

HOW TO DEAL WITH HERESY: PART TWO
DEALING WITH THE DOCTRINE OF CALVINISM
Congregational Worksheet – Wednesday, January 23, 2008

This worksheet was created by Pastor Kincaid to help you complete and keep structured notes during the corresponding sermon. To fill in the blanks of this worksheet listen to Pastor Kincaid's sermon from the date noted in the header of this worksheet. The sermon MP3 audio can be streamed or downloaded from the sermons page of the church website at <http://www.goshenfirstag.org/sermons.php>.

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There are two major standards of theology that are held by most Christians, and those two view points are called _____ and _____.

Those are the two main viewpoints that most Christians hold to, however, sometimes opinions vary within both sides of these beliefs, generally, these are the foundational belief systems of every Christian denomination in a general or generic sense.

#1. The first theological view that is commonly held has been given the title of Calvinism.

This is the theological viewpoint of two of the largest denominations is Christianity, which are _____ and _____.

It originated into the theology that is common today under the direction of a man named _____, who lived from 1509 to 1564.

#2. The second main stream theological belief is referred to as Arminianism.

Many Christian denominations hold to this doctrine as well, such as _____ and _____.

It was founded by a man named Jacobus Arminius, who lived between 1560 and 1609.

Probably the most familiar aspect of Calvinism is their belief in what is called _____.

It is interesting to note that the founder of Arminianism, Jacobus Arminius, was actually taught theology from John Calvin's son-in-law, and was at one time a die hard Calvinist, until one day he had to defend his beliefs and found that his opponent was more able to defend his beliefs than he could.

The Doctrine of Calvinism consists of _____ main points.

And these main points have been titled by Calvinists with the peculiar name of _____.

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“ _____ ”.

The word “TULIP” being an acronym for their five major points of doctrine.

The “T” stands for what is termed as, “The Total Depravity of Man”.

The “U” stands for what is called “Unconditional Election”.

The “L” stands for what is known as “Limited Atonement”.

The “I” stands for “Irresistible Grace”.

And the “P” stands for “Perseverance of The Saints”, or what is commonly called “ _____ ”.

These five points are the core or the foundation for The Calvinist System of Theology.

It is the essence of their stance of Soteriology, which is The Doctrine of Salvation.

And for the basis of this study, I want to *both*:

Examine the theological view of Calvinism and see if it is _____.

As well as compare it to the system of belief that we hold to, which is The Arminianist View, so we can see how these two views differ.

And I am going to use The Bible beliefs from both camps to back the claims of each of these doctrines.

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#1. The first major point to a Calvinist's T.U.L.I.P. Theology is...
"T": The Total Depravity of Man.

Calvinists believe that mankind is _____ spiritually depraved.

That word "depraved" means: *Absolutely corrupt or entirely sinful.*

They maintain the belief that before salvation, a sinner does not possess _____ or _____ to seek after God, or to surrender their lives to Him.

They teach that sin has effected an unregenerate man so much that he is entirely effected by sin, meaning he is unchangeably sinful.

They believe that "human freedom" or a persons _____ is non-existent because if man had a will it would be totally enslaved by sin so that they could only choose evil.

They teach that because of man's sinful condition, it is impossible for him to desire _____ with God, or to decide they want to be in _____ with God.

However, The Arminianist View of sinful man's condition is drastically different.

We believe that man is, without doubt, _____.

But that does not mean that he does not still possess a human will that is capable of desiring a relationship with God, nor does it keep him from having the ability to want a relationship with God.

Mankind is sinful, but they are still a _____.

Meaning their sin hasn't robbed them of their ability to _____ Christ.

Which leads us to the next point....

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**#2. The second major point to a Calvinist's T.U.L.I.P. Theology is...
"U": Unconditional Election". _____.**

A Calvinist believes that because mankind is depraved spiritually, they can never make the decision to _____ and choose to serve God because his depraved condition enables them to do so.

