

## Free Will

Unfortunately, there is much confusion and discussion these days in the Christian denominations on the doctrine of Free Will.

One would certainly expect to hear arguments like this between atheistic scientists and those scientists who are theistic. Atheistic scientists not only believe there is no God, they believe in macro evolution which cannot produce a mind. They, therefore, are consistent in believing that human beings do not have a mind. Most Darwinian evolution scientists are atheists, some say they are not. The atheistic Darwinian evolution scientists believe that every living creature was, by natural selection (through random genetic mutations, in other words, chance over hundreds of millions of years) created from a single common ancestor.

If one does not have a mind, does one, or rather, could one, actually have a free will? Darwinian evolution scientists teach that everything one would attribute to a mind would simply be a product of the brain. Instead of a will to do something or not, one would simply dance to their DNA.

We will not be arguing Intelligent Design versus Darwinian (macro) evolution in this tool, as tempting as that may be. We point this out because poorly taught younger believers who go to college are being taught by atheists that they do not have a free will.

Intelligent design proponents teach that there is intelligence behind creation, as evidenced by all of the types of specified complexities one observes through the various disciplines which fall under the science disciplines, especially complexities found in the micro machinery that construct every body phyla (groups). This machinery is found in a single cell. Atheistic scientists will actually admit the appearance of design, and then claim it to be by chance (natural selection).

Intelligent design teaches that when there is intelligence or information, there has to be a mind behind it as the best explanation. These proponents, if not reformed or Calvinistic, believe that mankind possesses free will. Unfortunately, this teaching is not presently being allowed by the colleges and governments who control the public schools within the United States.

Our tool is very narrowly tailored for whether Almighty God created mankind with the free will ability to make a choice, whether it conforms with the will of our sovereign God or whether it runs contrary to His will. Our standard is the Word of God, not the imagination of the atheists or their institutions.

The rising level of confusion about free will falls squarely on the backs of people who claim to be elders and Bible teachers within the body of Christ.

They are supposed to be teaching believers the whole counsel of God, as Paul aptly said of his own teaching in Acts 20, which is not happening by all accounts. Because of their aversion, in most cases, to teaching doctrines from the Word of God, the environs of Christianity beg the question:

Is there such a thing as "free will"? More and more Christians say no.

We are not going to try to go into technical defining concerning the term free will. Free will in this argument is essentially: human beings are created with the free will ability to make a choice of their own volition. We believe every human being has this ability, while either dead spiritually (separated from God in relationship) or alive spiritually (right with God to begin with, as was Adam and Eve, or right again in relationship, having been reconciled by the blood of Christ Jesus).

## Calvinism and Free Will

This tool opposes a teaching commonly referred to as Calvinism or reformed theology.

Calvinism teaches that mankind does not possess the ability, by free will, to make a choice of his or her own volition, whether dead spiritually or alive spiritually.

This tool will demonstrate that mankind does indeed possess free will. We will present verses and passages in their proper context that will instantiate (give concrete proof) this fact.

We will give a refutation of Calvinism, but only a brief one as we never want to be exhaustive in any tool because each believer, by their own deeper study, will become stronger in their faith and more knowledgeable of God's Word which will engender, we hope, courage to refute Calvinism as its proponents confront them. Usually this happens (confrontation by Calvinists) by men and women of little knowledge and understanding who are simply repeating talking points, literally. Some will even avoid discussing it altogether and recommend someone to listen to, such as John Piper through his lectures or other like minded representatives of Calvinism.

Calvinism is growing exponentially these days and the average believer cannot defend against it very well, if at all, only because they have been kept from gaining knowledge and therefore understanding. One of our main concerns in all of this is the how of Calvinism that men and women are saved from the wrath of God and all the things that ramify from being saved (all that results from being saved is a part of God's will and therefore, God's plan).

They do say and believe that one is saved by grace through faith as Ephesians 2:8-9 teaches, including the fact that it is not from ourselves but is a gift from God, not by works so no one will be able to boast that it is of themselves.

We agree with this as taught in Ephesians 2:8-9 and other passages in the Epistles where this is clearly and consistently taught. However, we do not agree with their teaching on how one arrives at this teaching of grace through faith. The gift in Ephesians 2:8-9 is salvation by grace through faith ("...faith comes from hearing the message..." about Christ, as Romans 10:17 states clearly). Romans 4:4-5 says that it is grace to trust or believe in Jesus Christ thereby adding support to the clear context in Ephesians 2:8-9 that the first clause is the gift, that is, grace is given when the message about Christ is believed by the faith God's message generates. Calvinists say it is the faith that is the gift discussed in the passage.

Calvinists teach that God meticulously determined every thought, every action and every word every single person would ever think or perform or say. They teach that no human being has the free will ability to, of his or her own volition, hear the gospel of the grace of God and thereby gain faith to place in Jesus Christ to obtain salvation.

They teach that God has to first regenerate (make alive spiritually) a person and give them the gift of faith before they can hear the gospel of grace about Jesus and then be able to believe it, obtaining salvation. Calvinists will explain that God could not be sovereign if He gave mankind this free will choice (the ability to hear from Him and believe).

Also, one other important fact to note is that Calvinists believe that if mankind in fact has this free will ability to hear the gospel and believe it or reject it, he or she will be, in part, saving themselves by their own work. They term this synergism, because they believe the human will be cooperating with the Holy Spirit in regeneration or the co-working of their own salvation. In other words, they earn salvation.

Those of us who disagree with Calvinism teach that human beings do have the ability to believe the gospel of grace about Jesus Christ, or reject or not believe it. Romans 10:17; Acts 10:43-47; Galatians 3:2-6 are just a few clear passages that instantiate our claim. Also, to reiterate, Romans 4:4-5 teaches that faith in Christ is grace, not works; this is plain language. We also believe that God is indeed sovereign. He can do as He pleases. He also decides how He will carry out His plan and decisions.

In His thinking He can decide to give mankind (including every individual) a will that is free to make a choice that conforms to His will or that runs contrary to it. We do know that some are born who are mentally retarded to one degree or another and we are not trying to cover exceptions to this refutation of Calvinism. God decided the abilities of His created human beings.

God has the ability to do or decide anything and the wherewithal and power, including knowledge, understanding and wisdom, to oversee everything He does, especially accomplishing any and every plan He may have.

