

Christ vs Calvinism

- False Foundation
- Safety Rope of Christ
- False Doctrine (TULIP)

If the Lord wills, this morning, we'll be discussing the subject of "**Christ vs Calvinism**".

The Bible says in [Rom.2:11](#), that...

- "...there is **NO** respect of persons with God."

If this one verse is true, Calvinism is false!

A. The difference between Truth & false doctrine, Matters!

Christ warned us

- "Beware of **FALSE** prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." ([Matt.7:15](#))

Paul warned us...

- He said, "**PROVE** all things; hold fast that which is good." ([1Thess.5:21](#))

In other words, Paul is urging us to examine the Biblical evidence,

- We want to SEARCH, "...the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." ([Acts 17:11](#))
- "that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;" ([Eph.4:14](#))

John warned us.

- He said, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." ([1Jn.4:1](#))
- "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God, heareth not us. Hereby **KNOW** we, the spirit of **TRUTH**, and the spirit of **ERROR**." ([1Jn.4:6](#))

B. Calvinism is rooted in human theories & traditions.

History tells us that a man by the name of,

- **Aurelius Augustine** (who lived between AD 354 - 430), gave theories on God's sovereignty, original or inherited sin, & predestination.

Much later,

- **John Calvin** (who lived between AD 1509 - 1564), organized theories of Augustine as a theological system, in his four volumes entitled, "**Institutes of the Christian Religion**" (dated 1536).

These **FALSE** theories had a Great impact on many religious bodies:

- Such as the, Reformed & Evangelical churches, Presbyterian churches, Puritans in the Anglican Church, Congregationalist churches, Baptist churches;
- Believe it or not, these **FALSE** theories, still have a wide influence today, often in diluted form; For example, some reject personal predestination & limited atonement, but still teach eternal security.

We should all be concerned about these FALSE theories, teachings and practices, because...

C. Calvinism is Contrary to the Original Teaching of Christ.

The Bible informs us, that All Truth was revealed in the first century.

- Jesus said, “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.
¹³ Howbeit when He, the Spirit of Truth, is come, He will guide you into ALL Truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come.” ([Jn.16:12-13](#))

Calvinism **DEPART** from & **CONTRADICTS** Christ.

- Paul said, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times, some shall **DEPART** from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;” ([1Tim.4:1](#))

We must choose, between Christ & Calvinism, so let us study the contrast.

We’ll begin this study, by considering,

I. Calvinism’s False Foundation

...which has a,

A. False Theory of God’s Sovereignty

Sovereignty is the state of being sovereign, which is to be “above or superior to all others; chief; greatest; supreme.”

It is **TRUE** that God is **Sovereign**, as the Bible says,

- “The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, And His **SOVEREIGNTY** rules over all.” ([Psa.103:19](#) NASB).
- God, “Who is the blessed and only **SOVEREIGN**, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.” ([1Tim.6:15-16](#) NASB).”
- “O the **DEPTH** of the riches, both of the **WISDOM** and **KNOWLEDGE** of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! ³⁴ For who hath known the Mind of the Lord? or who hath been His counsellor? ³⁵ Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? ³⁶ For **OF** Him, and **THROUGH** Him, and **TO** Him, are **ALL** things: to **Whom** be **GLORY** for ever. Amen.” ([Rom.11:33-36](#))

Calvinism put’s a spin on the word “sovereign” that assumes that God had to pre-program and predetermine everything — every thought, every action, every event, to the minutest detail. Of course, this theological assumption is not inherent in the word at all, and the teaching of Calvinism, cannot reconcile “sovereignty” with “human responsibility.” (Gene Frost)

The idea that God’s Sovereign includes Calvinism, is **FALSE!**

- The Bible says, “how that by revelation, He made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few **WORDS**, ⁴ whereby, when ye **READ**, ye may **UNDERSTAND** My **KNOWLEDGE** in the mystery of Christ)” ([Eph.3:3-4](#))

Now that God has shared His knowledge, which can be understood when it is read, We all have a responsibility to DO what God says;

- “Anyone who goes too far and does **NOT** remain **IN** the **Teaching OF Christ**, does **NOT** have God; the one who remains in the teaching, has both the Father and the Son.” ([2Jn.vs.9](#) NASB)

Calvinism's False Foundation, includes a,

B. False Theory of Original Sin

- It is **TRUE**, that Adam & Eve committed the first sin;
- But it is **FALSE**, that Adam's body was corrupted by sin, and therefore all men inherit his sin & corrupted flesh;
- It is also **FALSE**, THAT Adam's sin was imputed to all men.

Calvinism's False Foundation, includes a,

C. False Theory of Predestination

It is **TRUE**, that God prepared a plan, to save men, through Christ,

- As the Bible says, "having predestinated us, unto the adoption of children, by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will," ([Eph.1:5](#))

...But it is **FALSE**, that God predestined each person to be saved or lost, without a choice.

We need to consider the,

II. Safety Rope of Christ

A. The Sovereign God, is "No Respector of Persons"

God **ALLOWS** any man, to **CHOOSE** to serve Him.

