

## ERRORS OF CALVINISM

### Int.

1. Aim: To show that the basic doctrines of Calvinism are widespread in the religious world and that they are in contradiction of Bible Truth.
2. 1 Jn. 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."
  - a. Try = test, examine, run an assay on them as a metallurgist does his metals.
  - b. Whether they are of God.
  - c. Many false teachers and false doctrines in religious world today.
3. Calvinism is one of the major doctrines that we need to examine
  - a. Calvinism has a major influenced on many of the religions today
  - b. Founder was John Calvin - lived almost 500 years ago
    - (1) Lived from 1509-1564 in Switzerland
    - (2) Man with great talent, good memory, good mind
    - (3) Trained in law and was thus a very systematic thinker
    - (4) Influenced many of the religious world since his day
4. Five basic points of Calvinism can be summarized with an Acrostic
  - a. T = Total Depravity
  - b. U = Unconditional predestination / Election
  - c. L = Limited Atonement
  - d. I = Irresistible Grace
  - e. P = Perseverance of the Saints
5. Plan for lesson
  - a. Present doctrine of Calvinism
  - b. Show what Bible teaches
  - c. Summary thoughts

## Discussion

### **I. SUMMARY OF THE 5 POINTS**

#### A. Total Depravity

1. All men are conceived in sin, and born the children of wrath,
2. Adam's sin has been inherited by all men - every little baby inherits the sins of his parents and forefathers all the way back to Adam.

#### B. Unconditional Predestination / Election

1. If man is born totally depraved and does not have free will, then he does not have the ability to do those things God has commanded him to do.
2. Therefore, if a man is going to be saved, God, totally independent of any foreknown choices man will make, chooses (elects) him to salvation.

#### C. Limited Atonement

1. Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice only for the elect !
2. Calvinists teach that the Lord died for the elect only not all mankind.

#### D. Irresistible Grace

1. Calvinists believe that God's saving grace cannot be resisted and is, therefore, irresistible.
2. They believe that if grace can be resisted, then this "places God in the unworthy position of being dependent upon His creatures."

#### E. Perseverance of the Saints

1. "They whom God hath accepted in His Beloved, effectually called and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace; but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved.
2. Once saved always saved is the way to state this belief of Calvinism.

## **II. TOTAL DEPRAVITY**

### A. Calvin's Doctrine of Original Sin - this is what He taught

1. "All men are conceived in sin and born the children of wrath"
2. Adam's sin has been inherited by all men.
3. "The first man fell because the Lord had determined that it should happen." [But he denied that his doctrine made God the author of sin].
4. This doctrine teaches that a little child inherits the sin of his parents and even the sins of Adam.
5. Every baby, when he is born, is as bad [evil] as the devil himself.
6. "He is without righteousness, is inclined only evil, and is spiritually dead, and an enemy of God". Martin Luther's Small Catechism. P. 87-88 SEE Aug. 77
7. Webster's Dictionary: "the utter depravity of man which Calvinists regard as due to original sin and as persisting until regeneration through the Spirit of God."

### B. Here are what some men have said about this doctrine of total hereditary depravity:

1. Summary of Christian Doctrine, by Louis Berkhof, pg. 76
  - a. "(1) Original sin. This includes both guilt and pollution.
  - b. The guilt of Adam's sin is imputed to us.
  - c. Because he sinned as our representative, we are guilty in him.
  - d. Moreover, we also inherit his pollution, and now have a positive disposition toward sin.
  - e. Man is by nature totally depraved."

2. **The Five Points of Calvinism, by Edwin H. Palmer, pg. 122** (He quotes from **The Belgic Confession of Faith Article XV**) "We believe that through the disobedience of Adam original sin is extended to all mankind; which is a corruption of the whole nature and a hereditary disease, wherewith even infants in their mother's womb are infected, and which produces in man all sorts of sin, being in him as a root thereof, and therefore is so vile and abominable in the sight of God that it is sufficient to condemn all mankind."

3. **Charles Hodge's Systematic Theology:** "The Effects of Adam's Sin upon his Posterity. " That the sin of Adam injured not himself only but also all descending from him by ordinary generation, is part of the faith of the whole Christian world."

