

# **Nephilim, Sons of God, Angels, Demons, Evil Spirits, Tartaros, Sons of Seth, Daughters of Cain, Augustine of Hippo, Thomas Aquinas, John Calvin, Warning & Bible Study**

Dr. Johnson's Main Website at: <http://contendingfortruth.com/>

1<sup>st</sup> Alternate Site: <http://currenteventsandbiblestudy.blogspot.com/>

2<sup>nd</sup> Alternative Site: <http://www.cftresources.com/>

Email: [drjohnson@ix.netcom.com](mailto:drjohnson@ix.netcom.com)

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Correspondence/Donation/Mailing Address: Scott Johnson, 450 Conover Blvd. West #202, Conover, NC 28613

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From: Julio G

Sent: Friday, September 02, 2011 5:01 PM

To: Scott Johnson

Subject: Angels

Brother Scott, i wanted to share this with you. In Genesis 6:2 it says that the sons of God took the daughters of men as wives, and some teach that the sons of God are angels that came down from heaven. to seem like they were fallen angels, which would make them demons.

but i can show you from the bible that **in fact there is no scripture that teaches that angels are God's sons that in fact we as believers are called the sons of God.**

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**My Response:** Notice the only verses you can cite proving the 'Sons of God' are Christians are "New Testament" verses derived from Greek and Aramaic. But if we go to the Old Testament (comparing Scripture with Scripture) which is derived from a totally different language (Hebrew) the term "Sons of God" is only used in terms of Angels. **Here are all five instances where this phrase is used in the Old Testament** that are obviously in reference to angels **if you look at the context of the verses:**

[Gen 6:2](#) That the sons <sup>1121</sup> of God <sup>430</sup> saw <sup>7200</sup> the daughters <sup>1323</sup> of men <sup>120</sup> that they <sup>2007</sup> [were] fair <sup>2896</sup>; and they took <sup>3947</sup> them wives <sup>802</sup> of all which they chose <sup>977</sup>. ☐

[Gen 6:4](#) There were giants <sup>5303</sup> in the earth <sup>776</sup> in those days <sup>3117</sup>; and also after <sup>310</sup> that <sup>3651</sup>, when <sup>834</sup> the sons <sup>1121</sup> of God <sup>430</sup> came in <sup>935</sup> unto the daughters <sup>1323</sup> of men <sup>120</sup>, and they bare <sup>3205</sup> [children] to them, the same <sup>1992</sup> [became] mighty men <sup>1368</sup> which [were] of old <sup>5769</sup>, men <sup>582</sup> of renown <sup>8034</sup>. ☐

Obviously in these two verses the "sons of God" are listed as distinct & separate when compared to "the daughter of men". In other words they are not humans. This is very similar to this verse also in reference to fallen angels but in this case during the end times we are living in:

[Dan 2:43](#) And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, **they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men:** but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

[Job 1:6](#) Now there was a day <sup>3117</sup> when the sons <sup>1121</sup> of God <sup>430</sup> came <sup>935</sup> to present <sup>3320</sup> themselves before the LORD <sup>3068</sup>, and Satan <sup>7854</sup> came <sup>935</sup> also among <sup>8432</sup> them. ☐

[Job 2:1](#) Again there was a day <sup>3117</sup> when the sons <sup>1121</sup> of God <sup>430</sup> came <sup>935</sup> to present <sup>3320</sup> themselves before the LORD <sup>3068</sup>, and Satan <sup>7854</sup> came <sup>935</sup> also among <sup>8432</sup> them to present <sup>3320</sup> himself before the LORD <sup>3068</sup>. □ How could humans present themselves before the Lord with Satan to dialogue with God?????????????

Now look at the full context of Job 38:7:

[Job 38:4](#) ¶ **Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?** declare, if thou hast understanding.

[Job 38:5](#) Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

[Job 38:6](#) Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;

[Job 38:7](#) **When the morning <sup>1242</sup> stars <sup>3556</sup> sang <sup>7442</sup> together <sup>3162</sup>, and all the sons <sup>1121</sup> of God <sup>430</sup> shouted <sup>7321</sup> for joy?**

How could this be in reference to humans when the time frame was when God laid the foundation of the earth in the 7 day creation?

[Gen 1:1](#) ¶ **In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.**

[Gen 1:2](#) And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

**Jumping ahead in time:**

[Gen 1:26](#) ¶ **And God said, Let us make man in our image**, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

[Gen 1:27](#) So God created man in his [own] image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

[Gen 1:31](#) And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, [it was] very good. **And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.**

**So the morning stars & sons of God of Job 38:7 could only be in reference to angelic beings as neither man nor any other earthly creature had been created as of yet.**

All these New Testament verses also confirm the "Sons of God" referenced in the Old Testament were Angels that fell:

2 Peter 2: 4-6

“For if **God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell** (from the word Tartaros (the deepest abyss of Hell, only used once in the whole Bible), and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5) **And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eight person**, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly, 6) And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly...”

**Notice that the angels that were cast down to hell is referenced in the same time frame as Noah or Gen. 6.**

Jude 6-7

“6) **And the angels which kept not their \* first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved \* in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.** 7) Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, **and going after strange flesh**, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”

\* original place with God

\* in prison, in this case Tartaros

From these two passages, it is clear that Peter and Jude both affirm that the “sons of God” in Genesis 6 were angels, who committed fornication. Not only does the study of the text in Genesis 6 reveal this plainly, but we have “two witnesses” from the New Testament, between both verses they **reference Noah’s time period and the sexual sins of Sodom and Gomorrah**. These angel-human hybrids of Genesis 6 are the factual basis for the “gods” of ancient cultures.

Also I do not believe that the fallen angels are demons or evil spirits as the fallen angels are clearly in Hell (in this case Tartaros- see the two above), but we know from **Scriptures that demons/evil spirits are real and all are not in hell:**

[Mat 12:43](#) <sup>1161</sup> When <sup>3752</sup> the unclean <sup>169</sup> spirit <sup>4151</sup> is gone <sup>1831</sup> out of <sup>575</sup> a man <sup>444</sup>, he walketh <sup>1330</sup> through <sup>1223</sup> dry <sup>504</sup> places <sup>5117</sup>, seeking <sup>2212</sup> rest <sup>372</sup>, and <sup>2532</sup> findeth <sup>2147</sup> none <sup>3756</sup>. □ [Luk 11:24](#) When <sup>3752</sup> the unclean <sup>169</sup> spirit <sup>4151</sup> is gone <sup>1831</sup> out of <sup>575</sup> a man <sup>444</sup>, he walketh <sup>1330</sup> through <sup>1223</sup> dry <sup>504</sup> places <sup>5117</sup>, seeking <sup>2212</sup> rest <sup>372</sup>; and <sup>2532</sup> finding <sup>2147</sup> none <sup>3361</sup>, he saith <sup>3004</sup>, I will return <sup>5290</sup> unto <sup>1519</sup> my <sup>3450</sup> house <sup>3624</sup> whence <sup>3606</sup> I came out <sup>1831</sup>.

**So this being the case:**

What Ever Happened to the Spirits of the Giants of Genesis 6:4?

The book of Enoch offers an explanation in Chapter 15:8 **"Now the giants, who have been born of spirit and of flesh, shall be called upon earth evil spirits, and on earth shall be their habitation. Evil spirits shall proceed from their flesh, because they were created from above; from the holy Watchers was their beginning and primary foundation. Evil spirits shall they be upon earth, and the spirits of the wicked shall they be called.** The habitation of the spirits of heaven shall be in heaven; **but upon earth shall be the habitation of terrestrial spirits, who are born on earth.**

This tells us that the spirit of the Nephilim are earthbound evil spirits. These same spirits are also subject to the command of the more powerful fallen angels. I believe it is these spirits that are the ones responsible for hauntings, pretending to be the voices of people who have passed away, taking possession of the bodies of people because they once had bodies and desire to be in one again. Again read:

[Mat 12:43](#) ¶ **When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.**

[Mat 12:44](#) Then he saith, **I will return into my house from whence I came out;** and when he is come, he findeth [it] empty, swept, and garnished.

[Mat 12:45](#) Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, **and they enter in and dwell there:** and the last [state] of that man is worse than the first.

[The Sons of Seth and Daughters of Cain Theory Refuted](#) Augustine of Hippo Warning

Part Seven: The Sons of Seth and Daughters of Cain Theory

Douglas Hamp

April 7, 2011

The Bible is replete with evidence that the sons of God in Genesis 6:1-4 are fallen angels **All of the ancient Jewish and Ante-Nicene Christian commentators believed the “sons of God” to be referring to fallen angels.**

Augustine of Hippo

The first, as far as we can see, **to definitively deny the sons of God as being angels was Augustine of Hippo of the fifth century**, approximately seventy five years after the drafting of the Nicene Creed. Augustine did much to spiritualize the history of the Bible and twist a simple straightforward reading of the Bible. His method of Bible interpretation made a profound impact and his legacy remains even to this day.

## Was St. Augustine a Protestant?

[St. Augustine](#) is considered one of the greatest of catholic saints. He is revered by both Roman Catholics **and many Protestants, and especially by Calvinists and Lutherans.** Dr. R. C. Sproul, a leading Calvinist theologian and writer in the U.S. has written that he (Sproul) is an "Augustinian".

In his writings outside of his speculations on predestination, Augustine was generally reflecting the catholic consensus of the time, and the beliefs which he held as the catholic bishop of Hippo in North Africa. Here are some of the catholic beliefs of Aurelius Augustine, catholic Bishop of Hippo:

1. [The canon of Scripture includes the Septuagint OT canon \(deuterocanonicals, Apocrypha\)](#)
2. [Real presence of Christ in the Eucharist \(Lord's Supper\)](#) **The horrific doctrine of Transubstantiation**
3. [Necessity of the Lord's Supper for salvation](#)
4. [Purgatory and praying for the departed](#)
5. [Authority of the Catholic Church](#)
6. [Apostolic Succession](#)
7. [The sacrament of penance](#)
8. [Mary was ever virgin](#)

After looking at these beliefs, if someone claimed to be Augustinian, I think it is rather obvious that they would not be a Calvinist or a Christian, but *Catholic*. Although some Protestant denominations such as the Lutherans may accept some of these beliefs, no Protestant denomination will accept them all. Calvinists reject every single one of these beliefs of Augustine. **If anyone was to preach all these beliefs in a Christian church, he would immediately be branded an arch heretic--yet, many Christians quote Augustine and consider him a hero. A heretic is a hero?**

Many centuries after Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, a doctor of the Catholic Church in the 13th century, quotes in his magnum opus, Summa Theologica, **from Augustine's work City of God (De Civ. Dei xv) concerning the sons of Seth:**

Many persons affirm that they have had the experience, or have heard from such as have experienced it, that the Satyrs and Fauns, whom the common folk call incubi, have often presented themselves before women, and have sought and procured intercourse with them. Hence it is folly to deny it. **But God's holy angels could not fall in such fashion before the deluge. Hence by the sons of God are to be understood the sons of Seth, who were good; while by the daughters of men the Scripture designates those who sprang from the race of Cain.<sup>[i]</sup> Nor is it to be wondered at that giants should be born of them; for they were not all giants, (Comment: I guess Augustine rented a time machine & traveled back in time to witness that the sons of God of Gen. 6. were not actually angels at all but the "good" sons of Seth, he was also a firsthand witness to the fact that the women they took as wives were the wicked daughters of Cain & witnessed all the births that took place between the 'Sons of Seth' and the 'daughters of Cain' to know some were giants and some were not, sounds reasonable to me) albeit there were many more before than after the deluge. (Comment: Again how in the world would he know, oh I know, it's by his superior, demon led, Catholic theologian intellect!!!!),<sup>[ii]</sup> (emphasis mine).**

Just as Augustine fallaciously suggested the sons of God were the so called "godly line of Seth," the daughters of men have been labeled as being from the "ungodly line of Cain". Augustine says, **"By the daughters of men the Scripture designates those who**

sprang from the race of Cain,” (Comment: Wow yet another Augustinian huge leap of logic!!) (Augustine as quoted in Summa Theologica, Aquinas). We must ask the important question – where in Scripture does it say such a thing? Augustine makes the claim above that Scripture designates those daughters as coming from the race of Cain, but just where do we see that? **The answer is that we simply do not.** It was first tentatively considered by Julius Africanus and then completely invented by Augustine and then repeated by all who would follow in his footsteps ever since. If the term “sons of God” refers to the “sons of Seth” as so many suggest, then why does the text not simply state it? Unfortunately neither Augustine nor Aquinas substantiates the claim. (Comment: They don’t have to because they are super smart, Catholic theologians and should not be questioned as such.) They simply presume their statement to be true with offer no biblical proof. Augustine states that “Scripture designates” that the daughters of men “sprang from the race of Cain”. But where in Scripture does it say that? Sadly, their unbiblical assertion has left its mark in the modern day creating a great deal of confusion regarding what the Bible literally teaches.