- "Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a Truth, I perceive that God is **NO** respector of persons: ³⁵ but in every nation, he that **FEARETH** Him, and **WORKETH** righteousness, is **ACCEPTED** with Him." ([Acts 10:34-35](#))
- "And He commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify, that it is He, which was ordained of God, to be the Judge of quick and dead. ⁴³ To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His Name, whosoever believeth **IN** Him, shall **RECEIVE** remission of sins." ([Acts 10:42-43](#))

God judges impartially, not by a hidden agenda of prejudgment, showing favoritism.

- God, "will **RENDER** to every man according to his **DEEDS**:

⁷ to them who by patient continuance in **WELL DOING**, seek for glory and honour and immortality, Eternal **LIFE**:

⁸ but unto them that are contentious, and Do **NOT** Obey the Truth, but Obey UNrighteousness, indignation and wrath, ⁹ tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man, that **DOETH EVIL**, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

¹⁰ but glory, honour, and peace, to every man that **WORKETH GOOD**, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: ¹¹ for there is **NO** respect of persons with God." ([Rom.2:6-11](#))

B. This Key Truth, Utterly Contradicts Calvinism's Doctrinal System

- If God is no respector of persons, Calvinism cannot be true!
- If Calvinism is true, God would then BE a respector of persons, making God's Word false!

Consider with me, the...

III. **False Doctrine of Calvinism**

...Through the acronym: TULIP...

A. T-U-L-I-P, which is representative of Calvinism's Five **False** Doctrines

- **T:** Stands for "Total Hereditary Depravity", in which it is **falsely** taught that infants are born totally corrupt, depraved, and unable ever, to love or obey God.
- **U:** Stands for "Unconditional Election", in which it is **falsely** taught that, God chose each person, to be saved or lost, from eternity.
- **L:** Stands for "Limited Atonement", in which it is **falsely** taught that, Christ died, ONLY for the elect.
- **I:** Stands for "Irresistible Grace", in which it is **falsely** taught that, the elect canNOT resist, saving grace.
- **P:** Stands for "Perseverance of the saints", in which it is **falsely** taught that, the elect canNOT fall, from grace.

As we said,

B. **Total Hereditary Depravity**

is the false idea, that infants are born totally corrupt, depraved, unable ever, to love or obey God.

In contrast, The Bible teaches that it is **IMPOSSIBLE** to inherit sin.

- "The soul that sinneth, it shall **DIE**. The son shall **NOT** bear the iniquity (or sin) of the father, **NEITHER** shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous, shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked, shall be upon him." ([Ezek.18:20](#))

Men are "GONE out of the way," "BECOME unprofitable," NOT born in sin.

- "What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before **PROVED** both Jews and Gentiles, that they are **ALL under SIN**; ¹⁰ as it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ¹¹ there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. ¹² They are all **GONE** out of the way, they are together **BECOME** unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." ([Rom.3:9-12](#))
- "for **ALL** have **SINNED**, and come SHORT of the glory of God;" ([Rom.3:23](#))

The False Theory of "Total Hereditary Depravity", makes God a respecter of persons, which contradicts Bible teaching in [Rom.2:11](#).

Earlier, we mentioned,

C. Unconditional Election

is the false idea, that God chose each person, to be saved or lost, from eternity.

Such an idea, contradicts Biblical teaching, that Christ offers rest to ALL of mankind!

- Jesus said, “**COME** unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will **GIVE** you rest.²⁹ **TAKE** My yoke upon you, and **LEARN** of Me; for I am meek and lowly in **HEART**: and ye shall **FIND** rest unto your **SOULS**.³⁰ For My yoke is **EASY**, and My burden is **LIGHT**.” ([Matt.11:28-30](#))

God invites all men to repent!

- “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**.” ([2Pet.3:9](#))

Whosoever will, may come!

- “the Spirit and the bride say, **COME**. And let him that **HEARETH** say, Come. And let him that is **ATHIRST** come. And whosoever **WILL**, let him **TAKE** the water of **LIFE** freely.” ([Rev.22:17](#))

The False theory of “Unconditional Election”, makes God a respecter of persons, which contradicts Bible teaching in [Rom.2:11](#).

Representative of the Five False Doctrines of Calvinism, we have the acronym "T-U-L-I-P". The letter “L” stands for,

D. Limited Atonement

Which is the FALSE idea, that Christ died ONLY, for the elect.

In Contrast, The Bible says,

- “For **God so loved the world**, (not just a select few) that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth **IN** Him, should **NOT** perish, but **HAVE** Everlasting **LIFE**.” ([Jn.3:16](#))

In the Bible, the word “Believe”, always carried with it, those who are,

- “**DOERS** of the Word, and **NOT** hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” ([Jas.1:22](#))
- “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also **BELIEVE**, and tremble.” ([Jas.2:19](#))

Regarding the FALSE idea of “Limited Atonement”...

