

A WORD FROM THE WRITER

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The material in this brief study on the doctrine of Calvinism is not meant to be exhaustive. However it is meant to be informative and practical, and above all scriptural. Many others have written on the subject in far more detail. These notes were originally compiled to help folks in a class setting for the average person; they were not written for theologians.

The writer claims no originality. In fact, much of the material was gleaned from other sources. The primary authors quoted are Laurence M. Vance from his book THE OTHER SIDE OF CALVINISM and Dave Hunt's expose: WHAT LOVE IS THIS? All quotes - pro and con - are given as accurately as possible without deliberate distortion. All Scripture verses are from God's Word, the King James Bible.



John Calvin at age 53 (from an engraving)

INTRO.: Calvinism, like most other man-made systems of theology, appeals to the intellect, which in turn produces pride. Also like most other such systems, Calvinism has its own vocabulary, which again feeds man's pride and which is totally unbiblical (see the "5 Points of Calvinism" below).

This writer refuses to be identified with any man-made system of theology or with any man who headed a movement. He prefers the label of "Bible-believer". It is enough.

INTRO.: The man, John Calvin (1509 – 1564), though possibly saved (*his followers will become rabid at the word "possibly" – P.F.*), was prideful, and even hateful, condemning anyone who refused or opposed his system of theology or his system of government in Switzerland to torture, banishment or even murder by beheading or "slow burning" at the stake. Why Bible believing Baptists would want to identify with this man and yet denounce Catholic priests and popes for the same crimes is a conundrum. It is doubtful that these same followers would accept or allow this behavior in their contemporaries today. Obviously Calvin did not believe or accept the biblical concept of "*vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord*" or the doctrine of individual soul liberty.

Calvin was a devotee and student of the writings of "Saint" Augustine, a Roman Catholic priest (credited with being the "founder of Roman Catholicism"). C. Gregg Singer wrote: "The main features of Calvin's theology are found in the writings of St. Augustine to such an extent that many theologians regard Calvinism as a more fully developed form of Augustinianism." Laurence Vance points out that the Roman Catholic Church itself has a better claim on Augustine than do the Calvinists. Calvin himself said "Augustine is so wholly with me, that if I wished to write a confession of my faith, I could do so with all fullness and satisfaction to myself out of his writings." (*What about out of the writings of Scripture?! My formula for Calvinism is: Augustine + Calvin = Calvinism -P.F.*)

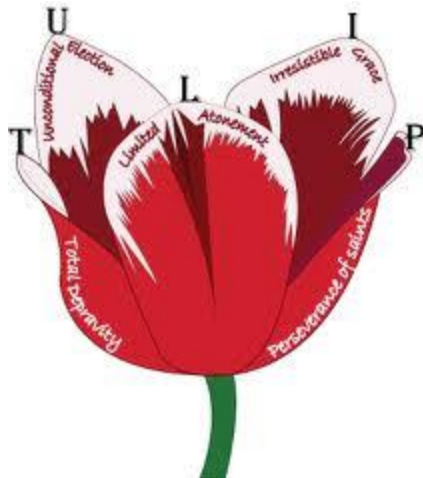
Calvin's adoption of Augustine's philosophy and theology led him to establish a community in Zurich, Switzerland where the Church and the State were united and where civil law was enforced by the church. Calvin's teaching and basic beliefs were formed while he was still a devout Catholic through reading and studying the writings of Augustine and the Catholic *Latin Vulgate Bible*, and these influences stayed with him throughout his life.

John Calvin helped spawn the Reformed and Presbyterian churches and embraced infant baptism and the concept that Israel = Church, which is identified as Covenant Theology. Covenant Theology is the opposite of Dispensational Theology. Dispensational Theology makes a difference between Israel and the Church and uses a historical, grammatical approach to the understanding and interpretation of God's Word. Covenant Theology uses an allegorical approach to Scripture and spiritualizes literal events and concepts in the Bible, e.g. the Millennium or 1000 year reign of Christ on earth is spiritualized by Covenant Theology and thus produces the Amillennial (no literal Millennium) position.

FIVE POINTS AGAINST THE FIVE POINTS OF CALVINISM



INTRO.: A. "Calvinism" is a man-made system of theology which destroys soul-winning, makes man an automaton or robot, makes God the author of sin, devastates missionary zeal and drains churches of their desire for service - not to mention their numbers. (They don't win folks to Christ, they steal sheep from Bible - believing churches.) Calvinism is a distortion of the teachings of God's Word which caters to man's intellect (*Calvinists bask in the sunlight of their own intelligence rather than in the light of the Word or the Son of God*). Calvinism's doctrines doom churches to failure to fulfill the Great Commission and damn Christians to loss of rewards for works at the Judgment Seat of Christ. It effectively neutralizes the child of God's efficiency.



B. The Famous (or infamous!) "5 Points of Calvinism" are:

Total Depravity

Unconditional Election

Limited Atonement

Irresistible Grace

Perseverance of the Saints

NOTE: Of the ten words in the acronym TULIP, four (total, depravity, unconditional and irresistible) are not found in the Bible and two others (limited and perseverance) are each found only once. As for the phrases in the acronym NONE of them appear in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation!

C. According to the Calvinists themselves one must either accept the entire 5 point system or none; they are all tied together.

QUOTES: Bronson (Calvinist): "In order for one to be consistent he must hold all 5 points of Calvinism."

Palmer (Calvinist): "The 5 points of Calvinism all tie together. He who accepts one of the points will accept the other points."

Gunn (Calvinist): "The 5 points are logically related such that any one of them implies the other four."

Boettner (Calvinist): "Prove any one of them false and the whole system must be abandoned."