#### Calvin’s Interpretation

John Calvin in the 17th century carried on the tradition started by Augustine that the sons of God are in fact the sons of Seth. He states in his commentary:

“The principle is to be kept in memory, that the world was then as if divided into two parts; because the family of Seth cherished the pure and lawful worship of God, from which the rest had fallen.” (Comment: Now Calvin must of also rented a time machine and traveled back in time to observe what Augustine so dogmatically stated, as surely he would not just take the Augustine the Catholics word for it. Also regarding this last statement if this line of Seth were so pure and Godly why didn’t God spare them in the flood like he did Noah and his family, kind of seems unfair.).<sup>[iii]</sup>

Calvin’s denial of who the sons of God truly were creates a tremendous amount of confusion that has clouded the interpretation of the text for potentially millions of people over the centuries. Furthermore, nowhere do we see that the daughters of men are from the so called ungodly line of Cain.

He does not seek to prove his point with Scripture but with opinion and conjecture.

Having asserted his position, Calvin then says<sup>[m1]</sup>’:

“That ancient figment, concerning the intercourse of angels with women, is abundantly refuted by its own absurdity; and it is surprising that learned men should formerly have been fascinated by ravings so gross and prodigious. (Calvin Commentary Genesis 6:1 emphasis mine).

We have already seen how “sons of God” is used in Scripture – furthermore that there were no human “sons of God” before the resurrection of Jesus.

Now, to support his presuppositions, he must explain away the giants (Nephilim) that are introduced in Genesis 6:4 and are the result of the sons of God (or as he would say the sons of Seth) and the daughters of men (or as he would say the daughters of Cain):

“Moses does not (Comment: Wow, I guess the word “Giants” means something different to John Calvin than what the Scriptures (or an dictionary for that matter) clearly indicates.) indeed say, that they were of extraordinary stature, but only that they were robust. Elsewhere, I acknowledge, the same word denotes vastness of stature, which was formidable to those who explored the land of Canaan, (Jos 13:33.) But Moses does not distinguish those of whom he speaks in this place, from other men, so much by the size of their bodies, as by their robberies and their lust of dominion.”<sup>[v]</sup>

He downplays the fact that the fruit of the union between the sons of God and daughters of men were giants. He simply asserts that they were “great” in their evil.

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# **John Calvin Exposed**

## **Heresies of Calvinism!**

### **CALVIN BELIEVED IN INFANT BAPTISM**

Calvin said, "Baptism is properly administered to infants is something owed to them."

### **CALVIN BELIEVED IN SACRAMENTS EQUAL TO GOD'S WORD**

"Therefore, let it be regarded as a settled principle that the sacraments have the same office as the Word of God: to offer and set forth Christ to us, and in him the treasures of heavenly grace."

### **CALVIN BELIEVED IN AMILLENNIALISM AND WAS AGAINST PREMILLENNIALISM**

Calvin said, "But a little later there followed the Chiliasts, who limited the reign of Christ to a 1000 years. Now their fiction is too childish either to need or to be worth a refutation. And the Apocalypse, from which they undoubtedly drew a pretext for their error, does not support them. For the number 1000 does not apply to the eternal blessedness of the church but only to the various disturbances that awaited the church, while still toiling on the earth."

### **CALVIN BELIEVED IN PREDESTINATION TO HELL**

Calvin said, "We call predestination God's eternal decree, by which he compacted with himself what he willed to become of each man. For all are not created in equal condition; rather, eternal life is foreordained for some, eternal damnation for others. Therefore, as any man has been created to one or the other of these ends, we speak of him as predestined to life or death."

### **CALVIN BELIEVED IN BEING A DICTATOR IN GENEVA**

Calvin was forced to flee his native France and eventually found refuge In Geneva. A man of tremendous political and organizational talents, he manipulated himself, and his fellow refugees, into absolute control over the city which gave them protection against the Catholic Inquisition. What came to be known as Calvinism grew out of the policy and writings of John Calvin after he became the ruler and dictator of Geneva, Switzerland (1541-1564).

### **CALVIN BELIEVED IN RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION**

The outstanding work of Calvin, from a *practical point of view*, was his municipal dictatorship in the city of Geneva. The literature on the subject is exhaustive. Striking instances of discipline in Geneva are these:

A man was banished from the city for three months because he heard an ass bray and said jestingly, "He prays a beautiful Psalm."

Three men who had laughed during a sermon were imprisoned for three days.

Three children were punished because they remained outside of a church to eat some cakes.

A child was *whipped publicly* for calling his mother a thief.

A girl who struck her parents was *beheaded*.

A person was imprisoned for four days because he wanted to call his child *Claude* (the name of a Catholic saint) instead of *Abraham*.

It can be seen from the above that many of the persecutions which John Calvin endured were not for "well doing" (1 Peter 2:15): they were for carrying on like a fool engaged in trying to "bring in his Kingdom."

In Geneva, a secret police was forged under the name of The Consistory. Every home was compulsorily examined and searched. The City was divided into districts and committees of the Consistory were empowered to search and interrogate all residents without previous notice. Attendance at public worship was commanded and watchmen were directed to see that people went to church. The one thing that Calvin did not endorse was religious liberty.

From 1541 to 1546, John Calvin caused 58 people to be executed and seventy six were exiled. His victims ranged in age from 16 to 80. The most common capital offense was the opposition to infant baptism. Today, baptism only for accountable believers, is a Baptist distinctive. In Calvin's time it was punished either by drowning, a drawn out and slow burning at the stake, or beheading. All this was done in public, with city residents compelled to watch the butchery. The executions were spaced out so as to exert a continuing policy of fear and terror. Others were killed for advocating local church autonomy; opposing the tie-in of church and state; and preaching that Christ died for all sinners (unlimited atonement). Press censorship continued in Geneva until the eighteenth century.

## THE KILLING OF MICHAEL SERVETUS

It is Servetus<sup>1</sup> religious views that we are now concerned with, for that is what got him killed. He was premillennial and rejected Calvin's doctrine of predestination. So far so good. Servetus was also strongly anti-Catholic. He referred to the Mass as "a Satanic monstrosity and an invention of demons." To these sentiments the Reformers could agree. So what was the problem with Servetus? His trouble was twofold: rejection of infant baptism and holding unorthodox views of the Trinity.

According to Servetus, infant baptism was "a doctrine of the Devil, an invention of popery, and a total subversion of Christianity." He wrote two letters to Calvin on adult baptism and exhorted him to follow his example. The marginal notes against infant baptism that Servetus wrote in Calvin's Institutes were used as evidence against him during his trial. Servetus admitted at his trial that he had referred to infant baptism as a "diabolical invention and infernal falsehood destructive of Christianity." Regarding the Trinity, Servetus was not a Unitarian but had a strange view of the Trinity in a great measure peculiar to himself. Now although Servetus'

Trinitarian views were not orthodox; they were by no means criminal. Calvin wrote in a letter, "Servetus lately wrote to me... He takes it upon him to come hither, if it be agreeable to me. But I am unwilling to pledge my word for his safety, for if he shall come, I shall never permit him to depart alive, provided my authority be of any avail."

While in Geneva, Servetus made the mistake of attending church on Sunday where he was recognized and arrested. It was on Calvin's information to the magistracy that Servetus was put in prison, which fact Calvin did not deny. The trial lasted over two months and Calvin himself drew up a document of thirty-nine accusations against Servetus.

On the way to the stake, Servetus besought God to pardon his accusers. On account of the use of green oak-wood, Servetus suffered for half an hour. His last words were: "Jesus Christ, thou Son of the eternal God, have mercy on me!" At twelve noon on October 27, 1553, Servetus passed into his eternal destiny. Nine years afterward, Calvin still justified his actions.

The strongest recorded statement from Calvin on the Servetus affair is a 1561 letter from Calvin to the Marquis Paet, high chamberlain to the King of Navarre, in which he says intolerantly:

"Honour, glory, and riches shall be the reward of your pains; but above all, do not fail to rid the country of those scoundrels, who stir up the people to revolt against us. Such monsters should be exterminated, as I have exterminated Michael Servetus the Spaniard."

The respected Lutheran historian, Mosheim (1694-1755), judged in favor of Servetus. The historian Gibbon remarked: "he was more deeply scandalized at the single execution of Servetus than at the hecatombs which have blazed in the Auto da Fes of Spain and Portugal. The zeal of Calvin seems to have been envenomed by personal malice, and perhaps envy."

A man who would burn another man at the stake for disagreeing with him doctrinally is not a man to be emulated or followed or admired.

## WHAT DID CALVIN BELIEVE?

Calvin's *Institutes* just what it is claimed to be: a Protestant Reformed theology. If you want to know the truth about baptism, the Church, dispensations, the Millennium, or the Second Coming of Christ: don't waste your time looking for them in Calvin's *Institutes*. One of the few books in the Bible that Calvin never wrote a commentary on was the Book of Revelation - he acknowledged that he couldn't understand it.

The Reformed Faith is an amalgamation of biblical Christianity, Roman Catholicism, and allegorical speculations. When Loraine Boettner wrote his book *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*, he told the plain truth: "predestination in the Calvinistic system is a Reformed doctrine just like the Catholic Mass is a Catholic doctrine."

