, through faith, the Father imputed Christ’s righteousness (his good works and death on the cross) to us. Otherwise, Paul argues in <a href="#">Galatians 3:13</a>, we would be cursed of God, but Christ took on the curse that we deserved. The background to Paul’s arguments is found in <a href="#">Leviticus chapter 16</a> where the atonement for the sins of God’s people came through sacrifices. Therefore, the Old Testament in preparation for the coming Messiah, makes it clear that the forgiveness of sins would come only through the one and final sacrifice of Christ on the cross.</p> <p><b>Coming back to the biblical teaching of limited atonement, why do we say the death of Christ is only for God’s elect?</b> Both the Old Testament and the New Testament describe specificity to the sacrificial system (for Israel only) as well as the results of Christ’s death for New Israel (the church) as the sins of God’s elect are imputed to Christ and Christ’s righteousness is imputed to God’s people.</p>
<b>Bible Reading</b>	<a href="#">James 1 – 1 Peter 3</a> (Reading through the New Testament)