Custance (Calvinist): "Granted any one of these 5 points, the rest must follow inevitably; deny any one of them and the whole structure is endangered. One cannot satisfactorily defend some points but not others."

D. John Calvin was the force behind what is called Calvinism. Calvin was a REFORMED Roman Catholic who never intended to reject the Roman Church, and when he finally came out, he didn't come out far enough and dragged the dead carcass of Catholicism with him. He believed in Consubstantiation (in place of the Roman Catholic Transubstantiation), practiced infant baptism, was Amillennial in his eschatology and set up a state-church in Geneva, Switzerland and between 1541 and 1546 *he had some 58 people executed and exiled 76 others from Geneva who disagreed with him about doctrine. (Again I ask what are born-again, Bible believing, Baptists doing identifying with this man and his system?!)*



E. Another historical figure in church history named Jacobus (James) Arminius, plays an important part in the battle over the so-called "doctrines of grace" listed in Calvin's 5 points. This man devised a system of theology which is the supposed "opposite" of Calvin's. The "5 Points of Arminianism" are given in a document called the Remonstrance (protest) which is a summary of Arminius' beliefs:

1. God has determined to save those who shall believe on Jesus Christ and leaving the unbelieving in sin to be condemned. (Refuting Unconditional Election)
2. Jesus Christ died for all men, providing redemption and forgiveness for all, but these benefits are effective only for those who believe on Christ. (Refuting Limited Atonement)
3. Man is in a state of sin, unable to of himself do anything truly good, but needs to be born again. (Refuting Calvinism's Total Depravity)
4. Man cannot, without the grace of God, accomplish any good deeds or movements, but this grace can be resisted. (Refuting Irresistible Grace)
5. Believers have power to persevere, but as to whether they can fall away, that must be more particularly determined out of the Holy Scriptures. (Refuting Perseverance of the Saints)



Jacobus Arminius

NOTE: Surely the above, while not perfect, is nearer by far to what the Bible teaches than the system of Calvinism (as we shall see when we examine the "5 Points").

F. Rather than identify with either man-made system of theology, it is always best and safe to simply stick with the Scriptures. As stated above, it is safer and more scriptural to be categorized as a Bible believer rather than a Calvinist or an Arminian! Many times those who take this position are labeled with the derogatory title of "Calminian".

QUOTE: Vance (Non Calvinist): *"The Other Side of Calvinism,"* P. 11 - "...those Baptists who choose to believe the Bible rather than the speculations of Calvinism or Arminianism, have sometimes referred to themselves as 'Biblicists'. Naturally, this is offensive to both Calvinists and Arminians, for it correctly implies the unbiblical nature of both systems."

G. All Calvinists believe that God, by a sovereign eternal decree, has determined before the foundation of the world who shall be saved and who shall be lost. That there is no such broad "decree" in the Bible will be proven from the Scriptures and that no such doctrine of "predestination of the damned" for hell is obvious to anyone who can read a King James Bible.

TRANS.: As we examine the "5 Points of Calvinism" we will both give God's Word to support our conclusions and condemn Calvinism from the very writings of the Calvinists themselves.

**I. THE TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF CALVINISM'S TOTAL DEPRAVITY:
(Petal #1 in the Calvinist's TULIP garden)**



A. What a Bible believer believes about total depravity and what a Calvinist teaches are two entirely different things.

- 1. By total depravity we mean that a man lacks original righteousness or holy affection toward God and the corruption of the moral nature, or bias toward evil. Man is totally depraved and totally deprived of all ability to please God. He is thoroughly wicked and sinful by nature in himself and by his position before God. Total depravity is NOT total inability.**
- 2. Man evidences his depravity by choice and practice due to his sin nature inherited from Adam at his fall into sin.**

B. What the Calvinist means when he speaks of total depravity is something entirely different from the above.

QUOTE: Harvey (Calvinist): "Total depravity is the cause of total inability and total inability is the result of total depravity." *(This is circular reasoning like the evolutionist who dates rocks by fossil strata and fossil strata by the rocks he finds them in.)*

- 1. God commands again and again for a man to repent, believe and receive the Savior. So it is obvious from scripture that man is not deprived of his ability to respond to God's command to be born-again. While man's sinful nature is "depraved" it is not unable to respond to God's commands or invitations to receive Christ. How unjust Christ would be to command man to do something he is incapable of obeying.**

Acts 17:30 *And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:*

Mark 1:15 *And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*

- 2. The Calvinist places man in the position where he CANNOT do what God commands him to do. How unreasonable (and unbiblical!) to say that a person is unwilling to do what he is unable to do!**

QUOTE: Pink (Calvinist): "As a creature the natural man is responsible to love, obey and serve God; as a sinner he is responsible to repent and believe the Gospel. But...the natural man is UNABLE to love and serve God, and...CANNOT repent and believe."

- 3. Because man's spirit is "dead in trespasses and sins" the Calvinist concludes he is unable to do anything; he equates spiritual death with physical death.**

Eph. 2:1 *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins...*

- 4. It is from this perverted concept of spiritual death that the Calvinist attempts to build his doctrine of Total Depravity.**

- a. But as one man noted: "Spiritually dead people are still biologically alive."
- b. Spiritually dead men can walk, have a conversation, obey commands and fulfill desires.

Eph. 2:2-3 *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3) Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

NOTE: In order to receive the gift of salvation one must believe the gospel. Never does the Bible say that this is impossible to the natural man. Otherwise Christ would not have commanded us to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Mk. 16:15 This command implies the ability of every person to respond to the gospel. "Indeed, that everyone knows the truth of God's existence, his moral responsibility to God and his breach of the moral laws, is stated repeatedly in Scripture." - Dave Hunt (Non Calvinist): *What Love Is This?*

Psalms 19:1-3 *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.*

Romans 1:18-2:5 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. 24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. 26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; 29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

Rom 2:1 *Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. 2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. 3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? 4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? 5 But after thy hardness and*

impenitent heart treasureth up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God...