To believe God could create a fine tuned universe that is approximately 14 billion light years across and create a single cell with billions of bits of information (using a four digit code) on the microscopic level including humanly inconceivable, super construction machinery, using engines running at hundreds of thousands of rpms (like the bacterial flagellum motor) building body organs and body structures containing trillions of bits of information, then, believing God cannot be sovereign if He decides to give a mind with a free will ability to make a choice to His creation - i.e. mankind - to eat or not; to emote or not; to hate or love; to reason or not, etc., is patently absurd to say the least. God demonstrates, as we will instantiate, that mankind does in fact have a free will.

We acknowledge that God calls or elects individual members of mankind or groups of mankind (nations or tribes or the like) for certain tasks to accomplish. Some are even mentioned by name over one hundred years before they are born, like Cyrus who is mentioned by Isaiah. Isaiah gives some specific details as to how Medo Persia under Cyrus takes over as well. God declared many future events, including persons to be born and their activities to a certain degree, through His prophets throughout the Old Testament and some in the New Testament concerning the nation Israel, body of Christ and the anti-Christ and his minions, etc.

In Isaiah 55:11 God says His Word is sent out and does not return void, it will accomplish what He desires to accomplish. Read this verse, then read the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) where God creates Israel and will use them as a nation of priests. Notice what they go through to get to that point, but God gets them to that point or position.

Through His Word, God explains much about His power, knowledge, understanding and wisdom. He explains His holiness, righteousness, loving to extend mercy, etc.

But God demonstrates, probably more than anything else, His creation has the free will ability to hear from Him, whether spiritually dead or alive, and respond to His communication; to receive His communication and follow His will or to reject it, running contrary instead, even suffering the stated consequences thereafter (which would be absurd if they cannot possibly choose to obey Him). Knowing this, who is responsible for sin under the teaching of Calvinism?

### Who is Responsible for Sin According to Calvinism?

Something very inconsistent and dreadful is that Calvinism's meticulous determinism, which teaches that God decides every single thought and action of every single type of being mentioned in Scripture, means

God causes every sinful thought and/or action. (Read Jeremiah 7:31, 19:5, 32:35 where men did what never even entered God's mind.)

Calvinists will believe and teach this if they are consistent. Those who deny this, the responsibility of the sin and sins being on God, teach a doctrine of a secret will of God which tries to remove the responsibility from God, even though they foist it squarely on Him by meticulous determinism.

God disagrees with Calvinism though, from Genesis to Revelation. James 1:13-14 clearly teaches that mankind sins when giving into the enticing of his desires; sin is only conceived after that and God tempts no man. This is borne out throughout the Old and New Testaments. Can God contradict Himself?

Calvinism's problem with a secret will to remove God out from under sin responsibility is a contradiction of their own teachings. God never contradicts His Word.

Many seeming contradictions can be claimed by and are, usually, the unsaved or ignorant children of God not taught very much. All Christian divisions (denominations) will go to the Gospels, Christ, and Israel under law to find out the position of the heavenly members of the body of Christ who are addressed under grace in the Epistles.

There are several different types of Calvinists within Calvinism as with any type of group, including Christian groups, cults claiming to be biblical Christianity, and any other group one could think of. And just as with most all groups, some of their beliefs, core beliefs, remain the same from one vein of teaching to the other. They may actually differ on some teaching, for instance: some Calvinists, concerning the five points of Calvinism as most people know Calvinism overall, hold to three points of the five, some will hold to four points and so on. But that simply means some are inconsistent as Calvinists.

#### Refutation of Free Will Ability Denial and the Five Points of Calvinism

A refutation of Calvinism's teaching against free will ability to choose something is, in fact, a refutation of their five points and "no free will" is the lynchpin of Calvinism's five points, we are convinced. Anyone familiar with the five points of Calvinism will probably already be familiar with the acrostic TULIP.

TULIP represents the five points, one particular doctrine for each letter. These five points of doctrine depend on mankind having no free will choice ability.

There are, strangely though, many people in Christianity who claim that they are not reformed or Calvinists and then say that they, also, can believe one, two, or even three of the five points. They will insist they are not Calvinists; they are inconsistent as well. They are usually only looking at the terms used apart from Calvinistic meanings.

It is truly amazing what some will believe and claim, one belief contradicting another within the mind of that single person. In other words, most all believers will believe doctrines that clearly contradict each other.

But this is just as inconsistent as Calvinists (admitted ones) claiming that they do not agree with all five points; seemingly, forgetting that they all believe mankind has no free will ability to begin with. Some believe Adam and Eve did before they sinned because of sin responsibility.

However, any false teaching will be inconsistent because God's Word is not. Every clearly false body of teachings - doctrines - will be forced to literally manufacture some teachings which will be completely foreign to the Word of God. They will affect, in most cases, the entire plan of God and His absolutely necessary and

specified instructions and details. This is why this tool, we believe, is necessary as well as the rest of the group of tools found in the toolbox; the growth of Calvinism's false doctrines being especially disconcerting.

Concerning the present time of the gospel of grace - salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus - going to "...all people everywhere," these being the ones commanded to repent since the Holy Spirit and this message was first sent, Calvinism deceives the unsaved and saved alike. They deceive all with their lynchpin - no free will ability to choose - and acrostic TULIP.

They teach that one who is unsaved, being spiritually dead, cannot obey God's command to repent except that God takes each human being to be saved and uses Calvinism's recipe to that end.

Calvinism's acrostic will contain words that are actually biblical by themselves, such as depravity; election; atonement; grace; perseverance; and saints. But the meaning behind them is not, as we will demonstrate, from God's Word.

God's doctrines, to reiterate, are clearly taught in exact language, in their specific context, very plainly as any believer can know from reading God's Word, if they are simply honest. We point out the contrast between the Gospels and Epistles, especially Paul's, because all groups - for Christianity or against - directly apply all Scripture to the believer except for some passages here and there. The Old Testament is still found in the Gospels, which are the accounts of the Christ coming only to Israel as prophesied. Calvinists also apply the Gospels to the body of Christ in most cases. The contrast between the Gospels and the Epistles is, perplexingly, almost always ignored for the most part.

Some will admit that Jesus is speaking to Jews, mainly, in the Gospels. They will even admit that in some passages He is addressing Israel, as in what is referred to as the Olivet Discourse, but seem not to recognize that the contrast contains two separate covenanted peoples. One is earthly and under a repentance to keeping the specified laws as their righteousness (Deut. 6:25), and the other is heavenly and had been under a command to turn from wickedness to God and righteousness through believing in Christ Jesus (Romans 3:21, 6:14). One is God finding His lost sheep, the people who had been and were under God's shepherds as God's sheep; the other, God reconciling mankind as a whole, being the earthly man Adam and including his individual members through the redeemer, the heavenly man - last Adam, Jesus. This is continually demonstrated by virtually every believer. There are some around the world, probably, who do recognize this, but that is unusual. Read the Gospels and compare them closely with Paul's Epistles, especially.