"As to the ground of these evils, we are taught that 'the covenant being made with Adam not only for himself, but for his posterity, all mankind descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him in his first transgression.' Or, as is expressed in the Confession, 'Our first parents, being the root of all mankind, the guilt of their sin was imputed, and the same death in sin and corrupted nature were conveyed to all their posterity, descending from them by ordinary generation.'" (Vol. II, Part II -Anthropology)

C. Various religious groups also have made statements about this doctrine:

1. **Presbyterian:** Confession of Faith: "Our first parents, being seduced by the subtlety and temptation of Satan, sinned in eating the forbidden fruit. This their sin, God was pleased, according to his wise and holy counsel, to permit, having purposed to order it to his own glory. By this sin they fell from their original

righteousness and communion with God, and so became dead in sin, and wholly defiled in all the faculties and parts of the soul and body. They being the root of all mankind, the guilt of this sin was imputed and the same death in sin and corrupted nature conveyed to all their posterity descending from them by ordinary generation. From this original corruption, whereby we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions."

2. **Roman Catholic:** Council of Trent 1545-1563: "Adam's first sin has been transmitted to all his descendants". Questions of Catholics Answered by W. Hebst: "Yes, every child born into this world has the guilt of original sin upon his soul. Original sin is the sin that we inherit from our first parents. Original sin excludes us from heaven unless forgiven. It is forgiven only by baptism, hence when an unbaptized baby dies, it can not enter the kingdom of God."
  
3. **Lutheran:** Augsburg confession Article 2: "It is also taught among us that since the fall of Adam all men who are born according to the course of nature are conceived and born in sin. That is, all men are full of evil lust and inclination from their mother's womb and are unable by nature to have true fear of God and true faith in God. Moreover, this inborn sickness and hereditary sin is truly sin and condemns to the eternal wrath of God all whose who are not born again through baptism and the Holy Spirit."

4. **Methodist:** Methodist Discipline: (Since) "infants are guilty of original sin, then they are proper subjects of baptism, seeing in the ordinary way, they cannot be saved unless this be washed away by baptism. It has already been proved that this original sin cleaves to every child of man, and hereby they are children of wrath and liable to eternal damnation."
5. **Anglican:** Common Book of Prayer, Articles of Religion IX & X: "Original sin standeth not in the following of Adam, but it is the fault and corruption of the nature of every man, that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam; whereby man is very far gone from original righteousness, and is of his own nature inclined to evil, so that the flesh lusteth always contrary to the spirit; and therefore in every person born into this world, it deserveth God's wrath and damnation. And this infection of nature doth remain, yea in them that are regenerated; whereby the lust of the flesh, called in the Greek... which some do expound the wisdom, some sensuality, some the affection, some the desire, of the flesh, is not subject to the Law of God. And although there is no condemnation for them that believe and are baptized, yet the Apostle doth confess, that concupiscence and lust hath of itself the nature of sin." "The condition of man after the fall of Adam is such, that he cannot turn and prepare himself, by his own natural strength and good works, to faith, and calling upon God: Wherefore we have no power to do good works pleasant and acceptable to God, without the grace of God by Christ preventing us, that we may have a good will, and working with us, when we have that good will."

6. **Church of the Nazarene:** Manual, Article 5: “We believe that sin came into the world through the disobedience of our first parents, and death by sin. We believe that sin is of two kinds: original sin or depravity, and actual or personal sin. We believe that original sin, or depravity, is that corruption of the nature of all the offspring of Adam by reason of which everyone is very far gone from the original righteousness or the pure state of our first parents at the time of their creation, is averse to God, is without spiritual life, and inclined to evil, and that continually. We further believe that original sin continues to exist with the new life of the regenerate, until eradicated by the baptism with the Holy Spirit. We believe that original sin differs from actual sin in that it constitutes an inherited propensity to actual sin for which no one is accountable until its divinely provided remedy is neglected or rejected.”
  
7. **Christian and Missionary Alliance:** Manual, Statement of faith Article III # 5: “Man was Originally created in the image and likeness of God; he fell through disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death. All men are born with a sinful nature, are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  
8. **Pentecostal:** Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths: Article IV: “Man was Originally created in the image and likeness of God. He fell through sin, and as a consequence, incurred both spiritual and physical death. Spiritual death and the depravity of human nature have been transmitted to the entire human race with the exception of the Man Jesus. Man can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

9. **Baptist:** Philadelphia Confession of Faith: "Our first parents by this sin fell from their original righteousness and communion with God, and we in them, whereby death came upon all, all becoming dead in sin, and wholly defiled in all the faculties and parts of the souls and body. The guilt of sin was imputed (and corrupt nature conveyed) to all their posterity descending from them by ordinary generation, being now conceived in sin, the subjects of death and all other spiritual miseries, temporal and eternal, unless the Lord Jesus set them free. From the original corruption-whereby we are utterly indisposed disabled, and made opposite to all good and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions."

D. Why do they believe this doctrine? Misinterpret scriptures 2 Pet 3:16 "as also in all *Paul's* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction."