The Bible says that Christ,

- “Who will have **ALL** men to be **SAVED**, and to **COME** unto the knowledge of the **TRUTH**.⁵ For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;⁶ Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.” ([1Tim.2:4-6](#))

The Bible teaches that Christ died for the whole world, not just for a limited few!

- [1Jn.2:1-2](#) reads, “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin **NOT**. And **IF** any man sin, we **HAVE** an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:² and He is the propitiation for **OUR** sins: and **NOT** for ours **ONLY**, but also for the sins of the **WHOLE** world.” ([1Jn.2:1-2](#))

The False Theory of “Limited Atonement”, makes God a respecter of persons, which contradicts Bible teaching in [Rom.2:11](#).

In the acronym "T-U-L-I-P", The letter "i" stands for,

E. Irresistible Grace

Which is the false idea, that the elect cannot resist saving grace.

This false teaching claims, that the elect cannot resist God's saving grace, because He decreed them to be saved.

The "Irresistible Grace" theory, destroys man's **FREE will** & **moral CHOICE**.

God has always allowed mankind the ability to CHOOSE, between SUBMIT or RESIST.

- Joshua said long ago, "if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, **CHOOSE you this day whom ye will SERVE**; whether the gods which your fathers served, that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, **we will SERVE the Lord.**" ([Josh.24:15](#))

The Sovereign God offers grace, but man CAN accept OR reject.

Peter just preached to the Jews who killed the Son of God, and the Biblical records says,

- "Now when they **HEARD** this, they were pricked in their **HEART**, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, **what shall we DO?**
³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, **REPENT, and Be BAPTIZED every one of you** (not just a select few), **IN the Name** of Jesus Christ (that is, by His Authority), **FOR the REMISSION** of sins, and ye shall receive the **GIFT** of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹ For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. (don't forget, 2Thess.2:14 says we are called by the gospel)

⁴⁰ And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, **Save yourselves from this untoward generation.**" ([Acts 2:37-40](#))

Men **CAN** resist by free will, and judge themselves unworthy.

- The Bible says, "Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the Word of God, should first have been spoken to you: but seeing **ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life**, lo, we turn to the Gentiles." ([Acts 13:46](#))

Men CAN resist God's grace.

- Paul urged, "that ye receive **NOT the GRACE of God IN VAIN**.
² (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)" ([2Cor.6:1-2](#))

The False Theory of "Irresistible Grace", makes God a respecter of persons (Rom.2:11):

- It will not allow the elect, to **CHOOSE** to resist grace.
- It will not allow a reprobate, to **CHOOSE** to accept grace.

In the acronym "T-U-L-I-P", The final letter "P" stands for,

F. Perseverance of the Saints

Which is the FALSE idea, that the elect cannot fall from grace.

It is the FALSE claim, that the elect cannot fall from grace & be eternally lost: once saved, always saved.

Believers have eternal life, by promise & hope (1Jn.2:25; Tit.1:2);

...but not IF we "go away". We must continue to **FOLLOW** His Word, to **RECEIVE** the Promise.

- Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth ON Me, hath Everlasting LIFE.**" ([Jn.6:47](#))
- "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.
⁶⁷ Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? ⁶⁸ Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? **Thou hast the Words of Eternal LIFE.**
⁶⁹ And we believe and are sure, that Thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." ([Jn.6:66-69](#))

One must Follow the Word of God, in order to be recipients of Eternal LIFE.

The Biblical records says, that there were some who fell from grace.

- "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law (that is the Law of Moses); **ye are Fallen from Grace.**" ([Gal.5:4](#))

Believers **CAN** become **UN**believers & be **LOST**.

It is this very reason, that the Hebrew writer said,

- "Take **HEED**, brethren, lest there be in any of you, **an evil heart of UNbelief, in DEPARTING from the living God.**
¹³ But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be **HARDENED** through the deceitfulness of SIN." ([Heb.3:12-13](#))

The Bible says, that the "latter end" of returning to sin, is worse.

- "For **IF after** they have **ESCAPED** the pollutions of the **WORLD** (that is, sin) through the **KNOWLEDGE** of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (which is the gospel), they are again **ENTANGLED** therein, and **OVERCOME** (by pollutions of the world, or sin), the latter end is **WORSE** with them, than the beginning." ([2Pet.2:20](#))

The False Theory of "Perseverance of the Saints", makes God a respecter of persons (Rom.2:11):

- It will not let the elect, **CHOOSE** to be lost.
- And It will not let the reprobate, **CHOOSE** to be saved.

IV. IN-CLOSING

The difference between truth & false doctrine, really does matter!

We must **CHOOSE** Christ, over Calvinism, or any other false teaching.

Christ **DENIED** Calvinism, in the Great Commission to the apostles.

- "He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
¹⁶ He that **BELIEVETH** and is **BAPTIZED** shall be **SAVED**;
but he that believeth **NOT** shall be **DAMNED.**" ([Mk.16:15-16](#))

The Lord invites those with a spiritual **NEED**, to **COME** without delay,
While together we stand and sing.

Source: Sermon Outline by Ron Halbrook
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