Pastors will, for example, quote from a clear statement of Mosaic Law for Israel the earthly people, under law, by Christ Jesus under law and directly apply it to the heavenly citizens who are under pure grace; a new and entirely different covenant and spiritual position, already having been saved, born again, indwelt by God's Holy Spirit, already having entered Christ's kingdom, seated in the heavenlies with Christ, total and absolute in differences, when looking at the plain, clear context and exact and specified language, whether in Greek or translated into English.

Remember, brothers and sisters, even textual critics of the Old and New Testaments - Hebrew, Greek Septuagint, and Greek New Testament manuscripts - use the Word of God as translated into our language as any believer would. Some nuances notwithstanding, the language is still in a certain context and plain, exact, language if basically, accurately translated. When new manuscripts are discovered, there is nothing new concerning any doctrine already realized in the nearly 6,000 Greek New Testament manuscripts, only an easier way to analyze variants and internal and external criticism demonstrating incredible reliability of our Bible translations.

These scholars will give their postulates from the same translations that we will use for ours and for refuting theirs if need be, concerning especially Calvinism and the five points of their doctrine (apparatus) including their denial of free will ability of mankind and so on. They deny free will ability from both testaments, including the unregenerate and regenerate. Many New Testament textual critics are Calvinists. They are usually top Greek and/or Hebrew scholars.

Knowing the original languages does not give one a different set of doctrines. All Bible teaching, normally, comes from excellent textual criticism; it is the teaching itself which needs to be tested. Textual critics who may teach some false doctrines will be very consistent when translating manuscripts of Scripture (most translations are by committee). If they teach false doctrines, they will simply either deny what is said or meant by the clear text or read into the text something that is clearly not there.

### **TULIP** - Calvinism's acrostic for their main body of doctrine

- T** - Total Depravity
- U** - Unconditional Election
- L** - Limited Atonement
- I** - Irresistible Grace
- P** - Perseverance of the Saints

#### **T - Represents TOTAL DEPRAVITY**

When Adam (the first man or Adam, which means man) ate the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he died spiritually immediately, that day, as God foretold that it would indeed happen (see Genesis 2:15-17).

We know they died spiritually immediately because they immediately knew they were naked; they covered themselves and hid from God.

To reiterate, Calvinism teaches that death, spiritually, is the same as death physically; that a spiritually dead person is absolutely without function spiritually, as a physically dead person (body) is absolutely without function.

One clear and glaring problem with this is that, as far as the person and their dead body is concerned, the person has been removed or separated from their body and cannot cause their body to function as is demonstrated from Genesis to Revelation. This is also proved by the teaching of resurrection where people either are, or will be, put back into their bodies and the body again will function.

One can talk to a dead physical body and it cannot think, move, or respond in any way whatsoever. This is true and accurate, of course, whether stated by a Calvinist or a non-Calvinist. The problem comes when the Calvinist tries to ignore that the person who is spiritually dead remains in his or her body and can continue to reason, knowing both good and evil.

Scripture demonstrates, beginning with Adam and Eve (all of mankind - earthly), that after transgressing God's command, God could speak with them and they could understand Him. They could, in turn, speak with God.

This is in clear, plain, exact language. God also presumably killed an animal or two in order to properly dress or cover them and promptly judged them and the serpent (see Genesis 3, note especially verses 3-11, 22).

This continued ability to converse back and forth with our pure and holy God is inconsistent with the Calvinistic claim that the spiritually dead person is equivalent to the physically dead body. Calvinists are comparing relationship (spiritual) separation with place of residence (physical body/tabernacle) separation. Apples compared to oranges, as it were. This is both unbiblical and unreasonable.

Even in Sheol (Hebrew for the realm of the dead, which in Greek is called Hades) as Jesus teaches in Luke 16:19-31, the dead person, those who are removed from their physical facility, i.e. body, could still reason, speak, and feel suffering - thus, the experience of the hell side for the rich man. Lazarus, on the other side of the great gulf in Abraham's bosom, was experiencing comfort. This is also an example of the spiritual (righteous Abraham) conversing spiritually with the unspiritual (rich man).

With the example from Genesis 3 and Luke 16, Calvinism's T in TULIP is refuted entirely. No other testimony of Scripture is at all necessary. However, most Calvinists refuse to actually reason concerning truth in God's Word, just as most denominations refuse to be a likeminded, single body of Christ, as Paul teaches in Philippians 2:2; Romans 15:6; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Corinthians 12:12; 2 Corinthians 13:11.

Calvinism's greatest deception is truly found under T in TULIP because their doctrine claims the actual power of God's messages, any of His messages or communications, is not a reality. They are saying that Paul lied in Romans 1:16, because they claim no one can hear and believe because they are totally depraved, rendering God's gospel of grace useless. They teach, though, that one must believe the gospel to be saved. When we get a little farther along we will see that they contradict Scripture to explain how it becomes possible for someone to finally be able to hear and believe. Their teaching of spiritual death includes no ability to even hear God's words, let alone believe them.

Many, many hundreds of verses from Genesis to Revelation clearly contradict teachings of no free will ability and total depravity. Example after example of spiritually dead (unregenerate) men and women hearing God's messages, hearing direct communications and including consequences for their choices, are found in God's Word, whether for or against God's commands or will. No free will (ability) and T under TULIP are actually one doctrine.

We only gave a single demonstration of the spiritually dead communicating personally and directly with Holy, Pure, God Almighty, Sovereign God. This proved spiritual death has to do with relationship between mankind and Holy God concerning being right with or separated away from Him.

Below are some other passages that will also prove that mankind is separated from God spiritually. These will include a passage demonstrating that men and women can be given over to a depraved mind to do only what they desire, which is impossible if a man and woman are already TOTALLY DEPRAVED as Calvinism teaches.

By teaching TOTAL DEPRAVITY, Calvinism is denying that one can hear the message (gospel of grace only in the Epistles) about Jesus Christ and thereby gain faith, then place that faith in Jesus Christ as Savior or not; they can receive the gospel or reject it.