1. Gen 6:5

- a. Was every thought and intent of every man's heart evil? No!! In v.9 Noah was described as "a just man, and perfect in his generations". It says that "Noah walked with God".
- b. Doesn't teach universal depravity, but that most men had corrupted their way and *rejected* God.
- c. If all mankind had been born "depraved" since the fall, then why would God suddenly destroy mankind at the flood?
- d. It was not that man was inherently wicked that prompted God's condemnation, but the fact that they were actually engaged in wicked deeds and acts, (God "saw" the evil).

2. Lev 12
  - a. Sin offering was made when a child was born, but it was not for the child but the mother.
  - b. This gives no support for infant Baptism to remove depravity.
  
3. Ps 14:1-3
  - a. This verse teaches that all men "turn aside & become corrupt" not that they are born that way.
  - b. There have always been the "remnant" of righteous in the midst of the wicked.
  - c. The Psalmist is not classing himself among those who do not seek after God.
  
4. Ps 51:5
  - a. The NIV's Calvinistic pre-disposition causes them to completely mistranslate this verse.
  - b. David confesses his own sin which he committed, not Adams.
  - c. There are three different acceptable ways of looking at this verse.
    - (1) David refers to sin of mother not his own: "I n drunkenness did my husband beat me."
    - (2) David was conceived in adultery or out of wedlock. Remember that David had conceived a son while committing the sin of adultery.
    - (3) (Hyperbole/exaggeration for the sake of poetry)

- d. That he was born into a world filled with sin where evil prevails. Notice that Acts 2:8 says that men were “born in a language”. (They actually learned the language)
5. Ps 58:3-4
- a. Notice the words, “go astray from birth” not that they born that way.
  - b. The whole implication of the Psalm, is that the righteous do *not* go astray from birth. V10
6. Romans 5:12-21
- a. V 12 Spiritual death spread to all men *because each and every man sinned himself*. If a man didn't sin, then he wouldn't die spiritually.
  - b. This is exactly what Paul said in the next chapter (6:23) The wages of sin is (spiritual) death.
  - c. Physical death is not the result of our sin, for physical death was decreed when Adam sinned.
  - d. If Adam's sin automatically and universally causes all mankind to receive condemnation for something they did not do or had any choice in, then Christ's dying on the cross also automatically and universally causes all mankind to be saved independent of anything they had done or choose. Who will accept this? What proves too much proves nothing at all. The truth is that all are condemned when they commit sin (V12) and all are saved when they obey Jesus.

## 7. 1 Cor 15:20-23

- a. It does not say "as in Adam all are dead or born dead"
- b. Yes all men die when they sin, just as Adam died when he sinned. "die" implies former life
- c. Notice "as in Adam" all die proving that every man is born pure like Adam was
- d. This section is parallel to what Paul said in Rom 5:12-21 -- If all men automatically die because of Adam's sin then all men are automatically saved by the cross

E. **What the Bible teaches about Total Depravity !!!**

1. Adam was not corrupted by sin at his creation.
  - a. If so then he inherited his corrupt nature from his father.
  - b. In Lk. 3:38 it says: "which was the son of God." speaking of Adam
2. The soul of man is not inherited - it is created directly by God.
3. Ps. 51:5 twisted as a proof text Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.
  - a. Condition of his mother - in sin she conceived
  - b. David speaks of himself - "behold I was shapen in iniquity..."
    - (1) Does not say he was born with a corrupt sinful nature.
    - (2) In Acts 2:8 it says that people were born in a tongue - born into a country of a certain language. David was born into a world of iniquity.
    - (3) We inherit the consequences of Adam's sin but not the guilt - Rom. 5:12  
Ezek. 18:19-20 Deut. 24:16 Jer. 31:29-30 II Kings 14:6 II Chron.25:4

- c. The NIV translation of this verse is completely mis-translated and shows their Calvinistic prejudiced in the wording **“Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.”** Ps. 51:5 NIV A correct translation is like the KJV **“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”**
4. The Bible teaches that little children are pure not corrupt sinners
- a. Matt 18:3 and Matt 19:14
  - b. Does not read “Except ye turn and become as little totally depraved children, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of Heaven.”
  - c. Why would Jesus use infants as a model for all believers to imitate if in character they were evil and totally depraved sinners?
  - d. Children are innocent and do not know the difference between good and evil
    - (1) Deut. 1:34-39 **“...your little ones who ...have no knowledge of good and evil shall enter...”** God allowed the children to enter Canaan but not the parents
    - (2) Jer. 19:2-6 human sacrifices of children to Baal is called **“the blood of the innocent.”**
    - (3) If newborn babies do not know “good or evil” yet the Bible says, “Your sins have separated you from your God.” Isa. 59:1-2 — then newborns must be born united with God.
5. John 8:32 teaches that man can learn the truth. He is not a helpless lost heathen!