- c. A physically dead man can lift up his eyes, feel torment, see, speak, pray and reason. Luke 16 (Death is never non-existence, unless you are a Jehovah's Witness!)

Lk. 16:23-28 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24) And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25) But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivest thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26) And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. 27) Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28) For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

- d. Calvinists like to make the new birth a parallel to the first birth, and while the analogy has some merit, it falls apart upon closer examination.

- 1) In the first birth (conception) a brand new creation is brought into being.
- 2) In the second birth the being was already there with a complete personality before he was born again.

QUOTE: Pink (Calvinist) admits: "Regeneration is not the creating of a person which hitherto had no existence, but the renewing and restoring of a person whom sin had unfitted for communion with God..."

- 3) In the Calvinist system we have the draconian caricature of a barbaric, immoral god who commands people to repent and believe and yet creates them so that they are unable to do so!

QUOTE: Vance (Non Calvinist): "If the natural man corresponds to an uncreated creature, he most certainly could never be responsible for any deed: *he wouldn't even exist!*"

- 4) In the Calvinistic "TULIP" garden **I Cor. 2:14** is interpreted to mean the INABILITY of a man to respond to the Gospel, when the verse in its context speaks of THINGS, not Christ!

I Cor. 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

NOTE: In **I Cor. 2:9-15** the word "things" occurs at least once in every verse!

1 Corinthians 2:9-15 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they

are spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

QUOTE: Hunt (Non Calvinist) "The Calvinist would have you to believe that because the natural man cannot understand spiritual things, he cannot receive Jesus Christ. A more contemptible perversion of Scripture can scarcely be found. The theory behind Calvin's Total Depravity is simply this: for God to get the glory for salvation, man must be UNABLE to ACCEPT or REJECT. But who likes puppet shows? Yet this is what Calvinism reduces salvation to. God wrote the script billions of years ago and is now in the process of pulling the strings to bring about his desired *carte blanche*."

A CALVINIST'S CONUNDRUM: The Calvinist believes that a person must be born again before he can be saved. (?) Does that mean that when Christ told Nicodemus he must be born again, that he wouldn't be saved?! HOGWASH!

QUOTE: R.C. Sproul (Calvinist) says: "The Reformed view of predestination teaches that before a person can choose Christ...he must be born again...one does not first believe, then become reborn." (*The Bible presents faith as the only condition of salvation! Can one be regenerated and remain unsaved?!*)

5. Spurgeon, who claimed to be a Calvinist, refused to sniff this tulip petal:

QUOTE: C.H. Spurgeon: "If I am to preach faith in Christ to a man who is regenerated, then the man being regenerated, is saved already, and it is an unnecessary and ridiculous thing for me to preach Christ to him, and bid him to believe in order to be saved when he is saved already, being regenerate. Am I only to preach faith to those who have it? Absurd, indeed! Is not this waiting till the man is cured and then bringing him the medicine? This is preaching Christ to the righteous and not to sinners."

6. In spite of the pronouncement of man's inability, the Calvinist unhesitatingly contends that man is fully responsible for what he CANNOT do."

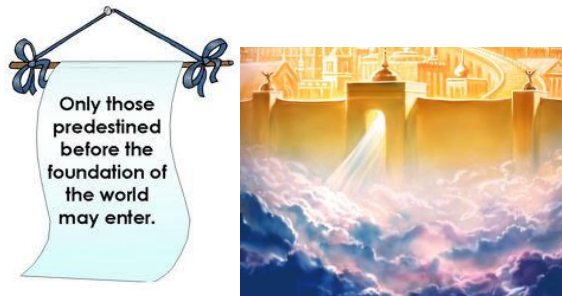
7. The natural and logical (and shocking) conclusion of the Calvinist's doctrine of Total Depravity is revealed in the following quote from a leading TULIP sniffer (Calvinist):

QUOTE: Hoeksema (Calvinist): "Regeneration can take place in the smallest of infants...in the sphere of the covenant of God. He usually regenerates His elect children from infancy."

**II. THE UNCONDITIONAL HERESY OF CALVINISM'S UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION:
(Petal #2 in the Calvinist's TULIP garden)**



QUOTE: John Calvin (Super Calvinist) himself: "By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life; and others foreordained to everlasting death...Those of mankind that are predestinated unto life, God...hath chosen in Christ unto everlasting glory...to the praise of His glorious grace...The rest of mankind, God was pleased, according to the unsearchable counsel of His own will...for the glory of His sovereign power over his creatures...to ordain them to dishonor and wrath for their sin, to the praise of His glorious justice." !!!!!



A. The connection between this petal of the Calvinist "TULIP" and the previous one is affirmed by all Calvinists.

QUOTE: Hear the Calvinist Boettner: "If the doctrine of Total Inability or Original Sin be admitted...it follows that if any are saved God must choose out those who shall be the objects of His grace."

B. Charles Haddon Spurgeon, while a Calvinist, had more sense than to only plant TULIPS in his garden of Bible doctrine.

QUOTE: Spurgeon: "We have some ministers, excellent brethren, who never preach anything else. They have a kind of barrel-organ that only plays 5 tunes, and they are always repeating them. It is either Election, Predestination, Particular Redemption (Limited Atonement), Effectual Calling, Final Perseverance, or something of that kind; it is always the same note." *It was also Spurgeon who reportedly prayed on more than one occasion, "Lord, save the elect and elect some more." (A horrific prayer by the standards of today's Calvinists!)*

C. The Calvinistic doctrines of Total Depravity, Election, Predestination, etc. are not the issue here, it is only the Calvinists' perversions of these terms; the Bible teaches some of these doctrines with different definitions. (Note how they place unbiblical prefixes to these bible doctrines, e.g. "Total" before depravity, "Unconditional" before election, "Limited" before atonement, "Irresistible" before grace, etc.)