## THE HARM DONE BY CALVINISM HERESY



**Among Baptists, the Five Points of Calvinism are often called the "Doctrines of Grace" to remove the stigma of being associated with the baby-sprinkling John Calvin.**

**In dealing with the Five Points of Calvinism, It is certainly fitting that five is the number of death, so the Five Points of Calvinism will kill anything near it. Just as it takes no keen intellect to see that five is the biblical number of death, so no insight is necessary, other than an ability to read the Bible, to see the flagrant perversion that the Five Points of Calvinism make of Holy Scripture. Satan, the angel of death is the fifth cherub (Ezek 28:14) and has the power of death (Heb 2:14). The first man dies in Genesis 5:5. In Acts 5:5, Ananias dies after being asked five questions about his sin ("The wages of sin is death" [Rom 6:23]). Paul was whipped five times (2 Cor 11:24). Jesus Christ had five wounds. In Revelation chapter five, we see the Lamb that was slain (Rev 5). During the Tribulation, locusts will torment men for five months (Rev 9:5) until they seek death (Rev 9:6). When the fifth seal was opened, John saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain (Rev 6:9). There were five men stoned in the Bible that died. The "sin unto death" is in First John chapter five. The greatest chapter in the Bible on death, describing two men whose deaths affected billions of people, is Romans chapter five.**

**The Five Points of Calvinism are the sum and substance of the Calvinistic system: it is the distinguishing mark which separates Calvinists from all other Christians. This is stated in no uncertain terms by the Calvinists themselves. Boettner says, "The Calvinistic system especially emphasizes five distinct doctrines. These are technically known as the Five Points of Calvinism, and they are the main pillar on which the superstructure rests."**

**Calvinism goes into a realm of human philosophy. It is NOT a Bible doctrine, but a system of human philosophy appealing somewhat to the proud mind. Consider first that what we are discussing is called "Calvinism." Dr. Loraine Boettner says, "It was Calvin who wrought out this system of theological thought with such logical clearness and emphasis that it has ever since borne his name". How strange that, after 1,400 years of Christianity, practically no one had understood the Bible to teach Calvin's doctrine of predestination until he formed the philosophy! What a strangely hidden doctrine, that New Testament Christians could go for nearly for 1400 years until the days of the reformers, when Calvin developed the doctrine fully. It is obvious that great groups of Christians have always found salvation by grace in the Bible. The Bible is very clear on that. It is also clear on every other great doctrine.**

**A doctrine cannot be unscriptural without doing actual harm. God's way is right; man's way is wrong. And when the doctrine on the matter of salvation is wrong, it is certain to hinder the cause of Christ. So the human philosophy of Calvinism, the doctrine that every detailed event that happens in all the world was foreordained of God and had to happen, every sin was ordained of God, every act of a Christian or of a sinner, and that everyone was either foreordained to be saved before he was born, without having any free choice in the matter, or was damned without any possibility of his being saved-that doctrine is hurtful and has done great harm to the cause of Christ.**

## **CALVINISTS ACTUALLY HINDER AND OPPOSE SOUL WINNING**

If it seems shocking to accuse any group of opposing Gospel preaching and hindering soul winning, a little thought here will show that Calvinists must inevitably oppose soul-winning activities of those who try to get every sinner to repent, of those who offer salvation freely as purchased on Calvary for every person.

One shocking example deals with a Baptist preacher who could easily preach two hours on predestination, but his own grown sons were unconverted, and the father was not only totally indifferent about that matter, but insisted that no one else should try to win them to Christ.

Of course there will be exceptions. Some people who are Calvinists do love Christ in their hearts and so feel His moving of concern for sinners. And most Calvinists will profess that they believe in the preaching of the Gospel to all the world. But in actual practice. Calvinism cuts the nerve of soul winning on the foreign mission field as it does at home.

Did a great foreign mission program arise through the teaching and preaching of John Calvin? Many Calvinists will regret this fact. But the simple truth is that today those most active and most burdened about soul winning on the foreign field among Presbyterians are not those who believe in Calvin's doctrine of predestination. In fact, nine out of ten Presbyterians do not believe it, and the great mission program of Presbyterians was not built by Calvinists.

As the Wesleyan revival spread in England, of course it affected many others besides Methodists and many besides Arminians. Most of the Bible-believing, soul-winning Christians in the world are NOT Arminian. But very few soul winners are unreserved Calvinists. Calvinism does not produce a passion for soulwinning.

Calvinism appeals to those who think that it is the only answer to Arminianism. There are very many Christians that are soulwinners, love God, seek the salvation of the lost and yet ARE NEITHER Calvinists nor Arminian.

## **BIBLE DOCTRINES SHOW THAT CALVINISM IS MORALLY IMPOSSIBLE**

God could not predestinate one to do right and another to do wrong, one to be saved and one to be lost. Those who believe that God predestined some people to be saved by God's coercive grace, and that others are predestined to be lost and cannot be saved because of God's deliberate choice, are foolishly wrong. They are wrong in having a doctrine that goes totally against so many emphatic Scripture statements inviting all to be saved, showing that Christ died for all, that God is not willing that any should perish. The Bible pictures man as a free moral agent capable of choice, he is morally responsible.

There is the nature of man as it is pictured in the Bible and as it actually exists. God breathed into Adam's nostrils and he "became a living soul." He was made in the image of God. And what is this about man that is God-like? He is a reasoning creature with a moral responsibility, a conscience toward right and wrong, with the

freedom of choice in right and wrong. The simple truth is that men can make a computer which can go through complicated mental processes of adding, subtracting, remembering, judging, hundreds of times faster than man can do it! But the computer has no will, no conscience of right or wrong. Hence it has no personality. It lacks the God-given moral nature of man.

Why did God allow Adam and Eve to fall, and so bring a curse on the whole human race? It was inherent in the kind of being that God created; man must be allowed to choose. But knowing man sometimes would choose wrongly, God planned with His Son before the world began to offer an atonement for the salvation of sinning men! So Christ is "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

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## John Calvin EXPOSED!



Compiled and edited by David J. Stewart

Just as Martin Luther (1483-1546) was a heretic for teachings the necessity of the sacraments (including water baptism) for salvation, John Calvin (1509-1564) was also a heretic. Calvin taught infant baptism, and also that the Sacraments were EQUAL with the Word of God. Calvin and Luther BOTH taught baptismal regeneration.

Calvin even had people killed for disagreeing with his heresy on infant baptism. So many people today are naive of such men. I've been reading Christian books for years that quote Martin Luther and John Calvin—come to find out they both endorsed the heretical sacraments and infant baptism. Sacraments are NOT taught in the Bible. There is NO way that such men could have been saved because they ADDED works to faith, which is no faith at

all. Calvin taught that believers must persevere to the end to be saved. This is works salvation. The reformation was plagued with the remnants of Catholicism, perverting the simple plan of salvation (2nd Corinthians 11:3-4).

Martin Luther came out of Catholicism, but Catholicism didn't come out of Martin Luther. Luther simply started his own demonic cult as a surrogate religion for frustrated Catholics. Mr. Luther was a heretic. The same can definitely be said of John Calvin. Why is it that so many people feel compelled to join manmade religions rather than study the Word of God for themselves? Jesus told us in John 5:39 to **SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES!**

### Calvin Taught Baptismal Regeneration

Listen to the heretic John Calvin teach baptismal regeneration (i.e., the unbiblical teaching that a person must be water baptized in order to go to Heaven). John Calvin was very Catholic in his doctrines...

"Consider Calvin: "But as baptism is a solemn recognition by which God introduces his children into the possession of life [e.g., regeneration], a true and effectual sealing of the promise, a pledge of sacred union with Christ, it is justly said to be the entrance and reception into the church. And as the *instruments* of the Holy Spirit are not dead, God truly performs and effects by baptism what he figures." Elsewhere, Calvin wrote, "There is a union complementary with the thing figured, lest the sign be empty, because that which the Lord represents in sign he effects at the same time, and executes in us by the power of the Spirit . . . What indeed do we abrogate or take away from God when we teach that he acts through his *instruments*, indeed, he alone . . .

God works . . . through the sacraments as *instruments*... The Spirit is the author, the sacrament is truly the *instrument* used." —[SOURCE](#)

The Bible does NOT teach the lie of [Baptismal Regeneration](#). [Baptism](#) will just get you wet, it has NO saving power.

### Calvin Taught Limited Atonement

John Calvin errantly taught that Jesus only died for the saved. Sadly, [Charles Spurgeon bought into this lie of Calvin](#). Although I fully understand the viewpoint, it is

unbiblical. The Bible teaches universal atonement. Like it or not, the Word of God is our Final Authority, NOT Spurgeon or any other man. 1st John 2:2 reads, "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." 2nd Corinthians 5:15, "And that he died for all..." We read in 1st Timothy 1:15, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." The Word of God proclaims that Christ came to save sinners, not just certain sinners.

Listen to the plain teaching of 2nd Peter 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." This Scripture clearly reveals that it is possible for ALL men to repent. God is NOT willing for any to perish. If Calvinism is correct, then how can you reconcile God's desire for all men to repent if He only predestinates certain of them to salvation? Calvinism makes no sense at all.

### Calvinism is NOT Biblical Doctrine

Calvin was a heretic who taught that God predestines men to salvation. Calvin taught "selective salvation" (or "unconditional election") where God selects who will be saved and who will not. These are Satanic heresies. Calvin also taught "irresistible grace" (the lie that God forces a person to be saved).

I once heard a New Evangelical pastor tell me that there is no need to go soulwinning because God decides who gets saved or not. That pastor is an utter fool. He was so lazy and far from God that he adopted Calvin's heresies to justify his carnality and unwillingness to preach the Gospel. Proverb 11:30 tells us that a wise Christian wins souls to Christ. The unscriptural attitude of Calvinists is: "If God predestinates men to salvation, then why should we go soulwinning?"

Why did Paul go door-to-door soul-winning in Acts 20:20? Why did Jesus give the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20? Why did Jesus try to convert the wicked Scribes and Pharisees? Why did Stephen continue preaching to the angry mob? Why did the early Christians continue preaching the gospel, after James was killed by Herod for preaching the gospel? It is because there is hope for every sinner to come to Christ. It is because God has given to mankind a free will, and the choice is ours individually to make. God does NOT choose who will be saved or lost. The choice is yours alone to make!

Clearly, Calvin was somewhat of a Catholic. Here's some of what John Calvin believed...

"God's church and the sacraments are also given in God's grace for the edification of the elect and the good of the world. The church, one through all time, can be known by the preaching and hearing of God's Word and the proper administration of the sacraments. Although the true church is known only to God, the visible church is thoroughly related to it on earth. Officers and leaders in the church should be those individuals who try responsibly to follow in Christian discipleship, but their authority cannot depend on their righteousness. The offices should be only those designated in the New Testament. Sacraments (baptism and the Eucharist) should be celebrated as mysteries in which Christ is spiritually present; in the Eucharist he believed that Christ is present both symbolically and by his spiritual power, which is imparted by his body in heaven to the souls of believers as they partake of the Eucharist. This position, which has been called "dynamic presence," occupies a middle ground between the doctrines of Luther and Zwingli"

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Calvinism is NOT a Bible doctrine, but a system of human philosophy (humanism) appealing to the proud mind. Calvinism goes into the realm of human philosophy. Consider first that what we are discussing is called "Calvin-ISM." It is only the opinions of one man.

Dr. Loraine Boettner says, "It was Calvin who wrought out this system of theological thought with such logical clearness and emphasis that it has ever since borne his name." That's a big lie. Are you going to tell me that believers were ignorant of the Word of God for 1,500 years until Calvin arrived? How strange that after 1,500 years of Christianity, practically no one had understood the Bible to teach Calvin's doctrine of predestination until he introduced the philosophy. What a strangely hidden doctrine... that New Testament Christians somehow survived for nearly for 1500 years since Christ without Calvin's teachings; until the days of the reformers when Calvin developed the doctrine fully. That's insane! Dr. Boettner idolizes Mr. Calvin; but the Bible calls Calvin a liar and a heretic.