6. What does the Bible teach about transmission of sin?
  - a. Spiritual consequences of sin cannot be transmitted from father to son but only falls on the one who committed the act: Ezek 18:1-4 18-20
  - b. Exodus 32:31-33 In this passage, Moses wanted to receive the punishment for someone else's sin. In verse 33, the one who sinned is removed from the book, not the one whose parents have sinned.
  - c. We will be judged only by our own actions: Mt 12:36-37; Rom 2:6; 2 Cor 5:10
  - d. Isa 59:1-2, "Your sins have separated you from your God" not Adams
  - e. Sin is committed by individually breaking God's law: 1 Jn 3:4 (Infants have done nothing)
  - f. Where is one Bible verse that says we will be condemned for sin other than our own?

F. Other false doctrines are associated with the false doctrine of total depravity:

1. Faith by Proxy
  - a. Definition of faith by proxy:
    - (1) Webster's: Proxy, "the authority to act for another, a person empowered to act for another
    - (2) A person can "vote by proxy" at a shareholders meeting he doesn't attend through another person he has authorized, that does attend.
  - b. Faith by proxy is where someone else's faith, saves us when we have no faith of our own.
  - c. The parents, by proxy, make a commitment on behalf of the child to serve God.

- d. **The personal faith of godfathers and godmothers is considered an acceptable substitute for the faith a newborn lacks.**
- (1) "Catholic parents who put off for a long time, or entirely neglect the baptism of their children, commit a mortal sin." (Catechism of Christian Doctrine, Pg 264)
  - (2) "We (Catholics) promised through our Godparents in baptism to renounce the devil and to live according the teachings of Christ and His church." (Catechism of Christian Doctrine)
- e. A "Dedication ceremony" is where the child is dedicated to God through the parents.
- f. **Implications of faith by proxy:**
- (1) What becomes of the newborn, whose parents are atheists? Is one child saved and another lost solely on the basis of something the parents do?
  - (2) What if the Godparents are unfaithful does the newborn suddenly become lost again since its faith was based upon the Godparents?
  - (3) If the faith of an adult can substitute for that of a child, why can't an adults faith substitute for that of another adult?
  - (4) Many people believe that they will go to heaven if their spouse, parents, grandparents etc are Christians when they are not. They feel that their loved one or relative will "put of good word in for them" or will "hold the doors open for them". This too is faith by proxy.

## 2. Infant Baptism

- a. Most churches who practice infant baptism do so in order to remove inherited depravity, the guilt of Adam's sin and most importantly to change their eternal destiny from hell to heaven.
- b. The Catholic and Lutheran church openly teaches that newborns that die without being baptized will go to hell.
  - (1) Imagine two newborns, one day old, lying in incubators. One has a priest sprinkle water on it but the other's parents were atheists and did not.
  - (2) Then both babies died, the unbaptized newborn would be cast into hell for all eternity but the baptized one would go to heaven.
  - (3) Although offensive to many, they are being entirely consistent and honest with the implications of inherited sin. They have merely taken the doctrine to its logical end.
  - (4) Those who believe "inherited sin", but don't like this conclusion, should come to their senses and entirely reject the teaching as false.
- c. There are no commands or examples of infant baptism in the Bible. If infants are lost from conception then God never made any provisions for forgiveness of their sins.
  - (1) Baptism was always performed by total immersion not sprinkling or pouring: Acts 8:36-38
  - (2) Baptism is only for penitent believers, never infants: Acts 8:37; Mk 16:16; Acts 2:38
  - (3) Infant baptism or sprinkling was not practiced before 200AD

- d. A note about Pentecostal, Christian & Missionary Alliance, AGC: They correctly do not practice infant baptism or sprinkling, but incorrectly teach that baptism is not essential to forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21; Mk 16:16). Yet it is a puzzle how they can teach that infants inherit “spiritual death” from Adam and are “separated from the life of God” but will be saved in this condition. They teach inherited sin, but believe all infants are safe until the age of accountability (age 8-14). The Nazarinians believe the same, except they practice infant baptism, (but not to remove depravity).
  - e. Since they believe baptism removes depravity, and depravity is transmitted from mother to child, why wouldn't the child of a mother who was baptized be born without depravity?
3. The 4 other points of Calvinism are direct outgrowth of inherited depravity.
- a. **The other 4 points of Calvinism:**
    - (1) Unconditional Election or Predestination: God had a master list of the saved before creation
    - (2) Limited Atonement: Christ did not die for all men but only those on the “saved list”
    - (3) Irresistible Grace: God sends the Holy Spirit only those on the saved list
    - (4) Perseverance Of The Saints: A child of God once saved, cannot be lost.
  - b. It all starts with the premise of Total Depravity