Calvinism teaches that a person has to be made alive, then be given faith as a gift. He or she is spiritually dead like a dead body, as already mentioned. They teach contrary to the Word of God concerning faith because Scripture says faith comes from hearing the message about Jesus Christ. Being made alive after being spiritually dead only comes from being born again from above by the Holy Spirit which comes after believing the gospel (see John 3; Romans 10:17; Ephesians 1:13-14; Acts 10; Galatians 3:2), the reconciling of mankind, bringing mankind back to Himself again. Calvinism teaches man has to be made alive before he or she hears the gospel. They teach this is the only way a man or woman can, in fact, then respond to God's message of salvation by faith.

## List 1

Free will ability to hear from God, understand God and respond to Him;  
Passages that simultaneously refute no free will and  
T in TULIP - Total Depravity (inability of the spiritually dead to interact with God)

- 1) Genesis 4 - God is speaking with Cain before and after he slays Abel.
- 2) Genesis 12 - God speaking with Abram; Abram believes God; no spiritual birth.
- 3) Genesis 20 - God speaking with Abimelech, some punishment before the king even commits sin against Sarah and God threatens worse if she is not given back to Abram; God acknowledges Abimelech's conscience is clear. That's why He is intervening, to prevent sin. Abimelech is not regenerated (born again). Again, God is discussing something with a spiritually dead man.
- 4) Romans 1:18-29 - Men rejecting God and His glory and ultimately God gives them over to depraved minds to follow their own evil desires as God explains in this passage. These are unregenerates turned over to depravity, an impossibility if they are totally depraved.
- 5) Ezekiel 18 - God desires individual men and women to turn from wickedness and live. God takes no pleasure in their destruction. This is consistent with Jeremiah 18 about nations.
- 6) Jonah - Demonstrates what Ezekiel 18 and Jeremiah 18 teach concerning God relenting of destruction, as planned, if a person or group of persons turn from their wickedness. The Ninevites were told judgment was coming in forty days and they repented upon hearing the message. The king said perhaps God would relent. Jonah was upset because he knew if they repented God would be merciful. Jonah hated these people, obviously, and wanted to die because God was going to be merciful. God explains this truth in Ezekiel 18 and Jeremiah 18 many years later.
- 7) Ezekiel 36 - God promises Israel that in the future He would give them a new spirit, His spirit. They were unregenerate at that time. God had been commanding them to turn and live. They constantly disobeyed. Although they were redeemed out of Egypt as a nation, they were not born again spiritually.
- 8) John 3:3 - Jesus, Israel's expected Christ who would also be God in the flesh, said a man cannot see the kingdom of God unless he is born again (regenerated). Jesus had not been sacrificed yet so it was not yet possible to be regenerated. This is the first mention of needing new birth in God's Word.
- 9) John 7 - Jesus was offering eternal life by the Holy Spirit, regeneration, as promised in Ezekiel 36, but Jesus had not yet died or been glorified and John says the Spirit would be given later. Jesus was speaking spiritually to the unregenerate.
- 10) 1 Samuel 23:7-13 - David asks God if the people of Keilah will surrender him to Saul and will Saul come down as David heard. God says yes. David and his men leave. God acknowledges these actions would take place; they never did. Read why.

These are only a few verses which demonstrate that unregenerated (those not born again) men and women (mankind) possess the free will ability to choose and they clearly refute Calvinism's teaching of TOTAL DEPRAVITY, the first and most important doctrine of TULIP. Their lynchpin, no free will ability and TOTAL DEPRAVITY (no ability to hear from God and respond to Him), depend on a total control or meticulous determination by Him whether they eat, sleep, breathe, tie their shoes, etc., or whether they sin in some way or hear from God and are able to respond to Him, which can only actually be in obedience.

Just an observation here, but TULIP does not explain meticulous determinism, although Calvinism will try to explain that the fact that God is sovereign, as already discussed, means He, therefore, decides every thought, word and action, period. The ungodly result is that God causes sin. However, by demonstrating that mankind possesses free will, Calvinism's definition of sovereignty is absolutely incorrect. Therefore, mankind is responsible for sin as God's Word teaches.

Free will ability, demonstrated, refutes:

- 1) no free will ability claim
- 2) meticulous determinism claim
- 3) total depravity - cannot hear or respond to the messages of God claim
- 4) the required regeneration to be able to believe claim
- 5) God meticulously determines or causes man to sin and then holds him responsible claim

Coming up next is the refutation of U in TULIP - UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION - which teaches that God purposely chose only certain persons for glory or eternal life and chose others purposely for sin and destruction; remember, they teach that under God's sovereignty God causes every sin if they are consistent, most are not. Augustine was consistent, when finding his quotes. Calvin was consistent when reading his institutes, and most prominent Calvinists are consistent when listening to or investigating their lectures or debates in our time, presently. In Calvin's Institutes, he constantly aligns himself with Augustine, as do most all prominent Calvinists.

This is part of the rest of studying this tool as we are not going to write a book on this study. Today, the internet contains many lectures by prominent scholars teaching just about everything. There are a lot of men and women whom no one should listen to, those who call people names or belittle those they disagree with. We need to hear what is believed and taught as matter of fact and find consistency within any belief system, if you will, when choosing material to try and know and understand as much as possible. This writer has listened to discussions and teachings by at least 8-10 of the most prominent Calvinists known in the USA and 4-5 scholars who turned away from Calvinism, listening to them thoroughly discuss Calvinism. One book we would recommend for a thorough refutation of Calvinism is by (the now late) Dave Hunt. Dave wrote a book called "*What Love is This?*". It contains quotes by Augustine, Calvin, Piper, Spurgeon, White, the late R. C. Sproul and others. One reading his book can agree or disagree, but if one is honest, one cannot help but agree with this tool, which presents God's Word. One should listen to lectures and debates by these and others. We write absolutely nothing we have not thoroughly studied. We promote clarity and transparency in all of our tools. We will not postulate doctrine per mankind, only God's Word. We welcome correction if it is clearly a correction.

God's Word having already refuted Calvinism within the first list, we will move on to Unconditional Election and another list. Some of the same verses or passages will be found in more than one list because of the context of both.