Rom. 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Rom. 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Eph. 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will...

1 Pet. 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God...

NOTE: As you can see from these Bible quotes above predestination and election are both Bible doctrines, but in the case of predestination it is readily apparent that the doctrine only relates to those already saved, and has nothing to do with being elected to salvation. It is all about being conformed to Christ's image or (Christlikeness) for the believer.

D. To listen to the Calvinist you would think that the Bible was full of references to Predestination, when in fact the word is only found 4 times from Genesis to Revelation (see above)!

NOTE: Whenever God uses the term "election" or "elect" He is not speaking of foreordaining anyone to heaven or hell, but being more Christlike and never deals with the subject of salvation at all, but rather the benefits of salvation!

QUOTES: Palmer (Calvinist): "The first word Calvinism suggests to most people is predestination; and if they have a modicum of theological knowledge, the other four points (of TULIP) follow."

Calvin himself: "Those, therefore whom God passes by he reprobates (condemns to hell), and that for no other cause but because He is PLEASED to exclude them from the inheritance which He predestines to His children...whose PLEASURE it is to inflict punishment..." (emphasis mine)

E. The Calvinist also refers to "the Decree of God" in connection with this doctrine of Election and it is found NOWHERE in the Bible!

QUOTES: Hear the heresy of Calvinist authors: "All who will be saved, were chosen to salvation by God the Father, before the foundation of the world and given to Jesus Christ in the Covenant of Grace. By the DECREE OF GOD, for the manifestation of His own glory, some men and angels are *predestinated* unto everlasting life, and others *foreordained* to everlasting death. Election is, therefore, that DECREE OF GOD which He eternally makes, by which...He chooses to Himself a people..." (*Chapter and verse? Don't be silly!*)

F. The Calvinist would have you believe that God's Sovereignty is His only attribute or that it takes precedence over all His other attributes.

G. In the Calvinist's distorted world everything revolves around and is controlled by God's sovereignty.

QUOTE: Spurgeon (professed Calvinist): "(There is) a class of strong minded hard-headed men who magnify sovereignty at the expense of (human) responsibility." (*Spurgeon was obviously not the same breed of TULIP grower as the present breed.*)

1. Calvinism diminishes God to a Master Puppeteer and makes man His puppet; he teaches that man has no free will in any area.

QUOTE: Edwin H. Palmer (Calvinist) The Five Points of Calvinism – "All things in all the world at any time and in all history – whether with inorganic matter, vegetation, animals, man, or angels (both the good and evil ones) – come to pass because God ordained them.

Even sin – the fall of the devil from heaven, the fall of Adam, and every evil thought, word or deed in all of history, including the worst sin of all, Judas' betrayal of Christ – is included in the eternal decree of our holy God...Sin is not only foreknown by God, it is also foreordained by God. In fact, because God foreordained it, He foreknew it. Calvin is very clear on this point: 'Man wills with an evil will what God wills with a good will...'

NOTE: Of course we agree that God is sovereign. *However, being sovereign means that He is able to allow His creatures the freedom of moral choice.* In Calvinism we have the draconian concept that God does not even love the elect until they are regenerated, and He never loves the non-elect at all. So much for John 3:16 and a host of other passages stressing the love of God. The love of God is absent from Calvinistic Theology.

2. The very fact of God's sovereignty demands that He be allowed to do whatever He wills, but what He wills cannot conflict with Who He is!
 - a. His very nature cannot allow Him to sin, tempt others to sin, to lie, to violate His Word, to contradict Himself, to make mistakes, etc.
 - b. Sovereignty allows and even demands that God be permitted to order His creation in any way He sees fit, as long as that doesn't violate His nature and holy character.
3. Biblically the Bible shows that the first and foremost of God's attributes is His holiness.

Isaiah 6:3: *And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

Psalms 47:8: *God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.*

Psalms 99:9: *Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.*

4. Another outstanding attribute of God is His longsuffering.

Romans 2:4: *Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

II 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.*

5. Only someone with a theological ax to grind would emphasize God's sovereignty over all His other attributes.
6. The Bible declares that God IS love in 1 Jn. 4:8 & 4:16, so He is much more than just a sovereign God, but also a loving sovereign God, which means that His sovereignty doesn't diminish His love nor cancel His other attributes.

- G. The Calvinist further insists that God couldn't have absolute knowledge of future events unless He actually decreed them to happen; in the Calvinist's mind foreknowledge demands a decree.

QUOTE: Another Calvinist speaks: "Foreknowledge of future events then is founded upon GOD'S DECREES, hence if God foreknows everything that is to be, it is because He has determined in Himself from all eternity EVERYTHING which will be."

ILLUS.: I know SEPTA runs an 8:15 a.m. bus every morning – but I don't make it happen!

QUOTE: Vance, an *anti-Calvinist* speaks too: "What kind of power does it take to know something because you decreed it to take place? The proof that the Bible is inspired and God is exactly what HE claims to be is the fact that God knows what men will do in the future **WITHOUT** divine *foreordination* of anything...God knows what man will do **WITH** his free will. To take away man's free will and God's absolute omniscience under the guise of the sovereignty of God is a deliberate rejection of the Word of God and a pernicious attack on the nature of God Himself."