### III. UNCONDITIONAL PREDESTINATION [ELECTION]

#### A. Calvinism teaches:

1. God chose certain individuals before the foundation of the world, for heaven and some for hell.
2. The elect and the non elect - double predestination or election.
3. This number is fixed, certain unchangeable and unconditional.
4. God gives faith to those he has elected for salvation.
5. "God from all eternity did by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass ... By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto life, and others foreordained to everlasting death. These angels and men, thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed; and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or diminished." (The Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., from chapter 111, entitled "Of God's Eternal Decree")

#### B. What the Bible teaches about election and predestination

1. Rev. 3:20 "If any man hear..."
  - a. God's promises are qualified "If"
  - b. Conditions - hear and open
2. 1 Tim. 2:4 "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."
  - a. Might be saved - all are given a chance
  - b. How could God want all men to be saved and then unconditionally predestine some to be lost?

3. Mt. 28:19-20 Mk. 16:15-16
  - a. Why preach and teach if predestination is true?
  - b. Useless to try to convert one predestined to be lost.
  - c. No need to try to convert one predestined to be saved.
  
4. "Now, if this doctrine of foreordination be true then it would be impossible for man to err.
  - a. Because whatever man does is in keeping and brought about by God's pre-determined decree and therefore cannot be wrong.
  - b. If he does anything—it matters not what—whether good or bad—if God has ordained every thing, He has ordained that thing.
  - c. If it comes to pass that a man lies, God has not ordained that he should lie, but He has unchangeably ordained it." (TW. Brents, Gospel Plan of Salvation, p8)
  
5. Rom 8:28-30 - God's predestination
  - a. There are certain characteristics that God approves
    - (1) Jesus predestined that those who hunger and thirst after righteousness shall be filled - Matt. 5:6
    - (2) Jesus predestined that "all that love him would keep his commandments" Jn.14:15
  - b. The Bible teaches predestination, but not Calvinistic Predestination:
    - (1) Bible predestination is where God pre-determined, not the identity of the saved, but the character of the saved

(2) We are not opposed to predestination, for the Bible teaches it. However, Calvin's view of predestination is entirely unbiblical and therefore false doctrine.

- c. The Bible does not teach that God has decided ahead of time who will be saved and who will be lost. We are free, moral agents with the capacity to accept or reject God's commandments.
6. Predestination or fore ordination is what God did before the world began, as He determined to save man from sin through the sacrifice of His own Son.
- a. Those who answer His call through the gospel experience the blessings of that plan now in Christ Jesus. (Rom. 2:3n11)
  - b. Our eternal destiny (heaven or hell) is based entirely upon personal choices we make based upon our own freewill.
  - c. If we end up in hell, we can only blame ourselves!
- C. Questions for the Calvinists to consider
1. How does God desire all to be saved, If He chose some to be lost?
  2. Why Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, if not every creature could be saved?
  3. How can man be made accountable for something God foreordained he would do and could not avoid?
  4. How Is God not a respecter of persons if He chose some to be saved and some to be lost ?
- D. God is no respecter of Persons - Acts 10:34-35 “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”

## **IV. LIMITED ATONEMENT**

### A. Teaching of Calvinism

1. Christ only died for those predestined to be saved.
  - a. Those He died for will go to heaven
  - b. The rest will go to hell
  
2. "Christ's redeeming work was intended to save the elect only and actually secured salvation for them ... In addition to putting away the sins of His people, Christ's redemption secured everything necessary for their salvation, including faith, which united them to Him. The gift of faith is infallibly applied by the Spirit to all for whom Christ died, thereby guaranteeing their salvation." (David N. Steele, Curtis C. Thomas; The Five Points of Calvinism, Defined, Defended, Documented: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1975, p. 17)
3. His death was only for the ones whom God determined would be saved, the ELECT.
4. "To Calvinistic conception, Christ's sacrifice was sufficient for all, but efficient only for the elect in whose behalf He died." <sup>1</sup>
5. He did not die for all men. He did not die for the Non Elect.
6. This is the way Calvinism thinks:
  - a. Men are born in sin - original sin - totally depraved
  - b. God elected some of these people to be saved
  - c. Therefore Christ died only for those God has planned to save!!

