

## "CALVINISM EXPOSED"

**OVERVIEW:** Classical "Calvinism" is a system of core beliefs that ignore and distort some key truths of Scripture. Strong on faulty "interpretation" (what does it mean), but weak on careful "observation" (what does it say), thus arriving at an incorrect "application" (what does it mean to me). Wrong on "sovereignty" (God ordains everything), and wrong on "salvation" (God limits redemption). Calvinism leaves us (T) *incapable*, (U) *insignificant*, (L) *irrational*, (I) *ignorant*, & (P) *insecure*.

### **GENERAL POSITIONS: T.U.L.I.P. and false speculations...**

**Total Depravity** - *All men are spiritually dead, unable to respond in any way to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Some believe that man has a "free will", but only to choose to reject Christ.*

**Unconditional Election** - *All men are strictly divided (being pre-determined), unable to alter their eternal course. God elects to save some, and thus allows the rest to go to hell.*

**Limited Atonement** - *Some men are specially rejected (being passed over), unable to receive payment for sin. Jesus Christ only died for the elect and not for anyone else.*

**Irresistible Grace** - *Some men are specially chosen (being made willing to believe), unable to resist God's call to believe. Salvation is not an option, "grace" is forced on the elect.*

**Perseverance of the Saints** - *The "elect" are self-secured (being proven by works), unable to lose their "election". Performance is now expected to prove and keep one's salvation.*

### **SPECIFIC PROBLEMS: T.U.L.I.P. and Biblical misrepresentations...**

**Total Depravity** - *Calvinists believe that all men are unable to mentally repent or believe.*

Unsaved men are like corpses, completely lacking the ability to receive Jesus Christ.

Salvation is incapable by all - God must first provide regeneration and repentance.

But this view denies an **unbeliever's** conviction of sin (John 16:8-11), personal suppression of the truth (Romans 1:18), and the need for Satan to blind their minds (2 Corinthians 4:1-4).

**Unconditional Election** - *Calvinists believe that God predetermined everyone's destiny.*

Almighty God is like a dictator, only showing mercy and love to a pre-selected people.

Salvation is unchangeable by all - God decrees to save some, thus condemning others.

But this view denies that the "**elect**" can be lost (*Israel* - Deut.7:6/Rom.9:27; *Judas* - John 17:12), and "**whoever** believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

**Limited Atonement** - *Calvinists believe that Christ only died for the "elect".*

Almighty God is like a guard, making sure that the "non-elect" stay under condemnation.

Salvation is unavailable to some - Jesus did not make propitiation for the "non-elect".

But this view denies that "**propitiation**" for sins was made for the whole world (1 John 2:2) and that "the Lamb of God...takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29; see 1 Timothy 2:4).

**Irresistible Grace** - *Calvinists believe that the "elect" are regenerated before salvation.*

The "elect" are like robots, who are predestined and controlled to become children of God.

Salvation is unavoidable for some - because God simply "appoints" them to eternal life.

But this view denies that "**salvation**" is "the gift of God", not a requirement (Romans 6:23), it is freely offered to men (Matthew 11:28), and clearly refused by Israel (Matthew 23:37-39).

**Perseverance of the Saints** - *Calvinists believe that salvation is contingent upon obedience.*

The "elect" are like machines, responsible to perform and prove that they are predestined.

Salvation is achievable by the "elect" - God assures the "elect" through their good works.

But this view denies the "**promises**" of God - security from Christ Himself (John 5:24), the Spirit's testimony (Romans 8:14-16), and from a believer's internal witness (1 John 5:10-13).