The Bible has always been clear on doctrine. No one had any problems finding the truth about salvation before Calvin arrived. The Bible is also clear on Biblical doctrine. God put the cookies of truth on the bottom shelf for us to reach; we don't need Calvin's stepladder (or anyone else's).

Heretics always try to convince us that the truth is way above our heads, out of our reach, and that we need them to help us obtain the truth. 1st John 2:27 reads, "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." All we need is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to teach us.

### [Calvin was a Tyrant Monster](#)

Let God Be True, but Every Man a Liar

Romans 3:4 declares, "...let God be true, but every man a liar..." It is woefully tragic that so many professed believers are making the same mistake which the Apostle Paul rebuked the believers at Corinth of making, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name" (1st Corinthians 1:10-15). I am NOT an Arminian or a Calvinist, nor a Lutheran, I am a born-again Christian!

Spurgeon and Calvinism

Although [Spurgeon claimed to be a Calvinist](#), it appears that Spurgeon did NOT fully understand the doctrine of "unconditional election" as taught by John Calvin. I agree with Charles Spurgeon's words in the preceding paragraph, but Spurgeon is speaking about works verses grace, and not predestination as Calvin taught.

Spurgeon simply believed that man could NOT save himself, but that Salvation was 100% of God. This is Biblical (Mark 10:25-27, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they were

astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible).

Yet, Spurgeon clearly also believed that "whosoever will" (anyone) could get saved, a view that Calvinists and Hyper-Calvinists do NOT hold. Romans 10:13 plainly teaches, "For WHOSOEVER shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Spurgeon believed that God absolutely needed to be involved in man's salvation, and this is Biblical. We read in John 6:44, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." But for Calvinists and Hyper-Calvinists to teach that God is "selective" in choosing who will or won't be saved is certainly NOT Biblical. Titus 2:11 clearly teaches, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men." Did you read that...ALL men? Spurgeon didn't believe that only certain sinners of God's choosing would be saved. Romans 10:13 plainly teaches that "WHOSOEVER" will may come to be saved (and Spurgeon believed this). John 3:16 proclaims that God loved the WORLD enough to send His only begotten Son to pay for our sins. Calvinism and Hyper-Calvinism are wrong to teach that God chooses who will be saved. I think Spurgeon jumped-the-gun on this issue before fully investigating it because Spurgeon clearly did NOT believe that anyone is predestined to salvation.

John Calvin taught heresy when he taught that God chooses people to be saved. There is NOT one Scripture in the entire Word of God which teaches that God chooses anyone to be saved. The Bible teaches that all believers were predestined to "be conformed to the image of His Son," NOT predestined to salvation ("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" -Romans 8:29). This is exactly [what Spurgeon believed](#). In contrast, Calvinism DOES teach predestination unto salvation. God NEVER chooses anyone for salvation, Scriptures such as Acts 17:30 make this abundantly clear ("...but now commandeth all men every where to repent").

Why would God command ALL men to repent if only certain men have been chosen for salvation. There really is NO debate concerning Arminianism, Calvinism, and Hyper-Calvinism if you simply take the Word of God at face value...they're all messed up! The Bible is so clear on all these matters. There are problems with all three views. Arminianism is wrong to teach that a person can lose salvation. Romans 5:15 declares that eternal life is a "FREE GIFT." A gift CANNOT be taken back if it is freely given. Salvation is God's gift to man, paid for by the blood of Jesus (Romans 6:23; Colossians 1:14). Calvinism and Hyper-Calvinism teach "limited atonement" and "selective salvation," which are both Satanic lies. 1st John 2:2 couldn't be any clearer, "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." Calvinism is unbiblical heresy!

Salvation is by grace through faith based upon the redemptive work of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus took upon Himself the sins of all mankind in His death on the cross, and His resurrection from the dead provides salvation to all who believe. All who receive the Lord Jesus Christ through faith are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become the children of God. It is apparent that Spurgeon was only a one-point Calvinist. Spurgeon believed that "whosoever will" can come to Christ to be saved. This eliminates three points of Calvinism. Spurgeon also believed in eternal security, which eliminates the last point of Calvinism. The only Calvinist heresy that Spurgeon bought into, and horribly so, was the unbiblical heresy of limited atonement.

Although I fully understand Spurgeon's viewpoint, it is unbiblical. The Bible teaches universal atonement. Clearly, Christ died and shed His blood for ALL humanity. Like

it or not, the Word of God is our Final Authority, NOT Spurgeon, Calvin or any other man. 1st John 2:2 reads, "'And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.'" 2nd Corinthians 5:15, "And that he died for all..." We read in 1st Timothy 1:15, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. The Word of God proclaims that Christ came to save sinners, not just certain sinners. Listen to the plain teaching of 2nd Peter 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." This Scripture clearly reveals that it is possible for ALL men to repent. God is NOT willing for any to perish. If Calvinism is correct, then how can you reconcile God's desire for all men to repent if He only predestinates certain of them to salvation? Calvinism makes no sense at all.

### Calvin's Folly

Calvin wrote the "Institute's of Christian Religion" when only 27 years old at an impressionable time in history when an organized theology was needed. Calvin has misled so many people that many still consider the writing of the "Institute's" the single most influential book on theology in church history. One wonders what his writing could have achieved in the hearts and minds of men if only he truly had the love of Jesus. His insistent stress upon the awful majesty and righteousness of God drove him to emphasize with equal severity the utter worthlessness of fallen and sinful man. He taught the belief that we are powerless in the salvation act, the belief that man's salvation rests solely upon grace, but only for the elect. Because man is fallen and the human intellect is distorted and has become the instrument of his sin, the consequences of natural theology are idolatrous. The followers of Calvin lived in the delusion that the spirit of Christ worked within them, drawing them toward the perfection that God had called them. Calvin's doctrines had a tendency toward perfectionism and demanded rigorous control over private and social behavior. Calvin never had the humility to acknowledge that those like him who seek to be justified by the law have fallen from grace. Certainly, Calvin was not saved. In all essentials, Calvin's state was a theocratic dictatorship. Contrary to the teachings of Jesus, he assumed the existence of a capitalist economic system for society and set up his ethics on that basis. Like the lukewarm church of today, he identified good works with the accumulation of riches. According to this perverse logic, God dispenses riches and poverty as He wills. It is not man's merit, or man's toil that gets a person riches, rather it is God's grace and riches are given as an evidence of God's favor.

### On the Perseverance of the Saints

Contrary to what most people think, John Calvin didn't teach eternal security at all. Calvin insisted that believers must persevere in faith if they are to remain in grace. He believed that the elect will persevere in faith and continue in grace to ultimate final salvation. These damnable heresies are far from the teachings of the Bible. The very fact that Calvinism requires a saint to "persevere" to the end is damnable heresy. Eternal security is the preservation of the saints, NOT the perseverance of the saints. To "persevere" is works salvation. The cult of *Seventh-Day Adventism* similarly teaches that a person cannot KNOW they're saved until the final judgment. Biblical salvation is instant and forever, NOT pending of anything. Sadly, even the [Salvation Army](#) teaches this damnable heresy (belief # 9 on their official statement of faith).



This is a dangerous heresy because it eliminates the FREE GIFT of eternal life. A gift is completely free with NO strings attached. There is NO delay period, or testing period before we get it. We receive eternal life the very moment we trust Christ as our Personal Saviour to forgive our sins. Romans 5:15 and Romans 6:23 declare that eternal life is a "gift" from God. Romans 5:15 even calls it a "free gift." Man's works and efforts have absolutely NOTHING to do with God's salvation. Whether a believer continues in the faith is irrelevant. Either they are saved and can never lose it, or else they aren't saved now and never had it to begin with. You cannot undo your spiritual birth, just as you cannot undo your physical birth. John 3:16 is so clear on the matter of salvation, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." If a lost sinner simply believes upon Christ, they will never perish.

Arminius didn't really teach anything, he simply refuted the heresies of Calvinism. Although I do agree with the first four refutes of Calvinism by Arminius, I certainly cannot accept his heresy that the believer can lose salvation. Calvin wasn't correct on this issue either. Although I DO agree that a believer can never lose their salvation, NO matter what depth of sin they choose to go into, I do NOT accept the unbiblical heresy by Calvin that we should "persevere" to the end to be saved. In Calvin's commentary on 1st John 3:9, he uses the word "perseverance", clearly stating: "the hearts of the godly are so effectually governed by the Spirit of God, that through an inflexible disposition they follow his guidance." (John Calvin)  
"the power of the Spirit is so effectual, that it necessarily retains us in continual obedience to righteousness." (John Calvin)

This is not eternal security. Rather Perseverance of the Saints is a perseverance in a behavior consistent with that expected of a child of God. However, Calvin failed to accept the FACT that believers DO sin, sometimes horribly so. Sometimes believers go into a life of sin and never get right with God. Their fellowship with God is broken, but their relationship is not. David committed adultery and then killed the woman's husband. David was unrepentant for one year. If David would have died in that unrepentant state, he would have gone straight to Heaven, NOT Hell as Calvin taught. Fortunately for David, he did repent. However, Solomon lived a wicked life of rebellion against God until the end. Calvin's teachings are nonsense.

Calvin's teachings are indeed a form of Lordship Salvation. There is much confusion on the last point of Calvinism. Some people believe that Calvin taught unconditional eternal security. Others believe that Calvin taught eternal security conditioned upon the perseverance of the believer. Clearly, from Calvin's own statements, he believed in Lordship Salvation, that a believer cannot simply trust Christ to be saved, but that a life of commitment and perseverance was also necessary as proof of conversion. These are damnable heresies. Although the Bible does teach that a man becomes a new creature in Christ when he is regenerated at Salvation, we cannot always judge that salvation from the outward appearance. Lot by all appearances was an unsaved heathen, but God called Him a righteous man (2nd peter 2:7). There are many believers who willfully live in sin, but that DOESN'T mean that they aren't saved. The critics who deny this truth are adding works to salvation.

### The Truth of the Matter

John Calvin was a heretic! Yes, it is true that a person cannot be saved unless God the Holy Spirit is working in their heart, but the Bible plainly teaches that it's the Holy Spirit's task to convict THE WORLD of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Yes, God knew in advance (before the world began) who would one day trust Him, and He

predestinated them to be conformed TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, but NOT to salvation. God NEVER chooses anyone to be saved. He did predestinate them before the world began, but only because He saw that those people would one day choose of their own free will to be saved. God NEVER forces anyone to be saved, nor does God ever choose anyone to be saved. It is easy to go astray in one's doctrines if we fail to realize that God lives in eternity where there is NO time. Thus, there is NO chronology in God's world, only man's.

This is why Revelation speaks of "the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world. This is why the Bible teaches that "a day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as a day with the Lord (2nd Peter 3:8)." Predestination simply means that God was making plans for those whom He knew would one day be saved. The Bible teaches once saved, always saved. How can a man be "unborn" physically or spiritually? Once you've been "born again" (John 3:3), it is irreversible. If a man departs from the faith, it is simply because he never had it to begin with, "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us" -1st John 2:19. There is nothing taught in the Bible about "perseverance." Christians are all Hell-deserving sinners saved by God's grace. Eternal life is a FREE GIFT paid for in-full by the blood of Jesus. John Calvin was an unsaved [heretic](#) and a cruel tyrant, who perverted the Gospel of Christ into a false gospel.