## **U - UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION**

This should not be confused with conditional or unconditional covenants. Israel, the nation, was unconditionally chosen as a people for God's very own. The present people, the body of Christ, is a chosen people of Christ's very own. Concerning righteousness, however, Israelites had choices to make that are spelled out throughout their conditional law covenant. They could keep that covenant and live and end up with eternal life, in the future kingdom on earth. Or they would not keep the Law and perish and not gain eternal life or enter the kingdom in the future. Likewise, any individual presently hearing the gospel of the grace of God can believe and be saved, having new birth, heavenly citizenship, eternal life, already having entered Christ's kingdom (Colossians 1:13). Believers are in Christ and in the kingdom. Our bodily entrance will be in the future after they are changed (1 Corinthians 15:45-53). Or, they can disobey that gospel and remain condemned and perish and be punished for sin eternally, but Calvinists do not believe this. Calvinists teach that God Himself decides who will be chosen or elected to be saved or eternally condemned.

From Genesis to Revelation God gives conditional choices constantly. The first list of passages also refute this second letter in TULIP - U. We will, however, give a few more passages for refuting UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION that will also refute no free will ability and TOTAL DEPRAVITY.

## List 2

### Passages that refute unconditional election

Below are passages that refute the teaching that only unconditionally elected peoples can repent and be saved. Calvinism would have to include: Israel's circumstances under the conditional law (a righteousness for them, see Deuteronomy 6:24-25) in the Old Testament, and the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) in the New Testament; Israel being still under the law until the murder of Christ (God's sacrificial lamb), and the new covenant is then established thereafter, through His blood.

These passages, though, primarily concern mankind as a whole. Calvinism does seem to forget to look at the whole of mankind as Paul explains in his letters, which give opportunity to every individual therein. Romans 1-3 and Revelation covers every period of time - Genesis to Revelation (Adam having dominion over the garden to the last Adam having dominion over the whole sinless earth).

- 1) Ezekiel 33:11 - reasoning with unregenerate people, Israel, that they need to repent "why will you die, people of Israel?"
- 2) Acts 17:22-31, note verse 30 - This statement is concerning mankind and includes every individual member therein.
- 3) 1 Timothy 2:3-6 - This statement concerns the same mankind and every individual therein as above.
- 4) 2 Peter 3:9 - This statement also concerns all of mankind.
- 5) Titus 2:11 - This statement is the grace of God offered to mankind as a whole after Jesus' death, including every individual therein.

Those back to Adam who worshiped God and believed any message pertaining to them would be perfected by Jesus' blood. Read the Old Testament and Jesus' words in the Gospels and Hebrews 11-12 for some insight.

The Calvinist is taught that spiritual death is like a physical death. We teach that spiritual death, like a physically dead body, is a separation.

The Epistles teach that mankind is being, presently, reconciled. This fits spiritual relationship separation, not spiritual resurrection. We that believe are recreated, but it concerns being born from, or of the heavenly Adam as Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 15. Just as we were born of the earthly Adam, we are also born of the last Adam, the heavenly man, Jesus. The reconciling of mankind is bringing together again mankind in relationship to God. The body of Christ is made up of citizens of heaven; Israel and the nations are, and will remain, earthly.

Ephesians 1:3 says, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

Ephesians 1:1-14 teaches that the whole body of Christ that is heavenly in every regard from our spiritual birth or regeneration and all that was planned for the heavenly body of Christ, the whole group that is in Christ. The body of Christ is predestined.

We are supposed to be able, by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, to rightly divide or handle God's spiritual words and God demonstrates clearly: free will ability choice by His creation - mankind. He clearly communicates with unregenerate individual members of mankind and mankind as a whole. God is clearly reconciling mankind to the relationship He once had while mankind (Adam) will, in the future, be raised higher and closer in his and his Creator's relationship; the most perfect reconciliation to the perfect "Elohim" - God Almighty.

## **L - LIMITED ATONEMENT**

Calvinists will argue that Jesus only actually died for those who were unconditionally chosen or elected. Their argument includes the idea that if Jesus died for all mankind then some of His blood was, in fact, wasted. They do not seem to grasp the idea that Jesus shed His blood for Adam (mankind); his kin and Jesus' blood paid a price for mankind as a whole. Read Romans 3:21-5:18 and 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 for some insight.

One verse that agrees with this is 1 Timothy 4:10, "That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the savior of all people, and especially of those who believe."

This idea of dividing up Jesus' blood, if He died for those not unconditionally elected as well as those who are elected, is not just absurd, it is incompetent.

Although Calvinists are primarily the ones found to be nationally and internationally defending the faith against cults and Islam, they are like the average Christian as far as not seeming to be able to recognize the contrast between the Gospels and Epistles to a large extent, but they do a great job, a proper job, against the cults and Islam, Roman Catholicism, and Word of Faith false teachers.

It then becomes a great mystery as to why they would not just argue that God is only providing limited atonement by virtue of not making alive or regenerating all people without postulating this ridiculous argument of "blood drops" or "droplets" being divided, if in fact, Jesus died for all people.

We've already provided verses or passages that clearly prove that it is God's desire that no one perish, that everyone come to repentance. This is in accord with God's teaching in the Epistles about saving "Man" (Adam or mankind); the mission Paul and the others are on, reconciling the world to God (see 2 Corinthians 5:19; 1 John 2:2; Romans 5:18).

Limited atonement taught in the Word of God can only be proven to be, by virtue of rejecting or not believing, God's message to groups of mankind or individuals of mankind at any time God gives it throughout the centuries within God's plan from Genesis to Revelation.

### List 3

Refuting Calvinism's LIMITED ATONEMENT teaching based on their teaching of unconditional election that the limited number of saved persons is strictly the number intended and chosen by God alone, apart from hearing the gospel and believing.

These verses in List 3 are limited to the Gospels and Epistles. Go to List 5 for words that will, when looked up in a concordance, present many examples from the Old Testament. Before Christ came in the flesh, men and women could be credited with righteousness, as Paul explains in Romans about Abraham believing God.

- 1) Romans 5:18
- 2) Acts 17:30
- 3) 1 Timothy 2:3-6
- 4) 1 Timothy 4:10
- 5) Titus 2:11
- 6) 2 Peter 3:9
- 7) 1 John 2:2
- 8) John 12:32 - This is to counter Calvinism's use of John 6:44 which they cannot reconcile. They apply 6:44 to the body of Christ. The context is, Israel should have believed Moses and recognized the Christ and believed him.
- 9) John 3:16
- 10) Romans 11:15, 30-32
- 11) 1 John 4:14

All of these passages and many more will clearly prove that God does indeed desire mankind to, as a whole, turn in repentance, believe in Jesus Christ (Adam's kinsman redeemer - the last Adam) to be saved and therefore be reconciled; to live in the future, into eternity, sin free and righteous with holy, eternal, sovereign God Himself.

