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Preface

This book began twenty years when I was a student at Dallas Theological Seminary. It did not start with study of God's wrath. My original intent was to determine if the atonement of Christ had implication that extended beyond believers. Dr. Frederic Howe, who was then an associate professor of Systematic Theology, granted permission to do an independent study on this topic. At the end of the semester I handed him a three-page outline with the topic and summary of the thesis. The topic was The Cosmological Implications of the Atonement, or a Re-evaluation of Biblical Universalism (thankfully for the publisher and everyone else its been changed).

Personally, I was disappointed that I couldn't accomplish more than just the topic, thesis and outline at that time. I will never forget however, Dr. Howe's gracious response. He awarded me an excellent grade, told me it was Ph.D. level material and had me promise that I would finish it after graduation. His approval gave me the hope and confidence to proceed with the study.

For twenty years I've remembered his encouragement and my promise. It has been a primary motivation that has brought this introductory work to conclusion. My time in several ministries as a pastor and area director for an evangelical ministry has demanded most of my attention and focus. I am thankful that in recent years I've been given the incentive, health and time to bring it to fruition.

Though the title and outline has changed, the primary thesis has remained essentially the same. It is my prayer that the following pages are not simply academic to the reader, but will cause a sense of awe and wonder of the love and righteousness of Jesus Christ and the Father that sent Him as an Atonement for us.

Again, I want to extend my thanks for Dr. Frederic Howe for giving me reason to complete this book. A special thanks is extended to the publisher for the opportunity to make the work public. Most of all I want to thank my wife Linda for the 30 wonderful years of marriage in which she has always encouraged, always listened, and always been my love and best friend.