Isaiah 42:9: *Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.*

H. While we heartily agree with the concepts of God's bidding, control, direction, overruling and permission, they are NOT the same as God's predestination, election, reprobation, foreordination and decree!

I. The Calvinist's view of sovereignty is a tragic misunderstanding of what the Bible teaches; God is not a dictator and men are not robots and His creation is not a wind-up toy.

QUOTES: But listen to more TULIP planter's tripe: "You shall not tread a step which is not mapped on the grand chart of God's foreordination." "He predestinated all things, from the falling of a sparrow to the salvation of a soul. He has determined **ALL THINGS**; from the beginning to end for His glory and the eventual good of all that trust and obey Him." "Even man's smallest actions are controlled by, directed by and overruled by God." "Even the fall of Adam and through him the fall of the race, was not by chance or accident, but was so **ORDAINED** in the secret counsels of God." (*Secret indeed! They are not revealed in the Bible!*) "Not only did His (God's) omniscient eye see Adam eating the forbidden fruit, but He **DECREED** beforehand that he **SHOULD** do so." "It is even biblical to say that God has foreordained sin." (!) "The sinful acts of men are included in God's predestination." (!)

ILLUS.: What monstrous blasphemy! In the TULIP garden of Calvinists if you swat a mosquito it has been decreed and foreordained of God. (I actually had a Calvinist preacher tell me exactly that!) But even more horrific are the filthy deeds of homosexuals, pornographers, rapists, murderers, etc. which are all foreordained and decreed if we are to believe the TULIP growers.

But let's see what God Himself has to say in His own defense against the TULIP sniffers...

Romans 9:14: *What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.*

Psalms 5:4: *For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee.*

Job 36:23: *Who hath enjoined him his way? or who can say, Thou hast wrought iniquity?*

Job 34:10: *Therefore hearken unto me, ye men of understanding: far be it from God, that he should do wickedness; and from the Almighty, that he should commit iniquity.*

1. To determine what God has or has not decreed we need only go to a King James Bible, not a Calvinist theology book.

2. The decrees of God are given in Scripture and include rain (Job 28:26), the heavens (Psalm 148:6), the sea (Proverb 8:29; Job 38:10), the sand

(Jeremiah 5:22), a consumption (Isaiah 10:22), Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:24) and Jesus Christ (Psalm 2:7).

J. The Calvinist would even have you believe that God decreed and foreordained the death of His own Son.

1. God's omniscience and foreknowledge made Him aware of the need of a Savior for fallen man, but that does not argue that He decreed either the fall or the Cross.

NOTE: The Encarta World English Dictionary defines a decree as "to make an official order, pronouncement, or legal ruling to effect something." Nowhere in Scripture do we have a statement about "the decree of God" – in fact the only New Testament reference to the word decree relates to the decree of Caesar *"that all the world should be taxed."*

2. Calvinists ignore the fact that in the Bible election and predestination are based on the foreknowledge of God.

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

Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

3. Calvinists (A.W. Pink, et al.) make the word "foreknowledge" mean "foreordination." If you notice, the two words are even spelled differently!

QUOTE: Vance (Non Calvinist): "If God foreknew the crucifixion of His Son only because He had decreed it, with no foreknowledge at all involved then you have the ghastly, draconian thought that God decreed the death of His Son and then created man so he could fall so Christ would have the stage set for His crucifixion... If the Jews addressed in the book of Acts were simply carrying out God's decree then they wouldn't be declared responsible...they would be declared OBEDIENT."

Luke 22:22: And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed!

NOTE: Although Christ had to be crucified, no one man was foreordained to do it. Jesus said of Judas: 'Good were it for that man if he had never been born.' If Judas had not been born someone else would have done it. Paul says the same thing of Pilate and Herod: "*Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*" So Judas, Pilate and Herod were not sovereignly ordained before the foundation of the world to crucify the Savior because of any supposed "decree" of God.

There is not one word in the Bible that teaches or suggests that God "elects" (chooses) anyone to be lost and condemned to hell forever or anyone to be saved and to go to heaven forever. God only permits those who choose Him ("whosoever will") to go to heaven and to permit those who refuse to choose Him (unbelief) to go to hell.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

4. The Calvinists major argument against man choosing to believe and receive God's gift of eternal life is that he is "*dead in trespasses and sins*" Eph. 2:1

QUOTE: John MacArthur (Calvinist in denial): "(Unbelievers are) no more able to respond to God than a Cadaver (and) are incapable of any spiritual activity...How can a person who is dead in sin, blinded by Satan, unable to understand the things of God, and continuously filled with evil suddenly exercise saving faith? A corpse could no sooner come out of a grave and walk."

- a. However, God ignores the Calvinists and continually gives invitations to "dead" sinners to respond by believing and receiving Him!

QUOTE: Laurence Vance (Non Calvinist) responds: "...if you make an exact parallel between a physically dead man and a spiritually dead man...then you likewise have to say...(if) he can't accept Christ because he is dead then he can't reject Christ either. A (physically) dead man cannot believe on Jesus Christ but a (spiritually) dead man can."

K. Apparently even Calvinists are confused about who are and who are not "elect."

1. No Calvinist can be sure whether or not he is one of God's elect.
2. However, those Reformed Calvinists believe that water baptism has something to do with election.
 - a. Calvin believed that infant baptism was of such value that it transformed an infant into one of the elect.
 - b. Actually Calvin taught that to be baptized at any age, even by the most wicked Roman Catholic priest placed you into the kingdom of God, if you thereafter believed in the efficacy of that "sacrament." (*That is a tough pill to swallow if you are a Baptist or non-Reformed "Christian."*)

QUOTE: John Calvin (the Augustinian Calvinist): "God in baptism promises the remission of sins, and will undoubtedly perform what He has promised to all believers. That promise was offered to us in baptism, let us therefore embrace it in faith."

