

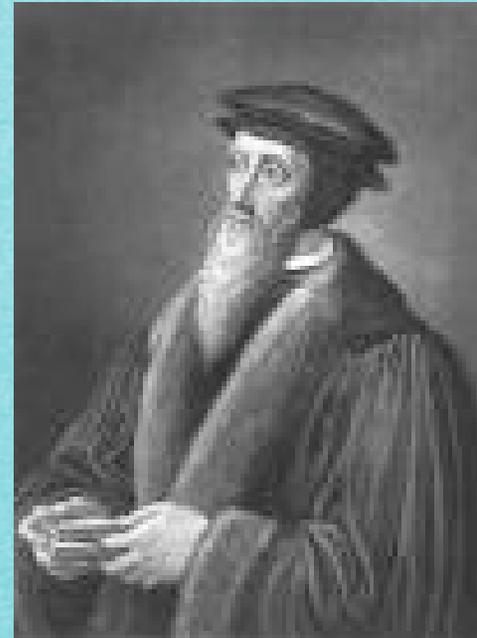
***Calvinism &  
Regeneration -  
Irresistible Grace***

**2009 Bible Conference**

**Bible Reading  
Conference**

# John Calvin (1509-1551)

- Born in Paris
- Second generation “Reformer”
  - Authored “Institutes of Christian Religion” in 1527
  - Writings inspired the “Five Points of Calvinism” (1618-19) which were formulated at the Synod of Dordt.



# **CALVINISM BASICS**

## **FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINES**

- 1. PREDESTINATION**
- 2. INFANT BAPTISM**
- 3. COVENANT THEOLOGY**
- 4. SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD**
- 5. ELECTION TO SALVATION**
- 6. ALLEGORICAL INTERPRETATION OF  
SCRIPTURE**
- 7. "TULIP" DOCTRINES**

# CALVINISM BASICS



- ▶ What are the doctrines of the “TULIP”?
- ▶ T - TOTAL DEPRAVITY
- ▶ U - UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION
- ▶ L - LIMITED ATONEMENT
- ▶ I - IRRESISTIBLE GRACE
- ▶ P - PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

# CALVINISM BASICS



## ▶ IRRESISTIBLE GRACE Defined

**“The Calvinist view of predestination teaches that God actively intervenes in the lives of the elect to make absolutely sure that they are saved.”** —R. C. Sproul, “Chosen by God”, p. 34

# Regeneration

## Prior to faith?

- ▶ **R. C. Sproul - “In regeneration, God changes our hearts. He gives us a new disposition, a new inclination. That is why we said earlier regeneration precedes faith.”**
- ▶ **Jay Adams - Only God can bring life to dead souls and enable them to believe. He does this when, where, and how he pleases by His Spirit, who regenerates or gives life leading to faith.”**

# Calvinistic Scriptural Support

- ▶ **Ezekiel 36:26 - “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh...house of Israel.” (compare Ezek. 18:30)**
- ▶ **John 3:3 “Unless a man is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”**

# Passages Opposing

- ▶ **“As many as received Him gave he the power to become the children of God.” (John 1:12)**
- ▶ **“In whom also after that you believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit.” (Eph. 1:13)**
- ▶ **“...that whosoever believes on Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)**
- ▶ **“Therefore since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God.” Rom. 5:1**
- ▶ **“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible seed, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.” 1 Peter 1:23**

# Samuel Ridout

Author & Bible Teacher

**“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.” New birth is by the word of God. That sovereign act of God, by His Spirit, none can question. But this verse forbids us from separating, as has sometimes been done, new birth from faith in the gospel. It has been taught that new birth precedes faith; here we are told the word of God is the instrument in new birth. Thus while we can distinguish between faith and new birth, we cannot separate them. John 3:3 and 3:16 must go together. There is no such anomaly possible as a man being born again, but who has not yet believed the gospel. ”**

—Numerical Bible, p. 148-149

# Regeneration & Children/ Infants of the Elect?

**John Calvin's teaching**

▶ **“But how, they ask, are infants regenerated, when not possessing knowledge of good or evil? We answer, that the work of God, though beyond the reach of our capacity, is therefore not null. Infants who are to be saved (and some at this age is certain-in the womb) must be regenerated by the Lord...Many He has certainly called and endued with true knowledge, by the illumination of the Spirit without the intervention of preaching.”**

# **Regeneration & Children/ Infants of the Elect?**

**Calvin and the salvation of the  
children of the elect.**

- ▶ **“Our children, before they are born, God declares that He adopts for His own when He promises He will be a God to us, and to our seed after us. In this promise their salvation is included.”**

# The Unbeliever & Regeneration

**Believe or Plead for Regeneration?**

- ▶ **A. W. Pink - “The unbeliever’s first duty is to set his ‘seal that God is true.’ His second duty is to cry out to God for regeneration, enabling power..and ask God to draw him to Christ, and to bestow the gifts of faith and repentance.”**

**Does not Scripture charge us to tell unbelievers to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved!**

# 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.” —C. H. Spurgeon, *Warrant of Faith*, (Pasadena, TX: Pilgrim Publications, 1978)

# Case Study: Cornelius

**Roman Centurion - Acts 10:1-5**

- ▶ **Devout**
- ▶ **One that feared God**
- ▶ **Gave much alms to the people**
- ▶ **Prayed to God always**
- ▶ **His prayers are heard by God - a memorial**
- ▶ **Unsaved until Peter preaches the Gospel - 11:14**

# How Does God Bring the Unsaved to Salvation?

**John 16:7** - “The comforter when He is come...He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of justment: of sin because they believe not on me...”

**Romans 10:17** - “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.”

**Acts 2:37** - “When the heard this they were pricked in the heart...Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

**Acts 16:14** - “Heard us, whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended to the things spoken.”

**Acts 7:51, 54** - “When they heard these things they were cut to the heart.”