Presently God, before the 70<sup>th</sup> week of years in Daniel where God pours out His wrath on the whole earth, is offering rescue to mankind. This time, presently, is the beginning phase of the new covenant - a bride is being chosen for the Christ. Read Paul's letters. God demonstrates that it will be mankind, but only those who will receive or believe His message through the ages of the working of His plan. That is, those who believe whatever message so given at whatever period of time, finally receiving God's justification when the time was right for the propitious blood of Christ Jesus to be shed for the whole of mankind.

God proves by His Word that though it is His will to save the whole, it is up to the individual member of the whole, each one possessing the free will ability, to be willing and believe, so as to choose life that is by God's work - grace.

Romans 4:4-5, as already mentioned, teaches that believing or trusting in Jesus Christ is not earning anything - it is grace, God's grace.

### **I - IRRESISTIBLE GRACE** - Refuting Calvinism's teaching that God's grace is irresistible grace.

Calvinism teaches that every individual member of mankind intentionally chosen for salvation is brought to Sovereign, Almighty God by His grace that is irresistible. No one chosen will be able to resist God's grace. There is no Scripture for this idea or teaching. On the contrary, there is Scripture that demonstrates that groups and individual members of mankind do, in fact, resist the Holy Spirit, the Father and the Lord Jesus, the Christ.

Both, threats of destruction and promises of blessing, are always, except for a clear unconditional promise of one or the other, based upon His commands or words being obeyed or disobeyed. Under TULIP and Calvinism's definition of sovereign, it is incompetent to use words like obey or disobey.

#### List 4

We will list below only a few clear examples of resistance of God's will and therefore His grace. These will absolutely refute Calvinism.

- 1) Hosea 4:6
- 2) Acts 7:51
- 3) Acts 13:46 - Israel was and is a chosen, holy people who will, in the future, obey.
- 4) Romans 10:21; Isaiah 65:2
- 5) 2 Corinthians 4:4 - We must explain that the god of this age blinding the minds of unbelievers is blinding the minds of these individual members of mankind who refuse to believe. Prominent Greek New Testament scholar A. T. Robertson says, concerning those unbelievers, "They refused to believe (apiston) and so Satan got the power to blind their thoughts. That happens with willful disbelievers." (*Robertson's Word Pictures in the New Testament vol. IV, pg. 225*)

When one teaches that the unsaved cannot be affected by God's Words, then one cannot be taken seriously who uses words like obey, disobey, reject, refuse, etc. Again, it would be incompetent teaching to do so. Remember, Calvinism teaches that God decides every thought, word and action. Plus, it would not be possible for one to disobey, refuse or reject God under Irresistible Grace.

#### List 5

This list will present some words that are key for finding many other verses or passages to give many more examples of refuting one or more of the five points of Calvinism's TULIP as well as what we refer to as their lynchpin, no free will ability, and their definition or idea of the sovereignty of God's meticulous determinism. Actually, their definition of sovereignty and T in TULIP are hand-in-glove. They are inseparable doctrines.

To reiterate, we believe that proving that God gave free will ability to make a choice is a refutation all by itself. We believe that TULIP, Calvinism's definition of sovereignty, secret will of God and false grace must be accepted as the entire methodology that Calvinism uses to completely reject free will ability; simply meaning that Calvinism sinks or floats depending on whether there is or is not free will ability by mankind, including groups and/or individual members therein; it is proved or disproved from God's Word from Genesis to Revelation.

Simply use an exhaustive concordance to look up these words for your own further study and proof of what this tool (doctrine) is teaching - refuting Calvinism and its ideas that are postulated or positioned; those ideas, we believe, that deceive the saved and/or the unsaved. Some of these words give a few examples and some give many. Some may not be found in your translations; we recommend that people use more than one translation for this study. One may also come up with other words or phrases as well.

- |                 |                     |                 |                 |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1) listen       | 12) rebellious      | 23) repent      | 34) deserted    |
| 2) not listen   | 13) spurn           | 24) choose life | 35) contempt    |
| 3) obey         | 14) despise         | 25) live        | 36) resist      |
| 4) disobey      | 15) if              | 26) refuse      | 37) test Israel |
| 5) obedience    | 16) forsake         | 27) destroy     | 38) strayed     |
| 6) disobedience | 17) perhaps         | 28) hear        | 39) exchanged   |
| 7) ignore       | 18) turn            | 29) wickedness  | 40) backsliding |
| 8) reject       | 19) careful to keep | 30) righteous   | 41) in vain     |
| 9) willing      | 20) forsaken        | 31) inquire     | 42) your fault  |
| 10) unwilling   | 21) rejected        | 32) oppose      | 43) forgotten   |
| 11) rebel       | 22) broken covenant | 33) against     | 44) guilty      |

## P - Refuting Calvinism's teaching of the PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

Calvinists teach that even if a person:

- 1) believes and claims to be saved or one of the elected or chosen by UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION;
- 2) is one of the number of the LIMITED ATONEMENT;
- 3) by God's IRRESISTIBLE GRACE;
- 4) first having made him or her alive because they were of TOTAL DEPRAVITY;
- 5) and could never have, without a free will ability to make a choice, let alone believe the gospel;
- 6) believed the gospel already having been given faith as a gift apart from believing the gospel --

that person must persevere throughout their life doing good, righteous works and behavior, always, because he or she still may not be saved or one of the elect, after all. This is in fact unbiblical and destroys Calvinism's other four points of doctrine plus their definition of sovereignty. Calvinists claim no one can believe the gospel unless God's grace was given to them, as one was unconditionally elected and atoned for. As already mentioned, there are secrets and mysteries that only God knows but one thing consistent throughout God's Word is, He does not contradict His own truths.

Calvinists will listen to all of this and claim one doesn't understand Calvinism. But Calvinists do not seem to basically understand their own teachings. The only thing good about false teachings is that they always contradict themselves. God's doctrines never do. God's teachings will always have verses or passages that are explicit for the express purpose of knowledge, as clear details of His plan from Genesis to Revelation, from Adam (mankind) to God dwelling with redeemed Adam (mankind) on the New Earth for eternity; free of sin and death and the ramifications therein.

Certainly, God only gives limited details but they do not contradict, just spell out truths about and from God and His plans for mankind, His creation, as well as the elohim or angelic host who also have quite a role to play in parts of moving God's plan or plans along through history including eternity. We do not address the unseen realm in this tool though.