We are NOT supposed to allow men's doctrines to steer us away from the Truth of God's Word. A good Bible teaching or preacher will always steer us towards Christ and the Word of God, NOT away from It. The Apostle Paul was a mature man of God. The carnal believers in the church of Corinth were in a similar situation as many of today's believers, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name" -1st Corinthians 1:10-15. I am NOT an Arminian or a Calvinist, I am a born again Christian! Let this be our stand!

END

Please read the best explanation I've ever read concerning the Gospel and repentance, by Pastor Harry A. Ironside (1876-1951). Clearly, Ironside taught a Free Grace view of the Gospel...

"The Gospel is not a call to repentance, or to amendment of our ways, to make restitution for past sins, or to promise to do better in the future. These things are proper in their place, but they do not constitute the Gospel; for the Gospel is not good advice to be obeyed, it is good news to be believed. Do not make the mistake then of thinking that the Gospel is a call to duty or a call to reformation, a call to better your condition, to behave yourself in a more perfect way than you have been doing in the past ...

Nor is the Gospel a demand that you give up the world, that you give up your sins, that you break off bad habits, and try to cultivate good ones. You may do all these things, and yet never believe the Gospel and consequently never be saved at all."

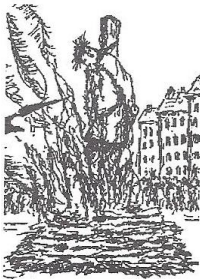
SOURCE: Harry A. Ironside, from the sermon: [What Is The Gospel?](#)

**Murderer And Heretic John Calvin**  
**Burned Michael Servetus At The Stake**

Dan Corner

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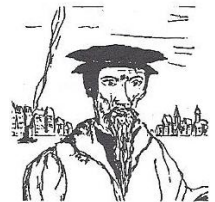
You are about to read an important part of church history from the Reformation period that has been so concealed in our day that very few people know the facts. Brace yourself for a shock.



On October 27, 1553 John Calvin, the founder of Calvinism, had Michael Servetus, the Spanish physician, burned at the stake just outside of Geneva for his doctrinal heresies!<sup>(1)</sup> Hence, the originator of the popular doctrine of "once saved, always saved" (known in certain circles as "the perseverance of the saints") violated the cry of the Reformation -- "Sola Scriptura" -- by murdering a doctrinal heretic without Scriptural justification. This event was something Calvin had considered long before Servetus was even captured, for Calvin wrote his friend, Farel, on February 13, 1546 (seven years prior to Servetus' arrest) and went on record as saying:

"If he [Servetus] comes [to Geneva], I shall never let him go out alive if my authority has weight."<sup>(2)</sup>

Evidently, in that day Calvin's authority in Geneva, Switzerland had ultimate "weight." This is why some referred to Geneva as the "Rome of Protestantism"<sup>(3)</sup> and to Calvin as the "Protestant 'Pope' of Geneva."<sup>(4)</sup>



During Servetus' trial, Calvin wrote:

"I hope that the verdict will call for the death penalty."<sup>(5)</sup>

All this reveals a side of John Calvin that is not well-known or very appealing, to say the least! Obviously, he had a prolonged, murderous hate in his heart and was willing to violate Scripture to put another to death and in a most cruel way. Although Calvin consented to Servetus' request to be beheaded, he acquiesced to the mode of execution employed. But why did Calvin have a death wish for Servetus?

"To rescue Servetus from his heresies, Calvin replied with the latest edition of his 'Institutes of the Christian Religion,' which Servetus promptly returned with insulting marginal comments.

Despite Servetus's [sic] pleas, Calvin, who developed an intense dislike of Servetus during their correspondence, refused to return any of the incriminating material."[\(6\)](#)

"Convicted of heresy by the Roman Catholic authorities, Servetus escaped the death penalty by a prison break. Heading for Italy, Servetus unaccountably stopped at Geneva, where he had been denounced by Calvin and the Reformers. He was seized the day after his arrival, condemned as a heretic when he refused to recant, and **burned in 1553 with the apparent tacit approval of Calvin.**"[\(7\)](#)

In the course of his flight from Vienne, Servetus stopped in Geneva and made the mistake of attending a sermon by Calvin. He was recognized and arrested after the service.[\(8\)](#)

**"Calvin had him [Servetus] arrested as a heretic. Convicted and burned to death."**[\(9\)](#)

From the time that Calvin had him arrested on August 14th until his condemnation, Servetus spent his remaining days:

" ... in an atrocious dungeon with **no light or heat, little food, and no sanitary facilities.**"[\(10\)](#)

Let it be noted that the Calvinists of Geneva put half-green wood around the feet of Servetus and a wreath strewn with sulfur on his head. It took over thirty minutes to render him lifeless in such a fire, while the people of Geneva stood around to watch him suffer and slowly die! Just before this happened, the record shows:



"Farel walked beside the condemned man, and kept up a constant barrage of words, in complete insensitivity to what Servetus might be feeling. All he had in mind was to extort from the prisoner an acknowledgement [sic] of his theological error -- a shocking example of the soulless cure of souls. After some minutes of this, Servetus ceased making any reply and prayed quietly to himself. When they arrived at the place of execution, Farel announced to the watching crowd: 'Here you see what power Satan possesses when he has a man in his power. This man is a scholar of distinction, and he perhaps believed he was acting rightly. But now Satan possesses him completely, as he might possess you, should you fall into his traps.'

When the executioner began his work, Servetus whispered with trembling voice: 'Oh God, Oh God!' The thwarted Farel snapped at him: 'Have you nothing else to say?' This time Servetus replied to him: 'What else might I do, but speak of God!' Thereupon he was lifted onto the pyre and chained to the stake. A wreath strewn with sulfur was placed on his head. When the faggots were ignited, a piercing cry of horror broke from him. 'Mercy, mercy!' he cried. **For more than half an hour the horrible agony continued, for the pyre had been made of half-green wood, which burned slowly.** 'Jesus, Son of the eternal God, have mercy on me,' the tormented man cried from the midst of the flames ...."[\(11\)](#)

Although we essentially have the same in the conversion of the repentant thief (Lk. 23:42,43 cf. Lk. 18:13) and the Scripture, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Acts 2:21; Rom. 10:13), Farel still reckoned Servetus an unsaved man at the end of his life:

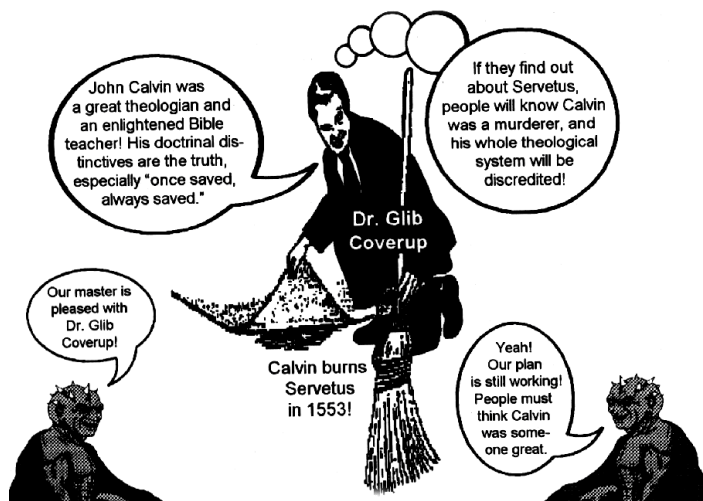
"Farel noted that Servetus might have been saved by shifting the position of the adjective and confessing Christ as the Eternal Son rather than as the Son of the Eternal God."[\(12\)](#)

**"Calvin had thus murdered his enemy, and there is nothing to suggest that he ever repented his crime [sic]. The next year he published a defence [sic] in which further insults were heaped upon his former adversary in most vindictive and intemperate language."** (13)

As the Roman Catholics of 1415 burned John Hus(14) at the stake over doctrine, John Calvin, likewise, had Michael Servetus burned at the stake. But was doctrine the only issue? Could there have been another reason, a political one?

"As an 'obstinate heretic' he had all his property confiscated without more ado. He was badly treated in prison. It is understandable, therefore, that Servetus was rude and insulting at his confrontation with Calvin. Unfortunately for him, at this time Calvin was fighting to maintain his weakening power in Geneva. Calvin's opponents used Servetus as a pretext for attacking the Geneva Reformer's theocratic government. **It became a matter of prestige -- always the sore point for any dictatorial regime -- for Calvin to assert his power in this respect. He was forced to push the condemnation of Servetus with all the means at his command.**"(15)

"Ironically enough, the execution of Servetus did not really bolster the strength of the Geneva Reformation. On the contrary, as Fritz Barth has indicated, it 'gravely compromised Calvinism and put into the hands of the Catholics, to whom Calvin wanted to demonstrate his Christian orthodoxy, the very best weapon for the persecution of the Huguenots, who were nothing but heretics in their eyes.' The procedure against Servetus served as a model of a Protestant heretic trial .... **it differed in no respect from the methods of the medieval Inquisition .... The victorious Reformation, too, was unable to resist the temptations of power.**"(16)



**Is it possible for a man such as John Calvin to have been a "great theologian" and at the same time to act in this reprehensible way and afterwards show no remorse? Dear reader, do you have a heart that could, like John Calvin, burn another person at the stake?**

Let us illustrate this another way. Suppose a man from your congregation with a reputation for being a spiritual leader captured your neighbor's dog, chained it to a stake, then used a small amount of green kindling to slowly burn the dog to death. What would you

think of such a person, especially if he afterwards showed no remorse? **Would you want him to interpret the Bible for you?** To make the matter even worse for John Calvin, a person, unlike a dog, is created in the image of God! Like it or not, we can only conclude from this evidence that John Calvin's heart was darkened, and not enlightened, as a result of his murderous hate for Servetus. At best, Calvin was spiritually blinded by this hate and therefore, spiritually hindered from rightly dividing the word of truth.(17) At worst, which was apparently the case, John Calvin himself was unsaved, according to Scripture:

"But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, **the murderers**, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars -- **their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur.** This is the second death" (Rev. 21:8).

"We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, 'I know him,' but does not do what he commands is a liar and **the truth is not in him**" (1 Jn. 2:3,4).

"And **you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding [continuing] in him**" (1 Jn. 3:15, NKJV).

The Greek adds an important word to 1 Jn. 3:15 that is sometimes omitted in English translations. That word is "continuing" or "abiding" (NKJV) and states that murderous people don't have eternal life continuing in them.

Dear reader, since murderers are unsaved and John Calvin was a murderer, then Calvin was unsaved! Moreover, since the unsaved are darkened in their spiritual understanding (Eph. 4:18) and Calvin was unsaved based on Scripture, then Calvin was darkened in his spiritual understanding.

**Jesus said we can "know" people by their fruit (Mt. 12:33) -- be it John Calvin or anyone else!** Similarly, the Apostle John wrote:

"This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother" (1 Jn. 3:10).