They believe that the only way that a sinner can be brought into right standing with God is if God both _____ them and then _____ them to do so.

They maintain that because man's spirit is dead in sin, he is completely unable to initiate any type of response to God, therefore, the only way they can be saved is by God _____ or Predestinating them to salvation.

That word "Predestinate" means: *To decide beforehand...*
It basically insinuates that God makes the decision for someone.

That means He chooses who will be saved before they are even _____,
And then after they are born, He _____ them to get saved.

***Here are the main verses that they use to back this stance...**

Eph 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:
Eph 1:12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:
Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,
Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.
Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

And at first glance their view of Election seems very convincing.

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But if their view of Election and Predestination are correct, then that means that the Bible would have to _____ itself, because The Bible clearly teaches that sinful man actually does have the ability choose Christ.

The Bible gives us countless examples that are proof of this fact...

Jos 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Exo 32:26 Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who *is* on the LORD's side? *let him come* unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.

Also notice Isaiah 1:18, because if a sinner has no ability to choose to be in right standing with God, then why did He give them an invitation to do so, when He said, **Isa 1:18** Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;

So it is _____ that the Bible speaks of The Election and Predestination of Believer's, but on the other hand, if those things are true then that causes contradictions to arise, which we know is incapable of happening.

So what is the _____?

How can The Bible teach those things, but still not contradict itself?

The answer becomes obvious when you look at God's _____ of both of these things.

For instance, a Calvinist says that God has Predestined someone to go to Heaven based off of _____ for their life because they have no will of their own and are unable to Choose Christ, a stance which brings about a contradiction.

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But an Arminianist bases his view of The Doctrine of Election off of the fact that we are not Predestined or Elected according to God's overriding will, but we are Elected according to His Divine Foreknowledge.

Notice what we are told about this very thing in 1Peter 1:2...

1Pe 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

If we examine this text carefully, we will see the answer to the question, "What does God base The Doctrine of Election off of?"

The answer is found in the first part of this verse, it says... "Elect according to the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God".

Meaning, because God is omniscient, he knew _____ who would be saved and who wouldn't be.

And when you come to an understanding of this fact, you'll find that The Doctrine of Election can co-exist with all of those verses that I just mentioned without presenting any type of contradiction.

It says we are "Elect according to His Foreknowledge"... Meaning He knew from the foundation of the world who would accept Him and who would reject Him.

Bro. Robert Holmes once explained The Doctrine of Election like this... "God has predestined The Church to go to Heaven, but a person becomes a engrafted into The Body of Christ by an act of their own will".

That explanation makes perfect sense, and offers no contradiction whatsoever.

So, yes mankind is sinful... And no they wouldn't seek after God...

But because God is merciful, He chooses to send His Spirit to come and deal with the hearts of men and He gives them the opportunity to respond.

A good way to put it is like this.... God _____, Man _____.

And God knows from the foundation of the world what each man is going to decide for himself.

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**#3. The third major point to a Calvinist's T.U.L.I.P. Theology is...
"L": Limited Atonement.**

This is the Calvinistic belief that Jesus only died for the sinner's that God had Elected or Predestined ahead of time to be saved.

A Calvinist does not believe that Jesus dies for the sins of _____,
But they believe He only died for the sins of _____

They hold to the thought that the blood of Christ was not shed for anyone other than the people that God has chosen to be saved.

***Here are the verses that they use to support their claims....**

Mat 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save ***his people*** from their sins.

Joh 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life ***for the sheep***.

Mat 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed ***for many*** for the remission of sins.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved ***the church***, and gave himself for it;

It is also very important to note that, because of this view, a Calvinist also believes in what they term **The Doctrine of Reprobation**. Meaning, they believe that just as God has Predestined some people to be saved, He has also Predestined some people to _____.

Both of those view however, are totally opposed to what The Arminianist believes.