Calvinism cannot, under TULIP, account for PERSEVERENCE OF THE SAINTS because no one under their definition of sovereignty of God and the first four letters could still be described as 'may not be saved' or not of the "elect". They seem to feign ignorance about the fact that our bodies have not changed and we can, and do in fact, still sin even though we do not practice it as a way of life. Read the Epistles.

Calvinists not only teach that God has a secret will for removing Himself from being responsible for sin (being the author of sin, as He has meticulously determined every single thought or word or action, per their definition of sovereignty), they also teach that God gives out a false grace to some peoples or persons. They will call it a counterfeit grace that they will claim makes someone seem to be able to seem saved, claiming to believe in Jesus or any other like spiritual claim. But that would be utterly impossible by their teachings under their definition of sovereignty - meticulous determinism and the first four letters of TULIP. Again, they teach that a spiritually dead person cannot even be inclined towards God, just as a physically dead body cannot function at all. This precludes pretense as well, if consistent.

It is one thing to teach a person could lose their salvation, as probably most believe and are taught across the spectrum within Christianity, which God's Word completely disagrees with, but something altogether different to claim that mankind cannot believe the gospel which would include pretending, because they are, as Calvinists teach, spiritually, functionally dead in toto (Latin: in all; completely; entirely; wholly). No one could pretend to be of the elect! 1 John 5:13 tells the believer that he or she can know they "...have eternal life."

Calvinism, or Calvinists rather, know this is so, so they must manufacture another non-substantiated false claim, i.e. teaching, just as God's supposed secret will removing His clear responsibility of being the cause of every sin. Remember, this is their teaching because of the postulate - no free will ability to make a choice. They had to come up with something just to be consistent.

Their teaching on this is just as incompetent as any non-biblical cult or Christian denomination, generally speaking, that teaches any number of doctrines or traditions, that not only being unbiblical, they contradict God's clear, exacting doctrines set in clear context for understanding after first knowing.

We believe and teach that most of the troubles (false teachings given to believers) are a result of ignorance of God's Word in many ways. One of those is because sound teachings or doctrine is no longer, across the board, tolerated because of the clear, mostly non-doctrinal teachings of those elders in the body of Christ who are probably not qualified teachers (one of the qualifications of being an elder per 1 Timothy 3, remember 2 Timothy 4:3).

This is clearly demonstrated, instantially, in that the average elder and believer generally do not teach the absolute contrast between the Gospels and the Epistles. Below are some of the examples which are describing the estate or absolute position the believer is to know and understand applies directly to them, found only in the Epistles. They are found there because the believer is in Christ. None of what applies to the person, in Christ, in the Epistles can be found in the Gospels. Only in John's account of Christ coming can much similar language be found. However, theirs is still under different, national entitlements and promises after Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week - tribulation and return of Christ to judge them for seeing the kingdom of God or not, including receiving the Holy Spirit or not, as well as judging the nations for inheriting the kingdom on earth or not.

True, those who believe in Jesus after His death and resurrection become members of His body, they were never taught that by Christ in the Gospel accounts (Matthew, Mark and Luke teach only legalism under the Mosaic Covenant). So most believers today do not recognize:

- 1) That God is reconciling mankind.
- 2) Mankind (Adam and his members - earthly) is being redeemed presently, those who obey the gospel and command for all people to repent. God is reconciling the world.
- 3) The believer, since the Holy Spirit was sent after Jesus' resurrection, is born now of the heavenly Adam (Jesus, the Christ).
- 4) Every member (believer) is sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked in Christ, as a down payment of what is to fully come to us.
- 5) A member cannot lose their heavenly birth, just as we do not lose our earthly one and we are not taught we can be unborn spiritually anywhere in God's Word.
- 6) Every member is kept or saved completely forever, as we can look to verses and passages to prove this in the Epistles which are addressed to the body of Christ/heavenly Adam (mankind - believing members).
- 7) God has adopted every member or believer as His own child, which every believer is.
- 8) God is our Father and will discipline us.
- 9) Our lives, Paul says, are hidden with Christ in God.
- 10) Our citizenship is in heaven.
- 11) We are seated in the heavenlies with Jesus Christ.
- 12) Every believer, just as the passage in 1 Corinthians 3 teaches about the works of elders being tested, can expect their works to be tried in fire and still be saved even if one's works are totally burned up.

13) There is no Scripture overturning any of these or other points of fact concerning the estate or position of the believer or child of God, which would have to be found only in the Epistles, as only the Epistles address the members of the body of Christ and their position in any circumstance they might find themselves in, in Christ.

14) "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:1-2 NIV)

King James, New King James, and Webster's Bible (any who use the Textus Receptus without proper critical textual corrections) readers will find two additional clauses in verse 1: ". . . who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." These last two clauses in the Greek manuscripts are not found in the earliest copies. The first clause, "who walk not after the flesh" was found first, then "but after the Spirit" was added, as textual criticism of the manuscripts demonstrate.

Please, those with the King James and all others reading this, read Romans 8:9 for the proper context of these two added clauses. Believers are not in the flesh if the Holy Spirit is in them, which is by having faith in Christ Jesus, then being marked or baptized in Christ. This is position in Romans 8:1 not a behavioral statement as to whether one is following the flesh concerning some sin or sins.

This is a variant in textual criticism and all competent scholarship including A. T. Robertson and Bruce Metzger, two of the greatest New Testament Greek scholars in modern history, know and teach about these two clauses. Virtually all Greek scholars rely on these two prominent scholars, especially Robertson's "*A Grammar of the Greek New Testament*" in light of historical research, as well as the Greek manuscripts.

Those who read this about Romans 8:1, 9 need to understand that we are trying to keep the body of Christ focused on the position they are in. There will be sin and there is also provision for remedy thereafter for forgiveness and cleansing of sin, as well as texts in 1 Corinthians 11 and Hebrews 12 explaining what happens if the child of God does not judge their own actions. Romans 8:1, 9 sum up a person's position in Christ. This is plain language in plain context (1 John 1:9 for believer's remedy).

15) That the Gospels are really the end of the Old Testament, as one can see. Jesus, John the Baptist and all of Israel are under the, then, current law covenant given to them by Moses. There will be rules in the kingdom rule of Christ as well as animal sacrifices, etc. There will be rules, but the body of Christ is heavenly in every way found and/or described in the Epistles.