Can you say Calvin did what was "right" regarding Servetus? If not, then doesn't this make him a "child of the devil," according to this verse and others already cited? Though some will rant and rave over this conclusion, **can we Scripturally come to any other?**

No other evidence is needed to objectively assess Calvin's spiritual status. However, two other men should also be briefly mentioned:

"Two other famous episodes concerned Jacques Gruet and Jerome Bolsec. Gruet, whom Calvin considered a Libertine, had written letters critical of the Consistory and, more serious, petitioned the Catholic king of France to intervene in the political and religious affairs of Geneva. With Calvin's concurrence he was beheaded for treason. Bolsec publicly challenged Calvin's teaching on predestination, a doctrine Bolsec, with many others, found morally repugnant. Banished from the city in 1551, he revenged himself in 1577 by publishing a biography of Calvin that charged him with greed, financial misconduct, and sexual aberration." [\(18\)](#)

### **How Should A Heretic Be Dealt With?**

How should a heretic or any false teacher be dealt with, that is, if one is willing to abide by the Biblical guidelines? Paul wrote Titus and touched upon this very issue, which first starts out as a qualification for eldership in the church:

"He [the elder] must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and **refute those who oppose it**. For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. **They must be silenced**, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach -- and that for the sake of dishonest gain" (Titus 1:9-11).

**Clearly, then, a false teacher should be "silenced," not by having him killed, as Calvinism's founder did, but by refuting him with Scripture. This is the true Christian method.**

**If Calvin's example is the standard, the next time the Jehovah's Witnesses or Mormon missionaries come to our door, we should physically overpower them, bind them to a stake, and make human candles out of them.** Can you imagine a professing Christian doing this, much less a reputed theologian? If done, could you force yourself to believe such a person was truly saved and adhere to his unique, doctrinal distinctives?

**Also, false teachers should be openly named as Paul openly named Hymenaeus and Philetus who were destroying the faith of some of the Christians whom Paul knew:**

"Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are **Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have wandered away from the truth.** They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and **they destroy the faith of some**" (2 Tim. 2:17,18).

This is also an important preventative against a false teacher's spiritual poison.

Why did Calvin grossly violate these Scriptural guidelines? Since Paul's Holy Spirit inspired directives (and example) regarding how to deal with a heretic were diametrically opposed by Calvin, isn't it safe to assume that Calvin was governed by a different spirit than Paul had? Moreover, why have these facts about John Calvin's life rarely been mentioned in our day? The answer to this last question is obvious. They are both an embarrassment and refutation to the Calvinists who proudly refer to themselves by his name! Since they are the evangelical majority and it is their power and influence that has the greatest sway over what is disseminated throughout our land and even the world, this information about their founder is seldom, if ever, heard. Many people are only now learning the shocking facts about Calvinism's founder as they read them for the first time!

**"No event has more influenced history's judgment of Calvin than the role he played in the capture and execution of the Spanish physician and amateur theologian Michael Servetus in 1553. This event has overshadowed everything else Calvin accomplished and continues to embarrass his modern admirers."[\(19\)](#)**

Three important questions remain: **(1) Can John Calvin be Scripturally justified for murdering Michael Servetus? (2) Does a murderous hate, according to Scripture, render one spiritually unable to accurately interpret the Scriptures? (3) Can a murderer be saved according to Rev. 21:8?**

All these answers have a bearing on the credibility of Calvin's popular "perseverance of the saints" doctrine, among others. Regretfully, Calvin's version of Christianity is the prevalent view in our land, but is his view Scriptural? To answer in the affirmative is to say that Calvin's double predestination is true, that is, **some are predestined for Heaven and others are predestined for Hell without free choice on their part!**[\(20\)](#) This would violate many Scriptures, especially 2 Pet. 3:9:

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. **He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**"

Furthermore, **Calvin's teachings declare Jesus' work on the cross was NOT infinite**, because according to that teaching, He did not shed His blood for every human, but only for the elect -- those predestined to be saved. This is clearly refuted by 1 Jn. 2:2:

"He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and **not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.**"

Also, his "perseverance of the saints" doctrine would assert that God's power will keep a truly saved person secure, in spite of grievous sins committed after regeneration and/or any doctrinal heresies that would be embraced, **thus violating many Scriptural examples and warnings which prove the opposite!**

It should be apparent that, from the founder down to us today, the "perseverance of the saints" doctrine (most commonly known as "once saved always saved") has most often been a "license for immorality" taught under the banner of grace. See Jude 3,4. **As Calvin's own theology allowed for his actions against Servetus, many in our day are sexually immoral, liars, drunkards, filled with greed, etc., while they profess salvation. This is a ramification of Calvin's perverted grace message -- a teaching which has "spread like gangrene" from a man who could openly burn another to death and for the remaining 10 years and seven months of his life, never publicly repent of his crime.**

"**Servetus' ashes will cry out against him as long as the names of these two men are known in the world.**"[\(21\)](#)

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## End Notes

1. "On only two counts, significantly, was Servetus condemned -- namely, anti-Trinitarianism and anti-paedobaptism." Roland H. Bainton, *Hunted Heretic* (The Beacon Press, 1953), p. 207. [Comment: While Servetus was wrong about the Trinity, regarding his rejection of infant baptism, Servetus said, "It is an invention of the devil, an infernal falsity for the destruction of all Christianity" (Ibid., p. 186.) Many Christians of our day could only give a hearty "Amen" to this statement made about infant baptism. However, this is why, in part, Servetus was condemned to death by the Calvinists!] [\(return\)](#)
2. *Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge* (Baker Book House, 1950), p. 371. [\(return\)](#)
3. *The Wycliffe Biographical Dictionary Of The Church* (Moody Press, 1982), p. 73. [\(return\)](#)
4. Stephen Hole Fritchman, *Men Of Liberty* (Reissued, Kennikat Press, Inc., 1968), p. 8. [\(return\)](#)
5. Walter Nigg, *The Heretics* (Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1962), p. 328. [\(return\)](#)
6. Steven Ozment, *The Age Of Reformation 1250-1550* (New Haven and London Yale University Press, 1980), p. 370. [\(return\)](#)
7. *Who's Who In Church History* (Fleming H. Revell Company, 1969), p. 252. [\(return\)](#)
8. *The Heretics*, p. 326. [\(return\)](#)
9. *The Wycliffe Biographical Dictionary Of The Church*, p. 366. [\(return\)](#)



10. John F. Fulton, *Michael Servetus Humanist and Martyr* (Herbert Reichner, 1953), p. 35. [\(return\)](#)

11. *The Heretics*, p. 327. [\(return\)](#)

12. *Hunted Heretic*, p. 214. [Comment: Nowhere in the Bible do we see this sort of emphasis for one's salvation. The dying thief, the Philippian jailer and Cornelius were all saved by a most basic trusting-submitting faith in Jesus.] [\(return\)](#)

13. *Michael Servetus Humanist and Martyr*, p. 36. [\(return\)](#)

14. John Hus attacked various Roman Catholic heresies such as transubstantiation, subservience to the Pope, belief in the saints, efficacy of absolution through the priesthood, unconditional obedience to earthly rulers and simony. Hus also made the Holy Scriptures the only rule in matters of religion and faith. See *The Wycliffe Biographical Dictionary Of The Church*, p. 201. [\(return\)](#)

15. *The Heretics*, p. 326. [\(return\)](#)

16. *Ibid.*, pp. 328, 329. [\(return\)](#)

17. For example, in clear contrast to the meaning that Jesus gave of the parable of the weeds in the field (Mt. 13:24-43) where the Lord told us "the field is the world" (v.38), John Calvin taught "the field is the church." See Calvin's verse by verse commentary of Matthew's gospel. [\(return\)](#)

18. *The Age of Reformation 1250-1550*, pp. 368,369. Bolsec's book in which he charges Calvin as he did is cited as *Histoire de la vie, moeurs, actes, doctrine, constance et mort de Jean Calvin ... pub. a Lyon en 1577, ed. M. Louis-Francois Chastel* (Lyon, 1875). [\(return\)](#)

19. *Ibid.*, p. 369. [\(return\)](#)

20. Augustine of Hippo, the Catholic theologian, was an earlier proponent of predestination from whom John Calvin drew ideas. [\(return\)](#)

21. *The Heretics*, p. 328. [\(return\)](#)

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**Five Point Calvinism**

**The Position of Fundamental Baptist World -Wide Mission**

**Introduction**

The theory which is today commonly known by the name Calvinism was first introduced by Augustine in the fourth century. He taught that Christ did not die for all men, but for a chosen few whom God had chosen and predestinated to become His children. He taught that all others were created to go to Hell. He taught that all those who were chosen to go to Heaven were as good as in Heaven and all those whom God chose to go to Hell were as good as in Hell. Augustine was later given sainthood by the Roman Catholic Church.

Over 1000 years later, John Calvin, an ex-Catholic, revived this teaching which had been forgotten since the death of Augustine. It is from Calvin that the teaching received its name, Calvinism.

Augustine, the father of the teaching, also taught that infant baptism was necessary in order to go to Heaven. He taught that a person could have genuine regeneration, genuine piety, and even genuine faith, but without membership in the Catholic Church, these would avail him nothing and he would go to Hell. He is also responsible for the teaching of sinless perfection. Many of the errors in the Catholic Church today can be traced to the writings of Augustine.

As for John Calvin, he was not a Baptist. He was a Reformer. He was not Christian in his attitude and behavior. He was a tyrant who cast those who disagreed with him into prison. In 1553, Micheal Servetus, a Spaniard, a scholar, a physician, a scientist of originality, and a man who was deeply religious and devoted to Christ, vigorously opposed Calvin on the doctrines of

predestination and infant baptism [*Bible Believers Resource Page note: while Servetus is to be commended for opposing predestination and infant baptism, some resources note that he also taught against the essential Christian doctrine of the Trinity which is heresy*].

The following is a matter of record,

"While passing through Geneva, Servetus was recognized and arrested, certainly at Calvin's insistence. Servetus was tried and condemned by the civil authorities as a heretic, an offense punishable by death under the Justinian Code. In spite of Calvin's plea for a more merciful form of execution (emphasis mine), Servetus was burned at the stake on October 27, 1553, crying through the flames, 'O Jesus, thou Son of the eternal God, have pity on me.'" (History of Christianity, Latourette, Chapter XXX, iii, Page 759).

Today, people are taught by some that a Christian must be either a Calvinist or an Arminian. This is not true. A Christian can and should be a Biblicist. We do not claim to fully understand the mind of God concerning sovereignty and free will. However, we do understand clearly the teaching of the Word of God concerning man's having a God-given free will to choose between good and evil and a free will to accept or reject Christ as Savior.

## T.U.L.I.P.

### The Heresy of John Calvin

#### 1. Total Depravity (a term used by John Calvin).

The Biblical interpretation of **Total Depravity** is that all people are sinners by birth, by choice, and by practice. They have a sin nature. **Total Depravity** does not mean that all people are as bad as possible. It does not mean that all men are as totally bad as humanly possible in their earthly actions, as they would be, if left as Calvin would have us believe. It does not mean that all men are equally bad. If man has no free will to choose between good and evil, to what can the vast difference between the habitual criminal on death row and the morally good, yet lost person, who is a leader in civil and social affairs in his community, be contributed? There are good and commendable things in the lives of many people who do not claim to be Christians (not good in the sight of God, but in earthly actions). **Total Depravity** means that every part of every person's nature has been touched, tainted, affected, defiled, perverted, or influenced by sin. All men are capable of being totally bad, yet, by their free will, choose not to be. The above is the true Biblical interpretation of **Total Depravity**. This position is gladly accepted by the Fundamental Baptist World-Wide Mission.