---

<sup>1</sup> Thrust Vol. IV Issue IV "The Five Points of Calvinism" P. 113

## 7. Texts they twist to teach this doctrine: - 2 Pet. 3:16

## a. John 10:15-16

- (1) Argument: Jesus died only for His sheep (which they take to mean the elect).
- (2) Answer: In verse 16, Christ taught that there are "other sheep not of this fold" who would come into the fold. Calvinists deny that one can change from "sheep not of the fold" to "sheep of the fold." There are numerous Bible examples of those who made that change.
  - (a) Many Corinthians had changed **n** 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
  - (b) Paul changed **n** 1 Timothy 1:13-14
- (3) Jesus was speaking to the Jews, who had been frequently spoken of in Scripture as God's flock.
  - (a) The other sheep were Gentiles.
  - (b) They are spoken of as scattered sheep, and not as flocks, because with them there was no unity. (TFG 471)

## b. Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25

- (1) Argument: Christ died only for those who are saved **n** again, the elect.
- (2) Answer: He died to purchase the church; there is no doubt about that. And the church is composed of the saved.
- (3) But the Bible truth that Calvinists overlook is that any man or woman can become a part of that church.
- (4) Hebrews 5:8,9 all who obey (not only those who are elected to salvation)
- (5) Acts 2:47 **n** not all will be saved, but all do have the right to be saved by obedience (vs. 38-41)

## B. What Does the bible Teach?

### 1. He died for all Men

- a. Luke 19:10
- b. Heb. 2:9 "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."
- c. 2 Cor. 5:15 And [that] he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again
- d. What is atonement?
  - (1) It is the offering of Christ for the remission of our sins.
  - (2) We do not receive atonement. But what we receive is the result, of atonement, that is "Reconciliation."
  - (3) Christ's blood was offered to God and we receive the blessing - not the offering.

### 2. His blood can wash away the sins of all

- a. 1 Jn. 2:2 "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world." Propitiation = atonement
- b. John 1:29 "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."
- c. John 3:16
- d. II Pet. 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

e. Rev. 22:17 ---- The invitation is to those who hear and are athirst.

(1) It is for Whosoever will.

(2) This is hardly the language that would be employed to describe certain elect ones for whom Christ died who cannot resist because they are among those designated under the limited atonement.

3. The gospel is for all men.

a. Mark 16:15-16

b. Romans 1:16

c. This does not mean all men will be saved.

C. But the Calvinistic doctrine of limited atonement is false.

1. They teach that the cross could save everyone if God had only intended it to do so.

2. But the Bible says: "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2:2

3. The word of God does not teach the doctrine of Limited Atonement!!

D. 1 Pet. 3:15

## **V. IRRESISTIBLE GRACE**

### A. Calvinism teaches...

1. "Although the general outward call of the Gospel can be, and often is, rejected, the special inward call of the Spirit never fails to result in the conversion of those to whom it is made. This special call is not made to all sinners but is issued to the elect only. The Spirit is in no way dependent upon their help or cooperation for success in His work of bringing them to Christ. It is for this reason that Calvinists speak of the Spirit's call and of God's grace in saving sinners as being 'efficacious,' 'invincible,' or 'irresistible.' For the grace which the Holy Spirit extends to the elect cannot be thwarted or refused, it never fails to bring them to true faith in Christ." (David N. Steele, Curtis C. Thomas, *The Five Points of Calvinism, Defined, Defended, Documented: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1975, p.49*)
  
2. Here are what some of the men have written who teach this doctrine:
  - a. "All that Irresistible Grace means is that God sends His Holy Spirit to work in the lives of people so that they will definitely and certainly be changed from evil to good people." <sup>2</sup>
  
  - b. "Since it is the will of God that those whom He gave His dear Son in eternity past should be saved. He will surely act in sovereign grace in such a way that the elect will find Christ irresistible." <sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Edwin Palmer "The Five points of Calvinism" P. 57-58

<sup>3</sup>D.E. Spencer, "Tulip" p. 73

3. This part of Calvinism logically follows all the rest —
  - a. Man cannot repent and be saved all on his own -
  - b. God created some to go to heaven and others to go to Hell.
  - c. Christ died only for those who are chosen for heaven.
  - d. Therefore it must follow that God is going to save the elect and take them to Heaven whether they like it or not. They can kick, fight and object all they want to but, in the long run, God's grace will prove irresistible and He will force them to go to heaven.
4. According to the doctrines of Calvinism the Holy Spirit extends to the elect a special inward call that brings them to salvation.
5. This is a direct operation of the H.S. separate and apart from the word of God.
6. According to Calvinism the Bible is a dead letter until the spirit causes the elect sinner to co-operate and come to Christ.
7. They teach that this spirit is irresistible and that it never fails to bring salvation to those to whom it is extended.