- c. Calvin further taught that even the children of believers, though not baptized automatically became "elect." (!)

QUOTE: John Calvin (the Catholic Calvinist): "Children who happen to depart this life before an opportunity of immersing (?) them in water are not excluded from the kingdom of heaven...Hence it follows, that the children of believers are not baptized in order that though formerly aliens from the Church, they may then, for the first time, become children of God, but rather are received into the Church by a formal sign, because, in virtue of the promise, they previously belonged to the body of Christ." (emphasis mine)

QUESTION: For the third time in this study I ask, what are proclaimed believers or Baptists, etc. doing identifying themselves with the arch-heretic John Calvin?! "*Depart, I pray you from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in their sins.*" Numbers 16;26

III. THE LIMITED SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT FOR CALVINISM'S LIMITED ATONEMENT:
(Petal #3 in the Calvinist's TULIP garden)



NOTE: We now come to the very heart and middle doctrine of the 5 TULIP petals. Aside from the damnable doctrine of reprobation (i.e., that God has elected some to go to hell), Limited Atonement (sometimes called "Particular Redemption") is the most objectionable part of TULIPISM.

A. The Doctrine of Limited Atonement teaches that Christ died only for the "elect".

QUOTE: (Calvinist) "The doctrine of 'limited atonement' which we maintain is the doctrine which limits the atonement to those who are heirs of eternal life, the elect."

B. If the Doctrine of Reprobation is true, that certain men are elected to hell, then it doesn't matter if Christ died for them or not.

C. The Calvinist says that John 3:16 and the many other verses which give universal invitations to receive Christ and be saved and that Christ died for the world are not to be taken at face value; that "all" doesn't mean all without exception and "the world" doesn't mean everyone in the world.

ILLUS.: Let's hear from the TULIP growers again: "It will be seen at once that this doctrine necessarily follows from the doctrine of election...These two doctrines must stand or fall together. We cannot logically accept one and reject the other." "We cannot afford to give up this point. We cannot afford even to be weak or confused on this point. Give up this point, and we have lost the battle on the sovereignty of God in salvation." *(Yes. You are a bunch of losers! – P.F.)*

1. If Christ died a thousand deaths for the "non-elect" they would still go to hell, according to the TULIP gardeners!
2. It is totally impossible to reconcile this heinous doctrine with evangelism, prayer for the lost and responsibility.

ILLUS.: The favorite passage of Scripture used by TULIP sniffers is found in Romans 9, re: "*Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated...*" But in comparing Scripture with Scripture we find a key which unlocks the puzzle. The Old Testament passage being quoted by Paul in Romans is Genesis 25:22,23.

Genesis 25:22-23 *And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to inquire of the LORD. 23) And the LORD said unto her, TWO NATIONS are in thy womb, and TWO MANNER OF PEOPLE shall be separated from thy bowels: and the ONE PEOPLE shall be stronger than the OTHER PEOPLE; and the elder shall serve the younger.*

Malachi 1:1-4 *The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi. 2 I have loved you, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith*

the Lord: yet I loved Jacob, 3 And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness. 4 Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the Lord of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the Lord hath indignation for ever.

Malachi 3:6 *For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

Clearly, Esau is Edom and Jacob is Israel. Thus it becomes obvious that the **Romans 9** passage has nothing to do with Unconditional Election of individuals to salvation and reprobation, but a national election of people. Even Calvin admitted that it is the posterity of Jacob and Esau in view.

QUOTE: Dick Stanford (Non Calvinist): " 'Jacob have I loved and Esau have I hated.' Now it does not say 'Jacob have I saved and said that he can go to heaven and Esau have I lost and said he can't go to heaven.' That is not what God is saying...(but) I told you that I'm going to work through Jacob and that I haven't chosen to work through Esau...' the blessing is not going to come through Esau...the children of Esau are not going to lead to the Messiah: it's the children of Jacob that are going to lead up to the Messiah....Circle that word "serve." It's not saying, 'The elder shall be saved and the younger shall not be.' Never mix the scripture that is talking about *service* with scripture that is talking about *salvation*...Service includes works that are rewarded. Salvation is grace apart from works."

3. Another favorite passage of the TULIP cultivators is **John 15:16**.

John 15:16 *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*

4. It is obvious that fruit bearing, not salvation, is in view.

5. The words "chosen" and "ordained" have no bearing on a person's salvation in this passage.

Matthew 22:14 *For many are called, but few are chosen.*

NOTE: Every time a Calvinist quotes this and other passages he adds the word "salvation" to the text, but in the text the ones chosen are chosen because they accepted the invitation. And the supposed election comes after the assumed calling to salvation just like it does in **II Peter 1:10**.

II Peter 1:10 *Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall...*

6. The choosing or election has nothing to do with salvation but with our position in Christ!

Ephesians 1:3-4 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4) According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

Ephesians 2:6 *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

7. Once you get "in Christ" you get in on the choosing; the Calvinists assume the verse is dealing with getting "in Christ".

QUOTE: Laurence Vance (Non Calvinist) "The prime point is that the election of the church is a corporate rather than an individual thing. It is not that individuals are in the church because they are elect, it is rather that they are elect because they are in the church..."

C. But let's get to God's Word regarding this supposed "Limited Atonement" where there is no hint that Christ died only for certain pre-chosen or "elect" individuals, but rather that God's Word both teaches and implies that His redemption is available to "whosoever."