John Calvin added to the Word of God by taking the Biblical doctrine of **Total Depravity** and expanding it to an ultra-extreme, totally unBiblical position. John Calvin called his doctrine **Total Depravity**; however, that which Calvin taught is and should be branded heresy. Under the name of **Total Depravity** Calvin believed, taught, and insisted on Total Inability. He taught that man had/has no free will in the matter of salvation, no choice whatsoever, but that salvation was predetermined by God alone and man acts as mechanically as a robot. In response to questions, John Calvin wrote:

"Who then shall be saved? That is what His sovereign will decides and nothing else. It is purely a matter of the divine sovereign will which, doubtless for good reasons known to God Himself

but none of them relative to anything distinguishing one man morally from another, chooses some and rejects the rest. God's election has nothing to do with foreknowledge except in so far as he foreknows who are to be members of the human race" (Calvin's Institutes III, xxiii, page 10).

From Genesis 2:16 through Revelation 22:17, God has always given man the freedom of choice. In relation to Genesis 2:16-17, John Calvin exercised double talk. The verses read:

*"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."* Genesis 2:16-16

Note that God commanded Adam that he should not eat of the tree of good and evil. John Calvin would have us believe that God commanded Adam not to do such and such a thing, but that God had already decreed that Adam would violate His command. That would make God the author of willful disobedience. John Calvin wrote,

"The only time free will might be reasonably asserted to have existed was in Adam before the fall . Adam could have resisted if he would, since he fell merely by his own will. In this integrity man was endowed with free will, by which, if he had chosen, he might have obtained eternal life. Nevertheless, there is no reality in the free will thus attributed to man, in as much as God had decreed the fall, and therefore must have in some wise already biased Adam's will. It was not left in neutral equilibrium, nor was his future ever in suspense or uncertainty. It was certain that sooner or later Adam would fall into evil, and with that inevitable fall there disappeared every trace of the free will which man may have had. From that time the will became corrupt along with the whole of nature . Man no longer possessed the capacity to choose between good and evil" (Calvin's Institutes II, iv, Page 8).

The belief that man has no capacity to choose between good and evil, places the responsibility of man's sin upon God. Calvin would have us believe that we are robots and our actions are decreed by the sovereign will of God. The belief that man has no capacity to choose between good and evil, yet does evil, places the responsibility of man's sin upon God. In Calvin's own statement above, he again double talks. He said Adam could have resisted; Adam fell by his own free will; that the fall was decreed by God. John Calvin, which position do you hold? All three statements cannot be true.

The Bible clearly teaches that God enlightens sinners (John 1:9, 12:32, and 16:8). The Bible also teaches the free will and free exercise of that will by man. This will be covered more completely in the point titled Irresistible Grace. For now, let it simply be noted that throughout the Bible, God sets forth the free will of man to choose for himself (John 1:12, 3:16, 5:24, Acts 2:21, 16:30-31. This is only a short list of verses which set forth man's free will to choose).

Fundamental Baptist World-Wide Mission totally rejects the teaching of John Calvin concerning Total Inability. We believe and teach that man is totally depraved, but that God, in His sovereign will, endowed man with the ability to choose between good and evil, Christ and the Devil, and Heaven and Hell.

## **2. Unconditional Election.**

Calvin taught that God elected, chose, or predetermined that certain people would be saved and go to Heaven. Many modern day Calvinists declare that they do not believe in double predestination, which means they claim that they do not believe that God elected or predestined people to go to Hell, only those who are going to Heaven. If you believe that God did indeed predetermine that certain people would go to Heaven, that demands that you must also believe that all others were predetermined to go to Hell. Concerning this matter, John Calvin wrote:

"The reprobate like the elect are appointed to be so by the secret counsel of God's will and by nothing else" (Calvin's Institutes II, xxii, Page 11).

In a letter to Christopher Lierttet, Calvin wrote,

"You are much deceived if you think that the eternal decrees of God can be so mutilated as that he shall have chosen some to salvation but destined none to destruction. There must be a mutual relation between the elect and the reprobate" (The Teaching of Calvin, Chapter VI, Page 109).

Again Calvin wrote,

"Their fate was the direct immediate appointment of God, justified indeed by their life but not in necessary consequence. He might have saved them from their doom as He did in the case of the elect who were no more worthy in themselves to be saved; but that doom was fixed from all eternity and nothing in them could transfer them to the contrary class, any more than anything in the elect could result in their becoming reprobate..." (Calvin's Institute III, iii, page 4).

This is totally contrary to the Word of God ( 1 Timothy 2:3-4, II Peter 3:9, Acts 17:30, John 3:16-17, Ezekiel 33:11). From the time of Genesis 2:11 through Revelation 22:17, God has always given man the right to choose . God has always said, "*Whosoever will...*" (Mark 8:34). Did God mean what he said? If we interpret the Word of God consistently and literally, it must be concluded that God meant what He said. To teach the doctrine of "Unconditional Election" is to add to the Scripture things which God did not teach and never intended on men teaching.

As John Calvin taught Unconditional Election, it is not election at all. It is "selection." If God did indeed select some, as Calvin taught, but did not choose them relative to anything distinguishing one man morally from another, then God is a respecter of persons. The Bible says, "For there is no respect of persons with God" (Romans 2:11 and Acts 10:34).

Fundamental Baptist World-Wide Mission does not accept Calvin's teaching of Unconditional Election and Unconditional Damnation, but rather believes and teaches that whosoever will may come to Christ by the exercise of his own will. It is our responsibility to give people the Gospel message, thus giving them the opportunity to choose Christ and be saved or reject Christ and be lost.

The word predestination is found in only two books of the Bible, Romans 8:29-30 and Ephesians 1:5,11. In both texts predestination speaks not of people being lost or saved, but rather of position or privilege to be shared in the future by those who are already saved.

### **3. Limited Atonement.**

Calvin taught that the blood of Jesus Christ was shed only for the elect. He taught that it was not for the non-elect. The Calvinist of today, in order to disguise his belief, has changed the third point of Calvinism to Particular Redemption. Another name, but the same heresy. Regardless of what name is put on the teaching, it remains false doctrine.

The Bible is as clear on this point as on any point of doctrine. Hebrews 2:9 declares that Christ tasted death for every man. 1 Peter 2:1 reads as follows,

*"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them and bring upon themselves swift destruction."*

1 John 2:2 says,

*"And he (Christ) is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."*

This verse does not say or imply that Christ tasted death for only the elect, or that He was the propitiation for only the elect. Such teaching is heresy. It is a damnable doctrine to teach that the blood of Jesus Christ was not shed for all mankind since the beginning of the creation.

There are some who would tell us they accept the other four points of Calvin's teaching, but do not accept Limited Atonement. If a person accepts the teaching of John Calvin concerning Total Inability and Unconditional Election then he has no choice but to accept the teaching of Limited Atonement. It is impossible to accept one without accepting the other.

It could not be said that the blood of Christ was shed for all men in the light of Calvin's statement,

"The reprobate like the elect are appointed to be so by the secret counsel of God's will" (Calvin's Institutes III, xxii, Page 11) and ". . .their doom was fixed from all eternity and nothing in them could transfer them to the contrary class..." (Calvin's Institutes III, iii, Page 4).

Fundamental Baptist World-Wide Mission does not accept the teaching of John Calvin concerning Limited Atonement. We believe and teach that the blood of Christ was shed for all men and that it is effective for the cleansing of sin for whosoever will come to Christ.

#### **4. Irresistible Grace.**

Following Unconditional Election, John Calvin taught that if a person was one of the elect for salvation, when God was/is ready for that person to become a Christian, the person would/will come to Christ (not by choice, but as a robot who cannot resist the grace of God.). Again, as in the case of Limited Atonement, we find the modern day Calvinist trying to disguise or hide his doctrine. They have changed the name of this teaching from Irresistible Grace to a different name, but it is the same heresy.

God is a sovereign God. We believe, embrace, rejoice in, and glory in that truth. However, God in His sovereignty, chose to give man a free will and the ability to choose or reject the Gospel. God did not create a robot which would come to Christ mechanically. Ephesians 1:12 says,

*"That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ."*

What glory and what praise would the fact that we trusted Christ be if we had no will in the matter?

What would it mean if we could not have possibly resisted His grace? Nothing

Calvin often referred to John 6:44-45 as a proof text (Election and Conversion, pp 37, 67, 133). This verse says,

*"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, and they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me."*

These very verses refute John Calvin's teaching of Irresistible Grace. The word draw does not mean "force." According to other texts in the Word of God, it cannot possibly mean "an irresistible drawing". The same Greek word *helkuo* which is used for draw in verse 44 is found in John 12:32 which says, *"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."* If the word draw in John 6:44 teaches an irresistible drawing, then the Bible would be teaching in John 12:32 that all men would be irresistibly drawn. We acknowledge that this is certainly not happening. The word draw in both texts means that Christ will attract all men. This is in agreement with the entire Word of God.

God enlightens every man (John 1:9). God convicts every man (John 16:8). God draws every man (John 12:32). God leaves the choice to every man (John 3:16).

Irresistible Grace, within itself, is a phrase of contradiction. If it is irresistible, it is not grace at all. An irresistible grace would destroy the personal quality of the relationship between God and man which is established by grace and involves the free response of will to God's love and grace.

We see God's grace being rejected by man in Proverbs 1:24-25. *"...I have called and ye refused..."*. In Matthew 23:37 Christ said, *"How often would I have gathered...and ye would not."* In John 5:40 Christ said, *"And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."* In Acts 7:51 Stephen says, *"Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye."* (See Matthew 22:3 and Isaiah 65:12.)

Fundamental Baptist World-Wide Mission believes that God enlightens every man and draws every man. However, we believe and teach that God's grace can be refused or rejected as well as accepted. We do not accept John Calvin's teaching that God's grace is irresistible. There is not one passage of Scripture that teaches that grace is irresistibly bestowed.

## **5. Perseverance of the Saints.**

Many confuse this with the doctrine of Eternal Security. Calvin's teaching on this point was totally different from the Bible doctrine of Security. Calvin taught that a person who is of the elect will persevere. His teaching had nothing whatsoever to do with the keeping power of God. It was "matter of fact" in the sense that it was settled because you have been elected. He taught that if a person did not persevere to the end, he was not of the elect and he had been only a false

professor. His emphasis was according to the above title: it was perseverance of the saints and not the saints being sealed by the Holy Spirit and kept by the power of God. Calvin's teaching was totally different from eternal security and totally foreign to the Bible. Verses which teach that we are kept by the power of God include, but are not limited to, John 10:28,29; Romans 8:35-39; Ephesians 4:30; and I Peter 1:4,5.

Conclusion. I would like to make several observations in reference to the matter of the sovereignty of God, the free will of man, and the strange teaching of John Calvin.

**1. The Sovereignty of God.** We believe in the sovereignty of God, but we believe that in the matter of salvation God leaves the final decision to man. God has elected a plan of salvation. He has given man the free will to accept or reject that plan.

We believe that without question God knew, before the foundations of the world, who would choose to accept Christ and who would choose to reject Christ. I Peter 1:2 says, "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father...." We do not believe that God decided, determined, elected, or selected who would and who would not receive Christ.

**2. Confusing Terms.** In reference to modern-day Calvinist terms, there is much confusion and misunderstanding. We hear the term Calvinist, Hyper Calvinist, Five-point Calvinist, and then we hear terms One-point, Two-point, Three-point, Four-point Calvinist, along with terms like Two and-a-half-point Calvinist. I fail to find room for these terms, if we are talking about the doctrine which Calvin embraced and taught.