B. Self Test To Determine if you believe or have been influenced by the doctrine of Irresistible Grace!!!

1. Ask Yourself These Questions
  - a. Does the Holy Spirit directly guide you to understand & interpret the Bible?
  - b. Are you unable to understand the Bible without God's help in interpreting it?
  - c. Are non-Christians unable to understand the message of the Bible when they simply read?

- d. Does God reveal things to you directly and apart from the Bible?
  - e. Does God call sinners to be saved at specific times in their life?
  - f. Do you believe the Holy Spirit dwells in you to personally guide your every day life?
  - g. Has God personally verified to you that you are saved through some better felt than told experience?
  - h. Do you believe God chose you personally to be saved before the creation of the earth?
  - i. Did God create some men whom God knew would be lost before the foundation of the world?
  - j. Are many of your actions the direct result of forces working on you from the spirit world?
  - k. Do you feel evangelism is a waste of time because all is in God's hands anyway?
  - l. Is there nothing you can do to be saved?
2. If you answered yes to ANY of the above you have been influenced by the false doctrine of "irresistible grace"

### C. Consequences of this doctrine

- 1. Such a system removes from an individual the power of choice - Josh. 24:15  
Joshua said: "choose you this day whom ye will serve...."
  - a. The people could choose to follow God or not
  - b. The choice was theirs

2. Jn. 6:67
  - a. Jesus presented the apostles with a choice when he said "...will ye also go away?"
  - b. They could have left the Lord then and there! It was their choice
3. If this doctrine is true man is a mere robot - puppet
  - a. He is a machine that can only do what it has been programmed to do
  - b. He has no choices to make to either obey or disobey.

D. What does the Bible Teach?

1. Tit. 2:11 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men."
2. Rom. 2:6-11
  - a. Judged according to his deeds
  - b. Obey = eternal life
  - c. Do not obey = wrath
3. Rev. 22:17 - Whosoever will - not forced
4. Acts 7:51 "...ye do always resist the Holy Spirit".

E. This doctrine of Irresistible Grace is False

## **VI. PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS**

### A. Calvinism

1. They teach that those chosen by God [The elect] are given faith by the Holy Spirit and they are eternally saved.
2. They do not think that this person could fall because they have been elected to eternal life.
3. This is also called the impossibility of Apostasy - Once saved Always Saved
4. Here are three statements from men in denominational churches who believe this doctrine and what they say:
  - a. Sam Morris, Baptist preacher in Stamford, Texas wrote an article entitled, "Do A Christian's sins damn his souls"? Here is a quote from the article: "We take the position that a Christian's sins do not damn his soul. The way a Christian lives, what he says, his character, his conduct, or his attitude toward other people have nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his souls...And all the sins he may commit from murder to idolatry will not make his soul in any more danger."
  - b. Bill Foster, Baptist preacher in Louisville KY made this comment: "If I killed my wife and mother and debauched a thousand women I couldn't go to hell--in fact, I couldn't go to hell if I wanted to."
  - c. Another preacher who preaches Calvinism said: "Since I trusted Jesus as my personal Savior, it has been impossible for me to be lost. In fact, I couldn't go to Hell now even if I wanted to!"

5. Bible Texts used by Calvinists to prove their doctrine of "Once Saved Always Saved"

a. 1 Jn. 3:9

- (1) There are two key words in this passage **n** commit and cannot.
  - (a) Commit **n** from the Greek word POI EO. This word refers to what one does repeatedly, continually, habitually. It does not mean that a person does not occasionally sin, but will not make a constant practice of sin.
  - (b) Cannot **n** from the Greek word OUNDUNAMAI . This means morally unable and not that which is physically impossible
- (2) "And so the word in our verse does not mean that the child of God has come to the place where he is physically unable to do any wrong, but that he is morally restrained from it, just as a good man who is asked to join another in some game would reply, "O, no, I couldn't do anything like that." (E.M. Zerr, Bible Commentary, volume 6, p. 284 )
- (3) The Greek words literally mean, "cannot continue to PRACTICE sin"
- (4) John plainly says that Christians do sin: 1 Jn 1:8-10; 2:1-2
- (5) The passage is saying that a Christian cannot sin and be consistent with Christ.

b. John 10:29

- (1) Being a sheep and being in the hand of God is conditional.
  - (a) Hearing Christ (v. 27)
  - (b) Believing Christ (v. 26)
  - (c) Following Christ (v. 27)

- (2) As long as a person remains a sheep. But a sheep can wander astray.
- (3) What these passages are really teaching is that nothing can harm the Christian who submits to God and obeys His commandments. But if that individual starts to willingly disobey and openly practice sin in rebellion to God will be lost. Here they leave the security of the "hand of God".