Colossians 1:14: *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

I Timothy 2:6: *Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*

Ephesians 1:7: *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

John 1:29: *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

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

I John 4:10: *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

John 3:16: *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.*

Colossians 1:20-21: *And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. 21) And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.*

II Cor. 5:18-19: *And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*

1. Calvinists confound the provision of a Savior with the application of salvation.
2. If Christ did not die for certain men they cannot be condemned for unbelief; they cannot reject what does not exist for them.

QUESTION: Does it become the wisdom and goodness of God to elect a man to hell before his birth, give him Total Inability to respond to the command to repent, then damn him to hell forever for not believing on Jesus Christ, Who never died for him in the first place? God forbid!

Romans 5:6: *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*

1 Peter 3:18: For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Luke 19:10: For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

NOTE: The Word of God is not bound by the speculations of scholars nor the imaginations of theologians! The problem with the Calvinists is that they have apparently sniffed too many TULIPS!

- D. Limited Atonement is the one TULIP petal which even those Calvinists who subscribe to all five points find the most difficult to sniff. (*Some have called it "the Achilles Heel of Calvinism."*)**
- 1. Spurgeon (professed Calvinist) rejected it as heresy!**
 - 2. Nowhere in Scripture is it even hinted that Christ only died for an elect few.**
 - 3. Hodges (a Calvinist) recognizes that the God of Limited Atonement "is hardly the God of love who we meet in the Bible." AMEN!**
- E. When held up against the hundreds of verses in the Bible that offer salvation for all men, for Christ died for all men, not just the "elect" of Calvinistic dreams (or nightmares), this petal of Calvin's TULIP fades completely away!**

IV. THE IRRESPONSIBLE THEOLOGY OF CALVINISM'S IRRESISTIBLE GRACE: *(Petal #4 in the Calvinist's TULIP garden)*



NOTE: "Irresistible Grace" simply means that men have no part at all in their salvation, that they are "irresistibly drawn" to Christ by God's "sovereign grace". It means that once the Holy Spirit begins to "draw" men to Christ, they cannot resist Him. It as if God created robots or puppets! Much like the other three points of Calvinism, the word "irresistible" doesn't even appear in the Bible and to impose something on someone is the very antithesis of grace!

(The term "sovereign grace is a favorite of Calvinists. They even name their churches "Sovereign Grace [Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist], etc. Church." The term is designed to make someone believe that only Calvinists believe that God is sovereign or that non-Calvinists believe that God is not a God of wonderful grace!)

The idea that man has no free will is related to the erroneous premise that all his actions were foreordained from eternity.

Martin Luther in his book "The Bondage of the Will" which he referred to as his best, claimed that free will was a 'downright lie' and that only God has free will. Palmer insists that neither the Christian nor God has any free will. Clark states that "There are no verses in the Bible that assert free will." (*There are if you can read!*)

Leviticus 22:23: *Either a bullock or a lamb that hath any thing superfluous or lacking in his parts, that mayest thou offer for a freewill offering; but for a vow it shall not be accepted. (Sacrifice)*

Judges 5:2: *Praise ye the LORD for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves. (Service)*

II Corinthians 9:7: *Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. (Giving)*

John 15:7: *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. (Prayer)*

I Corinthians 9:17: *For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me. (Preaching)*

NOTE: Some Calvinists, when faced with this Biblical evidence, retreat and admit that man has *some freedom of choice, but not regarding salvation.*

John 1:12-13: *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13) Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (The new birth is not man's will, but the receiving of Christ is.)*

A. There are terms and conditions regarding salvation. (Man must believe and receive.)

Isaiah 1:18: *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

Jeremiah 29:13: *And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

QUOTE: Laurence Vance (Non-Calvinist): "If a man can't respond then God is simply mocking him when He commands him to repent."

Mark 1:15: *And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*

Acts 17:30: *And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:*

B. Calvinists cannot even read John 3:16, which a child has no trouble understanding, without twisting the word "world" to fit their TULIP heresy.

QUOTE: Dave Hunt (Non-Calvinist) "Calvin himself, in his commentary on John 3:16 stated that 'world' included 'all men without exception.' Luther also said it meant 'the entire human race.' But White, realizing that such an admission does away with Limited Atonement, manages a desperate end run around John 3:16. He suggests that sound

exegesis requires 'that whosoever believeth on him should not perish' actually means 'in order that everyone believing in him should not perish...'

C. Not being overcome with Irresistible Grace is never the reason for men not being saved.

John 5:40: *And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.*

1. The Calvinist (B. Warfield) says that "whosoever God wills may come".
2. But God says "whosoever will may come".
3. The Calvinist says that man cannot resist the Holy Spirit's ministry, but the Bible says otherwise.

Acts 7:51: *Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.*

John 5:40: *And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.*

ILLUS.: Let's listen to more TULIP tripe as the Calvinists speak: "A man is not saved because he believes in Christ; he believes in Christ because he is saved."

John 8:24: *I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*

NOTE: The problem is with man's sin, not God's willingness to apply Irresistible Grace only to the "elect".

Is. 59:1-2: *Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2) But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

NOTES & QUOTES: Some TULIP cultivators realize the implication of their doctrines: "If election guarantees the salvation of all that are predestinated to be saved, why should we be bothered with evangelism, personal or missionary? What possible difference can it make whether we speak to men or not?" (!) (*Spurgeon, the avowed Calvinist, preached a "whosoever will" Gospel of God's grace, just as the Bible tells us we must.*)

"No man elected to salvation could possibly die or be killed unsaved."

"Not one of the elect can perish, but they must all necessarily be saved."

"Should sovereign grace preachers use the invitation system? I believe not. As I see it, grace preachers calling on sinners to walk an aisle to accept Christ are contradicting their theology with Arminian practice."

Yet A.W. Pink (die-hard Calvinist) admits that "the elect are usually to be found where the ministers of Christ labor much." !!!!!!!