The five points which identify Calvin's teaching (outlined above and commonly called "TULIP") are like dominos; they stand or fall together. If a person claims to be a One-Point (Total Depravity) Calvinist, if he believes the doctrine taught as Calvin taught it, then the person must accept the other four points. If the person believes in Total Inability (without ability to choose "yes" or "no"), then he has to accept the teaching that God unconditionally elected some to go to Heaven and others to go to Hell. If man has no will to decide, then you must also accept the teaching that someone apart from man made the decision.

Someone had to decide. In Calvin's teaching, that someone was God. You must accept that God selected, in eternity past, who would be saved and who would not be saved, and that the decision by God was not relative to anything which distinguished one man morally from another. There can be no other explanation, as there are no other alternatives.

The next domino in line is Irresistible Grace. If a person believes in Total Inability, that belief demands that he accept Unconditional Election. The two together require that he also believe Irresistible Grace. If you have no part in the decision, then the only way remaining for a person to come to Christ is mechanically.

What is the next domino? It is Calvin's teaching of Limited Atonement. If you believe that God did indeed elect or select that certain ones would be saved and all the rest of the human race would go to Hell, then you must accept the doctrine of Limited Atonement. How can a person say that he/ she believes the Blood of Christ was shed for the entire world, when he/ she believes that only the elect have any opportunity to be saved and the non-elect have no opportunity, no chance, no way to be saved? In Calvin's words, "...but their doom was fixed from



all eternity and nothing in them could transfer them to the contrary class, any more than anything in the elect could result in their becoming reprobate..." (Calvin's Institute III, iii, Page 4).

You cannot accept one and reject the other. That would be double talk.

The doctrine of Perseverance, as taught by John Calvin, falls in the same line. It must be accepted along with the first four. If it is rejected in favor of the doctrine of Eternal Security, as taught and believed by Bible believing people, then the other four have no foundation on which to stand.

I see no room for a one-, two-, two-and-a-half-, three, three-and-a-half-, or four-point Calvinism. I see no difference between a Calvinist and a Hyper-Calvinist, or a Calvinist and a five-point Calvinist.

Fundamental Baptist World-Wide Mission rejects all five points of the doctrine called Calvinism which was founded in Hell; surfaced by the teaching of Augustine, a Catholic saint in the Fourth Century; and has been made famous and caused much confusion by John Calvin of the Reformed Church in the Fifteenth Century. John Calvin wrote commentaries on most of the books of the Bible, commentaries which received the endorsement of being "better than most" by the infamous Karl Barth.

**3. Contradictions.** While on II Peter 2:1, concerning "Damnable Heresies." Pastor Charles Britt said, "There is one way to spot a heretic" (or those who teach false doctrine)- He said, "Ask them "What must a person do to be saved?" If the question is directed to a person who believes and preaches the doctrine of John Calvin and he answers, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved," then that involves man's will and his answer is contradicting his doctrine. He should answer, "In order for you to be saved, you must be one of the elect and then you can believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved. If you are not one of the elect, then there is nothing that you can possibly do to be saved."

He might also answer, "You must wait until there is a 'drawing' which you cannot resist; then you will be saved because you will automatically be saved if you are one of the elect."

I have never read material written by a Calvinist or a so called Calvinist, when his statements did not continually contradict his doctrine.

The teaching of the doctrine of John Calvin, the Reformer, causes confusion everywhere it is discussed, leaves unanswerable questions, and creates strife and division. We have seen works and entire mission fields divided and destroyed by the doctrine of John Calvin. God keep us from this heresy.

#### **4. Bible verses concerning a heretic.**

*"A man that is a heretic after the first and second admonition reject; knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinter, being condemned of himself" (Titus 3:10-11).*

**5. Attempts at Justification.** Men, speaking of other men (generally their friends) who are admitted Calvinists, in an attempt to justify them, have said, "Yes, he is a Calvinist, but he wins as many souls as any one I know. " Winning souls will not justify teaching false doctrine any

more than a preacher, by winning souls, can build up enough merits with God to offset the results of falling into sin, as some would have us to believe.

**6. Additional False Doctrine.** Two other false doctrines which John Calvin, the Reformer, taught fall in the same category, heresy.

Calvin believed and taught that church membership was necessary for salvation. His position is clearly expressed in the Westminster Confession,

"According to which out of the visible church there is no ordinary possibility of salvation."

"The church is no amorphous, vaguely defined body, a haphazard collection of individuals accidentally, temporarily, and loosely associated by reason of common beliefs or sympathies. It is not an institution toward which one might adopt an attitude of indifference, or with which professing Christians might decline to enter into relations. To stand outside of the church is to cut oneself off from God's storehouse of the bread of life, for the Church is the sphere within which the grace of God exclusively operates. It is the sole reservoir and distributor of the blessings of the Gospel otherwise unattainable. Only by the forgiveness of sins was entrance into it to be gained, for without pardon we can have no union with God. But that benefit is so peculiar to the Church that we cannot enjoy it unless we continue in communion with the Church" (Calvin's Institutes IV, i, page 20; iv, page 10; Comm. Romans xiii, 8; (Institute IV, i, page 22).

Calvin also taught that infant baptism was acceptable. He said,

"By infant baptism, regeneration is begun though sin remains, but condemnation ceases because guilt is no longer charged. It is like a sealed charter by which God gives confirmation that all our sins are so erased, canceled, and blotted out, that they may never come in His sight nor be rehearsed or imputed" (The Teaching of John Calvin, Chapter IX, part VI, page 175).

**7. The Deadening Effect.** Let me quote again from The Teachings; of John Calvin, Chapter VIII part III, page 159,

"It may be that the larger hope which Calvin countenanced was to some extent responsible for his attitude of indifference to heathen peoples. He left them to the tender mercies of God and displayed no trace of missionary enthusiasm."

How totally contrary to all that the Holy Spirit of God emphasized in the Word of God.

The Word of God says,

*"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"* (II Peter 3:9).

The Bible closes by saying,

*"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And **whosoever will** (emphasis mine) let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17).*

Fundamental Baptist World-Wide Mission rejects all five points of the doctrine taught by John Calvin which is commonly called TULIP.

**8. Summary.** In reality the doctrine of Calvinism is diametrically opposed to and is an attack on the true and simple Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is indeed heretical to teach that God, in eternity past, without respect to any decision which He foreknew that we would make, appointed some people to go to Heaven and predestined others to go to Hell. In I John 2:2 the Bible says, "He is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the **whole world**" (emphasis mine).

## **God's Sovereignty**

### **Man's Free Will And Responsibility**

We have been told on a number of occasions that there are two great doctrines in the Word of God; the sovereignty of God and the free will and responsibility of man. We have been told that we must accept both doctrines, even though we cannot, in our finite minds, reconcile the two. By saying God is sovereign, if one means that God is 100% dominate in 100% of the affairs of man beginning with salvation, then we must reject the above statement.

We accept the fact that God could be sovereign in all the affairs of men and that He could decree every minute detail of man's life. That God could do so is not debatable. He is God. However, we believe that God, in His sovereignty, purposely limited Himself, in that He gave man a free will. This in no way discredits or dishonors the sovereignty of God. We believe that God knows/knew before the foundation of the world, every decision man would make and every detail of man's life (1 Peter 1:2). We do not accept the teaching that says God decreed all of those decisions, details, and actions.

If God's sovereignty extends past the free will of man, or if it is said that man's free will always acts in harmony with God's sovereign decrees, then the so-called sovereign decrees of God, carried out in the daily life of man, are in continual conflict with God's Word, nature, character, and holiness. It would present thousands of theological problems which are unacceptable in light of divine revelation. Man fulfilling God's preordained decrees would create a mechanical existence which would leave no room for real human responsibility or accountability or grounds for the righteous judgment of God.

In Exodus 20:34a God said, *"Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image."* Could the same God that said the above be charged with decreeing, before the foundation of the world, that the Israelites under the guidance of Aaron would with an engraving tool make a molten calf of gold and declare, *"...These be thy gods..."* (Exodus 32:4a)? Then in Exodus 32:7 God said, *"...thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves..."* To teach that God commanded one thing and decreed that people would do the opposite is totally inconsistent and unacceptable.

There are millions of people who have "other gods" today. Can God be blamed with decreeing that men would have other gods when He had previously commanded them not to have other gods? No. That is impossible.

In Exodus 20:14 God said, "*Thou shalt not commit adultery.*" To teach that King David, by the decree of God (along with many men, some of them preachers whom we can name), would commit adultery is blasphemy. The same God who said, "*I am Holy,*" cannot be charged with decreeing David's sin nor the sins of whomever. That type of theology is an attack on the character and holiness of God (I Peter 1:15-16).

The Bible says, "*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever*" (Hebrews 13:8). He cannot change. He does not change (Malachi 3:6). He is never inconsistent. He never lays aside His holiness.

We could continue and make an unending list of such things as the above, but this clearly illustrates the point. Man has a free will and acts independently of God's sovereignty (not knowledge) because God decreed and granted that man would have that privilege. Man is responsible for his actions.

If we accept the teaching that God is sovereign in all things, we must stop preaching that no man in Hell will point his finger at God and say, "You are to blame." Certainly it would be said that God is to blame if eternal destiny is appointed and settled before the foundation of the world, and not based on any decision that God foreknew that man would make.

We must stop being hard on people who commit adultery. They can simply say, "I could not help myself. God had already decreed that I would commit adultery." We must stop preaching against all sin if we believe that God is 100% sovereign in the affairs of men and has decreed all things. Again, I am not speaking of foreknowledge; I am speaking of designing/ decreeing all things. To teach that God decreed all the sins that mankind is committing is unacceptable and constitutes blasphemy.

We believe that God foreknows every dotting of the "i" and every crossing of the "t" but we do not believe that He decreed all of the dotting and the crossing. We believe that God is sovereign and could have decreed all things, but chose not to do so. We believe He chose, in His sovereignty, to give man a free will. Therefore, we believe that man has a free will, which God draws, enlightens, attracts, convicts, impresses, but does not dominate; and man is totally responsible for his actions, sins, thoughts, words, and all he does. We do not believe that the sovereignty of God and the free will and responsibility of man are two doctrines in the Word of God which cannot be reconciled by our finite minds but must be accepted.

We believe in the free will and the responsibility of man. We believe in the sovereignty of God. We believe that God, in His sovereignty, limited that sovereignty and gave man a free will and made him responsible. We believe that God foreknows every detail of all that has happened and will happen on the earth.

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**[CALVINISM ON THE MARCH | Calvinism | Way of Life Literature](#)**

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pastors in regard to why Calvinism is increasing among fundamental Baptists: The following is from Pastor ...

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#### THE CALVINISM DEBATE Part 1 of 2 | Calvinism, Doctrine | Way of Life Literat ...

... what he believes on the subject (knowing that there are many varieties of Calvinism). I did not want to misrepresent anything. Among other things, Dr. Masters...; trans. by Henry Cole, Calvin's Calvinism , Grandville, MI: Reformed Free Publishing, 1987...

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#### The Calvinism Debate

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#### THE CALVINISM DEBATE Part 2 of 2 | Calvinism, Doctrine | Way of Life Literat ...

... me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me." In light of Calvinism's definition of sovereign election and the irresistible ... have put upon other Calvinists. For example, in "Hyper-Calvinism Examined" Jeffrey Khoo, who

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#### Calvinism's Proof Texts Examined

... his steps." This verse does not support Calvinism, because it says that man's heart deviseth ... before God and that it is impossible for him to earn salvation through his own works, BUT CALVINISM GOES BEYOND THIS AND ADDS ITS OWN UNIQUE TWIST ...

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