Jesus is there to fulfill all righteousness (Deuteronomy 6:25 - the commands and laws would be Israel's righteousness according to God's Word by Moses). John and Jesus were only addressing Israel with God's words to them. Matthew, Mark and Luke make clear statements about Jesus and John, as prophets, only addressing Israel. John, only, gives Jesus teaching Israel information and claims from God about future spiritual birth and, therefore, entrance into Christ's and God's kingdom. Of course, John calls Jesus the Lamb of God - He would die for Israel and the whole of mankind; God sending Jesus at the right time.

16) The Epistles, on the other hand, only address the body of believers under the New Covenant established by Jesus' bloodshed. The Holy Spirit is sent to mankind prior to God's wrath coming on the wicked on the earth and God is presently commanding "...all people everywhere to repent." Jesus sent Paul out and has him, by the Spirit, explain the fact that God is, at this time (the period between the 69<sup>th</sup> week of years and the 70<sup>th</sup> found in Daniel 9:24-27) reconciling mankind or the world to Himself. As

many that is, who will believe or obey His command and gospel of how to be saved from the impending world judgment.

### Mixing the Gospels and the Epistles (Violence to Grace)

The differences between the Gospels and the Epistles are always mixed into one group of teachings with only slight differences to be found. This has produced unmitigated confusion and ignorance through the centuries.

Most who teach mix works of the law with salvation by grace through faith (no works) and usually law wins out. Men and women naturally, led by flesh, want to know specific rules, but usually cannot keep them because of their fleshly desires, but remain under the lure to law as a moth is to light. To confirm this postulate, just investigate the doctrines and/or traditions of any denomination or cult which claims to be biblically Christian in their teachings.

Most elders, Sunday school teachers, and the average believer will, if quoting Scripture, search for and find a lot of their instructions in Christian living, beginning with how to become a Christian, in the Gospels. They, just like Calvinists, will then either ignore teachings in Paul's letters altogether or pick and choose which ones they can believe, or accept Paul's teachings and ignore context outright and spiritualize or change the actual context. Jehovah's Witnesses make common practice of this as well as many Christians and most denominations. Even the most conservative denominations will include something besides faith on the part of the believer in order to be saved, i.e. "admit you are a sinner." This is but one example and most do not question it. No Scripture teaches this as a requirement for salvation in the Epistles, addressed to the body of Christ, that actually explain how to be saved.

The reason we constantly mention the differences between the Gospels and Epistles is to keep in the front of the minds of believers that we are heavenly and in Christ. We need to know and understand constantly that we are not under the Mosaic Law. We are under grace. Calvinists can easily deceive brothers and sisters and the unsaved becoming believers by their use of the Gospels mixed with the Epistles; John 6:44 is one such verse.

Catholicism does the very same thing and they both give a false gospel. Calvinists deceive believers by using Jesus' words to the Jews in John to show that no one can come to God unless God draws them and only those are given to Christ. They fail to mention that Jesus says in John 12:32 that when He is lifted up (crucified) He will draw all men to Himself. Draw does not mean they will be willing to believe. They believe and teach everyone God draws is to belong to Christ, but only retort sarcastically to John 12:32 saying "you think all people are going to be saved" which is not taught anywhere in Scripture. Some, in every generation since Adam, are unwilling to believe God, what His message was or is, or is to be in Revelation (70<sup>th</sup> week wrath on earth). God desires that all believe.

Calvinism, like some Christian denominations, teach in the perseverance of the saints that no one can really know until judgment in the future whether they are really chosen or saved, which means they are not in the kingdom. The Apostle Paul disagrees; when one believes, we are brought into the kingdom of Christ per Colossians 1:13. Many of Paul's letters explain we have eternal life when we believe in Christ. We have been born of the Holy Spirit who resides in us. We are God's righteousness in Christ. 1 John 5:13 says "you can know you have eternal life" as already mentioned.

All false teachings of the New Testament will mix the Gospels with the Epistles. Jesus never says in Matthew, Mark or Luke: “Believe in me and you have eternal life.” He is asked about inheriting eternal life in the synoptics and His response is about keeping the commandments to enter life. The Jews were under the Mosaic Covenant.

Note: Only in the Gospels are lost sheep being looked for. They are a covenanted people placed under shepherds and THE SHEPHERD has now come to find the scattered flock. Mankind in the Epistles is not addressed as lost sheep needing to be found. The King James uses the word lost for an unbeliever (2 Corinthians 4:3) but it means perishing, not lost. Concerning Israel as lost sheep to be found by God see Ezekiel 34; Jeremiah 50:6-7; Jeremiah 23:1-4.

Finally, it is extremely important to know and understand that Calvinism is easily refuted on all sides and one need not be intimidated when confronted by a Calvinist. Just gather your thoughts by finding verses and passages that clearly refute Calvinism’s five points and uphold or prove mankind has free will ability per the Scriptures. Remember, Scripture demonstrating a person or persons having free will ability is all that is actually needed to refute Calvinism.

Don’t let yourself be worried if they use the words ‘predestined’ or ‘appointed’ or other terms. Those will dissolve quickly as you gain knowledge and therefore the ability to understand to the point you can speak on the matter. One example is the potter molds the clay into a certain kind of vessel for certain uses. The vessel cannot dictate to the potter but Jeremiah 18 demonstrates that God is the potter and mankind is the clay and God says man can behave in a way, good or righteous or evil, and affect God’s decision towards him, a group or an individual.

Study and gain more familiarity with the Old and New Testament. Pay close attention to the language, especially when finding passages to postulate or support a particular doctrine. One’s postulate must lineup with God’s Word, in context.

Please email us if you have any questions.

May God truly bless you, brothers and sisters.

Sometimes it is difficult to know how far to go with teaching a synopsis of a doctrine, but this teaching on Calvinism, at this point in time, is critical because of Calvinism’s seemingly exponential growth.

This would not be possible if pastors:

- 1) actually taught doctrine today;
- 2) understood the differences between the Gospels and Epistles;
- 3) realized that Jesus was sent to Israel only, in the Gospels, and Jesus and Israel were under a law covenant;
- 4) taught that God is reconciling mankind, as many as will believe, or are willing to be rescued from His coming wrath;
- 5) taught that we are born again by believing the message about Christ that we hear, strictly, by grace through faith;
- 6) taught that we are under grace not law, and;
- 7) taught that receiving God’s gift of rescue and freedom is not “easy believing”, it is by believing.