Rom. 1:16: *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

I Cor. 1:21: *For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*

5. Once again the Calvinist is forced to *read into* the Scriptures their doctrines rather than to *glean from* the Scriptures what God has said.

NOTE: John Wesley (founder of the Methodist denomination, though represented as an Arminian) speaking of this hideous TULIP petal says: "A doctrine full of blasphemy, representing our Lord as a hypocrite, a deceiver of the people, a man void of common sincerity, as mocking His helpless creatures by offering what He never intends to give, by saying one thing and meaning another. It destroys all the attributes of God, His justice, mercy and truth, yea, it represents the most Holy God as worse than the devil, as both more false, more cruel and more unjust." (*Way to go, brother Wesley!*)

V. THE POVERTY OF BIBLE SCHOLARSHIP AS SEEN IN CALVINISM'S
PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS:
(Petal #5 in the Calvinist's TULIP garden)



NOTE: The last fading petal in TULIP theology is often confused with the doctrine of eternal security, but there is no connection whatsoever. A believer's security does not depend upon his perseverance!

A. Perseverance in Holiness:

1. This TULIP petal teaches that REAL Christians, those irresistibly drawn and unconditionally elected and included in Christ's limited atonement, will "persevere in holiness" till the end of their lives or will return to the faith before they die. (*Chapter and verse? Of course not!*)

QUOTES: (Calvinist) "Falling away from the Faith, doesn't mean that one loses his salvation it means that one never had any salvation from the beginning."

A.W. Pink (Rabid Calvinist): "There is a deadly and damnable heresy being widely propagated today to the effect that, if a sinner truly accepts Christ as his personal Savior, no matter how he lives afterwards, he cannot perish. That is a Satanic lie...SOMETHING MORE THAN BELIEVING in Christ is necessary to ensure the soul's reaching heaven."

2. The Calvinist lists several sins, which according to him, will send a person to hell.

- a. Not loving his neighbor.

- b. Racism.
- c. An unforgiving spirit.

NOTE: Shades of Arminianism!!! (Is a Calvinist really a closet Arminian?!?!)

3. One "Calminian" lists 7 principles to determine perseverance:

- a. Earnestly believing on Jesus Christ.
- b. Keeping His commandments.
- c. Walking after Christ's example.
- d. Not loving the world.
- e. Habitually practicing righteousness.
- f. Love for the brethren.
- g. Consciousness of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

NOTES & QUOTES: After listing the above, Shanks (Calvinist) adds: "Objectively, the elect will persevere and they who persevere are elect. Subjectively, the individual is elect **ONLY AS HE PERSEVERES.**"

The Calvinistic heresy has recently surfaced among modern Fundamentalists and Evangelicals under the synonym of *Lordship Salvation*, championed by closet Calvinist, Dr. John MacArthur. MacArthur boldly asserts that Lordship salvation "is the traditional view of salvation" (*Calvinistic tradition that is.*) He further states "There is no salvation except Lordship Salvation." To add insult to injury he then proclaims "Those who deny Christ as Lord are damned." (*Someone forgot to tell the Apostle Paul that there were no such things as carnal believers, I guess. Woe is me! I have always thought that the Judgment Seat of Christ was where the rewards were passed out or where those who didn't make Christ Lord would suffer loss. Instead it all happens at the Judgment Seat of MacArthur! How stupid of me. – P.F.*)

A.W. Pink (Calvinist) "The Gospel calls upon us to obey, to surrender ourselves fully to the Lordship of Christ, to take His yoke upon us, to walk even as He walked." (*To walk as He walked?! "Who did no sin..." Sinless Perfection!!!*) But the Bible says: "*But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.*"

The Lordship Salvation crowd's favorite little ditty says: "If Christ isn't Lord of all, He is not Lord at all. In other words if you don't live for Christ 100% you are not even saved. (*Chapter and verse – don't be ridiculous!*) The Bible doesn't say "I know whom I have believed and I am able to keep that which was committed unto me until that day..." No, it says "He is able!" The Bible doesn't say "Unto me that is able..." but "unto Him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen"

- 4. There is a difference between a believer and a disciple!
- 5. The Bible teaches that a person can be a carnal Christian.

1 Corinthians 3:1 *And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.*

6. The Perseverance Petal dies, for no one WILL or CAN ever persevere in the absolute holiness which God requires.

7. There is a vast difference between the Perseverance of the Saints and the Preservation of God! *(NOTE: The words are even spelled differently. Of course if you can't read the plain English of a King James Bible, I guess spelling doesn't matter anyhow.)*

1 Thes. 5:23: *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

II Tim. 4:18: *And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

Jude 1: *Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:*

8. Our preservation depends on the faithfulness of Christ, not upon our perseverance.

QUOTES: Van Baren (Calvinist TULIP sniffer) "The five points of Calvinism are closely related. One point presupposes the others...Deny perseverance and preservation, and election means nothing. Or reverse it: deny election and perseverance has no meaning."

(NOW HEAR THIS!) Mason (Calvinist TULIP gardener): *"If predestination and election are not so, what else? The answer is, THEN WE DON'T KNOW HOW EVERYTHING IS GOING TO TURN OUT IN THE END! MAYBE SATAN WILL DEFEAT GOD AND FINALLY WIN OUT!"* (WOW! That's enough to make a believer an unbeliever! If we didn't believe in eternal security, that is.)

1 John 3:2: *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

CONCLUSION: TULIPS, like most flowers, quickly fade. And the TULIP that is Calvinism rapidly fades in the light of Scripture. In fact when doused with a liberal mixture of Scripture and simple logic the TULIP of Calvinism dies!



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But please hurry before my death or the rapture!

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