

MANUSCRIPTS & GRAMMAR

Remember this very simple phrase when discussing any biblical issue concerning interpretation or translation: *Manuscripts Rule & Grammar Explains*. New Testament authors penned their Holy Spirit breathed words in the Greek language. Verbs can have Person, Case, Number, Tense, Aspect, Mood, and Voice. Notice particularly the Voice of each verb (active or passive) in the following Scripture.

Romans 9:22 “What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath **prepared** for destruction...”

εἰ δὲ θέλων ὁ Θεὸς ἐνδείξασθαι τὴν ὀργὴν καὶ γνωρίσαι τὸ δυνατὸν αὐτοῦ ἤνεγκε ἐν πολλῇ μακροθυμίᾳ σκευὴ ὀργῆς **κατηρτισμένα** εἰς ἀπώλειαν

Verb root is **καταρτίζω** (*katartízō*, G2675) to place something in a condition which prepares it for completion

[Verb, **Passive**, Neuter, **Plural**, Accusative, Participle] **God is passive and singular ... they is plural**, so they must refer to vessels ... **preparing is active** so they are actively preparing themselves for God’s wrath

Romans 9:23 “in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has **prepared** beforehand for glory.”

καὶ ἵνα γνωρίσῃ τὸν πλοῦτον τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ σκευῇ ἐλέους ἃ **προητοίμασεν** εἰς δόξαν

Verb root is **προετοιμάζω** (*proetoimázō*, G4282) to make ready or appoint for a desired outcome

[Verb, **Active**, **3rd Person**, **Singular**, Accusative, Imperfect] **He is active and 3rd person singular** ... He is actively **preparing** vessels of mercy for glory

God is the subject of verse 22 and the verb prepare is *passive*. God is not actively involved. *Prepare* is *plural* and must refer to *vessels of wrath*. God is passively observing them *prepare* themselves for destruction by their consistent sinful living marked by a profound indifference to the consequences.

God is also the subject of verse 23 but the verb *prepare* is now *active*. God is actively involved with the *vessels of mercy* and the verb is also *3rd person singular* (*He*). God is *actively preparing* them for glory. What at first appeared to be a genuine example of Limited Atonement is grammatically incorrect. Grammar always rules.

SUMMARY

People living unregenerated sinful lives are **vessels** (plural) **actively preparing** (plural) themselves for eternity in hell. God (singular) is *passively* allowing them to make their own choice.

People who confess their sins are living under the Grace and imputed Righteousness of **God** (singular) who is **actively preparing** (singular) them to become vessels who will inherit everlasting life.

Translation is subject to various interpretations but grammar fully explains any passage. In this case, it is people willfully choosing their own eternity.