An Arminianist believes that God has indeed Predestined His Church to Go to Heaven, but they also believe that when Jesus shed His blood on Calvary, He did so for the sins of _____,

They believe that His sacrifice was all inclusive, and that The Blood of Christ is able to cleanse every sin of every person who has ever lived, regardless if they

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accept His sacrifice or not.

Here are some verses that disprove the claims of The Calvinist's and back the claims of The Arminianist....

1Ti 2:5 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom ***for all***, to be testified in due time.

1Jn 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: ***and not for ours only, but also sins of the whole world.***

Joh 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.***

So we can see that if you hold The Calvinistic view of Limited Atonement, it causes The Word of God to _____ itself, which of course we know that it can never do.

And if a person believes in The Doctrine of Reprobation, what do they do with a verse like 2 Peter 3:9?

2Pe 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.***

That verse is directly opposed to their view of Limited Atonement. It is stating in no uncertain terms that it is The Will of God for every person that has ever been created to be _____.

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#4. The fourth major point to Calvinism is...

“I”: Irresistible Grace.

Irresistible Grace is the notion that when God has decided to save a person of His choosing, that person is completely unable to _____ His call.

That means that a sinner that God has Predestined or Elected can not reject The Savior because a Calvinist believes that man does not have a will, so therefore they can not refuse God’s Will for him to be saved.

In other words, when God “calls” His Elect to salvation, they can not resist.

***Here are some verses they use to support this claim...**

Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them ***gave he power to become the sons of God, even*** to them that believe on his name:

Joh 1:13 Which were born, ***not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.***

Php 2:13 ***For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.***

But again, if you hold to this belief, The Bible would have to contradict itself....

Because what about the grace that God tried to extend to people like...

-Lot’s wife? *Read Gen. 18 & 19.*

-The Governor Felix? *Read Acts 24.*

-King Agrippa? *Read 26.*

All of these people and many more in The Bible rejected the grace that God was trying to bestow upon them, and why would God attempt to call them if they were not part of His Elect?

If God did that, wouldn’t He be _____ ?

So we can easily see that The Biblical view that we should have is that God gives us the _____ to be saved, but He does not force us.

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**#5. The fifth major point to The “T.U.L.I.P.” Theology is...
“P”: Perseverance of The Saints.**

This position of Calvinism holds that since God has Predestined The Elect, and they can not resist His grace, they therefore are unconditionally and eternally secure in their salvation.

Meaning that they can never backslide or _____ their salvation.

In other words, no matter how sinful one of God’s Elect may become after God has called them by His grace, they can never again be in wrong standing with God and have no chance of going to hell whatsoever.

This belief is the basis for the popular view held by some of Eternal Security, or _____ saved, _____ saved.

***Here are some of the verses they use to back this claim...**

Joh 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Joh 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; ***and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.***

Eph 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Eph 1:12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

Eph 1:13 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,**

Php 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:**

And they use these verses to say that a person can never backslide and turn away from God to where they would no longer be acceptable to Him.

That is a very _____ doctrine don’t you think?

It’s saying that you can live like the devil and still make it to Heaven.

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In order to disprove this doctrine, first let me give the correct interpretation of the verses that they use...

-John 10:28: “neither shall any _____ pluck them out of my hand”.
This verse is simply saying that no other human being has the ability or the power to take your salvation from you once you have received it.

-Eph 1:13: “ye were _____ with that Holy spirit of promise”.
This verse never says that the “seal” can’t be broken.

-Phi 1:6: “will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ”.
This verse is saying God will always be there to do His part, but it doesn’t mention anything about _____ ...

But there are a lot of other verses that do, for instance....

2Pe 2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, ***they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.***

2Pe 2:21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: ***but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.***

Gal 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon ***removed from him*** that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

Heb 10:26 For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, ***there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,***

Heb 10:27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

Col 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled, In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblamable and unreprouvable in his sight:

Col 1:23 ***If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel....***

Joh 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, ***If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;***

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Joh 15:6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

All of these verses show that God can _____ His children, but there are conditions that they have to meet if they want to be _____.