## B. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH

1. II Pet. 1:5-11
  - a. Christian Graces to be added
  - b. V. 10 "If ye do these things, ye shall never fall."
2. II Pet. 2:20-22
  - a. Escaped pollutions of the world - become a child of God
  - b. Entangled again
3. 1 Tim. 1:19-20
  - a. Some made shipwreck of their faith
  - b. Hymeneus and Alexander
4. II Tim. 2:16-18
  - a. Erred from the truth
  - b. Hymeneus and Philetus
5. 1 Tim. 4:1-4
  - a. Some would depart from the faith
  - b. Mentions several false doctrines they would be teaching

## 6. Heb. 3:12

- a. Take Heed - watch
- b. Departing from the living God

## 7. Jas. 5:19-20

- a. Brethren - Christians - some use the excuse that they weren't saved in the first place.
- b. Err from the truth - fall from grace - go back into sin
- c. Converteth the sinner - the fallen Christian
- d. Save a soul from death - sinned so as to be lost

## 8. 1 Cor. 10:12

## C. Questions if Calvinisms doctrine of Perseverance of the saints were true:

- 1. If the ones who obeyed and sinned then they would either go to heaven unforgiven or they could not die in their sinful state.
- 2. Every Bible passage that says, "If you hold fast the word" must be deleted. To the Calvinist, there are no ifs. These passages make no sense to them.
- 3. All passages for watchfulness should be deleted: "be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life". Why be faithful if you already have and can't lose?
- 4. It would certainly lessen a Christian's fear of sin and lead to increased sin. Historically, such an increase of sin based upon this theology has been documented.

## **VII. SUMMARY STATEMENTS ABOUT CALVINISM**

- A. If Adam and Eve were foreordained and predestined to sin they had no choice in the matter and therefore God is responsible for sin in the world! We know this is false.
- B. This theory would make God man and man God, God being guilty of both evil and good, while man could be responsible for no evil! If a man murders another man, then God would be to blame if He predestined that it happen!
- C. If Calvinism is true then God is a respecter of persons, because he has chosen some to be saved and others to be lost.
  - 1. This contradicts the Bible
  - 2. Rom. 2:11 Col. 3:25 Eph. 6:9 Acts 10:34-35
- D. This means that the Wicked will suffer not because of their sins but because God chose them to be lost! So God is responsible for their condemnation.
- E. If this is true, then no man should be punished for his sins, because he is only doing what God decreed for him. So actually in living in rebellion he was living in obedience to God's will for him.
- F. The believers of Calvinism cannot pray for the salvation of sinners!
  - 1. He could not pray for the salvation of the non-elect! This would imply they might be saved, and this they do not believe. Why pray for one whom God has decreed should be in hell?

2. They cannot pray for the elect. This implies that there is a possibility of Apostasy and this they do not believe.
3. I Tim. 2:1 Paul says we can pray for all men.

G. Why should Calvinists preach the Gospel?

1. Those predestined to be Lost cannot and will not respond.
2. Those elected to be saved will not be lost regardless of what they do.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. The Whole Doctrine of Calvinism is False!!! Every part of it from beginning to end is contradictory of plain Bible teaching. They have twisted and perverted scriptures to make them teach that which is contrary to the rest of Bible teaching.
2. The five major doctrines have been shown to be false:
  - a. T = Total Hereditary Depravity
  - b. U = Unconditional Election / predestination
  - c. L = Limited atonement
  - d. I = Irresistible Grace
  - e. P = Perseverance of the Saints
3. The Truth
  - a. **T**otal innocence instead of total depravity
  - b. **R**estricted election instead of unconditional election / predestination
  - c. **U**niversal atonement instead of limited atonement
  - d. **T**hwarted grace instead of irresistible grace
  - e. **H**oliness lost and not once saved always saved

4. Men are lost not because of inherited sin, but because of deeds done in the body.

I I Cor. 5:10

5. Each man is responsible for his own sins - Rom. 14:12

6. Men will be judged based upon their own rejection of the Will of God [Mt.7:21] as expressed in the work and words of Christ - Jn. 12:42

7. Each person must believe, repent of his sins, confess his faith and be baptized for the remission of his sins. Then we can live faithfully for God and have a home in heaven.

---

Files on Calvinism

Spiritual Sword Vol. 11 # 2 Vol. 8 # 3

Questions and Answers Open Forum - Guy N. Woods P. 245

Gospel Plan of Salvation by T.W. Brents

Computer Files on Calvinism

---

Sermon by Arthur Pigman -  
Evans Church of Christ  
515 Gibbs Road  
Evans, Ga. 30809  
706-855-1249  
arthurpigman@cybrtyme.com