

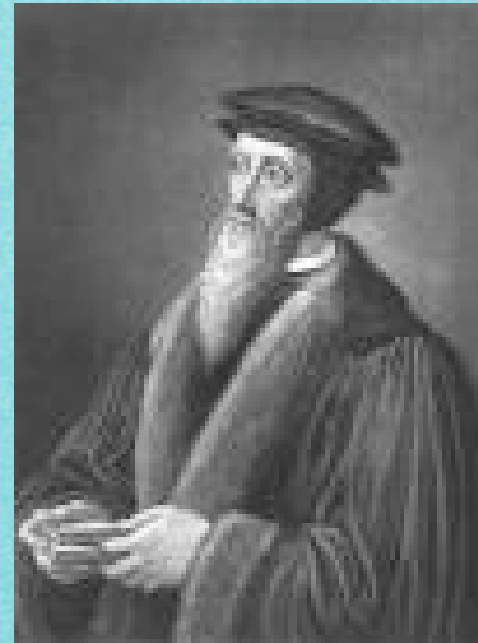
The Doctrine of Total Depravity & Election

2009 Special Meetings

**Sungai Nibong
Gospel Hall**

John Calvin (1509-1564)

- 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.**

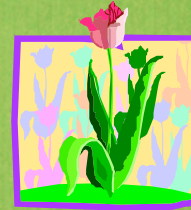


CALVINISM BASICS

FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINES

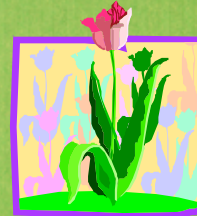
- 1. PREDESTINATION**
- 2. INFANT BAPTISM**
- 3. COVENANT THEOLOGY**
- 4. SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD**
- 5. ELECTION TO SALVATION**
- 6. ALLEGORICAL INTERPRETATION OF SCRIPTURE**
- 7. "TULIP" DOCTRINES**

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



“T-U-L-I-P” - ACRONYM

LORRAINE BOETTNER - “THE BIBLE CONTAINS AN ABUNDANCE OF MATERIAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE DOCTRINES(TULIP). FURTHERMORE THESE DOCTRINES ARE NOT ISOLATED AND INDEPENDENT DOCTRINES BUT ARE SO INTERRELATED THAT THEY FORM A SIMPLE, HARMONIOUS, SELF - CONSISTENT SYSTEM...PROVE ANY ONE OF THEM FALSE, AND THE WHOLE SYSTEM MUST BE ABANDONED.” —REFORMED DOCTRINE OF PREDESTINATION ?(EERDMANNS PUBLISHING, GRAND RAPIDS, MI, 1954), P. 59

CALVINISM BASICS



UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION Defined:

“God’s choice of certain individuals unto salvation before the foundation of the world resting solely in His own sovereign will.” —Steele and Thomas, “Five Points of Calvinism”, p. 30

CALVINISM BASICS



▶ **LIMITED ATONEMENT Defined**

“The Calvinist, on the other hand says that Christ only died for the believer, the elect, only for those who will actually be saved and go to heaven.”

—Edwin Palmer, Five Points of Calvinism, Baker, 1979, p. 42

CALVINISM BASICS

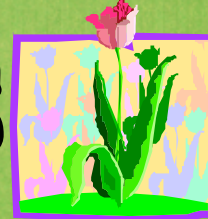


► IRRESISTIBLE GRACE Defined

“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

CALVINISM BASICS



▶ PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS:

“Those whom God has chosen...can neither totally fall nor finally fall away from the state of grace; but shall persevere to the end and be eternally saved.”

—Westminster Confession, chap. 19,
sec. 1

Depravity & Election?

- ▶ **1. Key to Understanding all the doctrines of salvation.**
- ▶ **2. Does God desire all men to be saved?**
- ▶ **3. Does man possess free-will?**
- ▶ **4. Who is responsible if someone is not saved?**

CALVINISM BASICS



TOTAL DEPRAVITY DEFINED

“UNREGENERATE MAN IS IN ABSOLUTE BONDAGE TO SATAN, AND WHOLLY INCAPABLE OF EXERCISING HIS OWN WILL FREELY TO TRUST CHRIST.” — DWAYNE SPENCER “TULIP”, (BAKER BOOKS, 1979), P 11

INABILITY OR INCAPACITY OF THE UNSAVED TO PLACE FAITH IN CHRIST, OR IN OTHER WORDS, TO RESPOND TO THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL.

Depravity & Non-Calvinists

- ▶ **Total Depravity:** Man because of the fall is separated from God, corrupted, defiled, sinful, “dead”, but depravity has not taken away man’s ability to place faith in Christ for salvation.

Note: Non-Calvinists do not believe man’s total depravity is more powerful than God.

Passages of Scripture

- ▶ **“Whosoever believes on Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)**
- ▶ **“Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Acts 2:1)**
- ▶ **“Whosoever believes in him shall receive the remission of sins.” Acts 10:43**
- ▶ **“The Lord is...not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9**
- ▶ **“God our Savior who will have all men be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth.” 1 Tim. 2:4**

Theological Views & Total Depravity

Theological View	Consequences of Sin	Degree of Ability
Pelagianism	None	Man can believe by his own ability.
Semi-Pelagianism	Limited	Man can believe by his own ability.
Reformed	Total Depravity	Man can only believe being regenerated.
Dispensational	Total Depravity	Man can believe by the conviction of the Spirit.

Romans 3:10-11

▶ **“There is none righteous no
not one, there is none that
understandeth, there is none
that seeketh after God...there
is none that doeth good, no,
not one.”**

Spiritually “Dead”?

- ▶ **A. W. Pink - “What can a lifeless man do, and man by nature is dead in his trespasses and sins. A dead man is utterly incapable of willing anything.”**

What does the Scripture say?

5 Meanings of "Death" in Scripture

1. Physical Death	Separation of life from Physical body	Hebrews 9:26
2. Spiritual Death	Spiritual separation from God because of sin.	Genesis 2:17 Ephesians 2:1
3. Eternal Death	Eternal separation from God forever at death.	Rev. 20:14 Matthew 25:46
4. Positional Death	Separation from our old life (positional) at salvation.	Galatians 2:20 Romans 6:3-6
5. "Fellowship" Death	Separation from fellowship with Christ, "Backsliding."	Luke 16:25 1 Timothy 6:6

Genesis 2:17, 3:8

“ But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shall not eat of it: for in the day that thou eat of it thou shall surely die.”

“And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God ... And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where [art] thou?” Gen. 3:8-9

John 5:25

- ▶ “Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the **dead** shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.”

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**

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)

Parable of the Soils

▶ Four Soils

- ▶ “Then cometh the Devil and taketh away the seed that is sown...”
- ▶ “Heard”
- ▶ Found lodging in the heart
- ▶ “Lest he should believe and be saved...”

Election, Predestination, & Scripture

Part 2

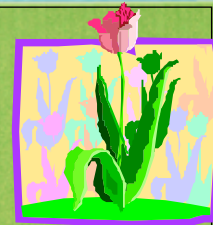
C. H. Spurgeon

C. H. Spurgeon, was once asked:

“How do you reconcile election with Free-will?” He replied, “I never try to reconcile good friends.”

“I would rather be 1,000 times inconsistent with Mr. Spurgeon, then to be 1 time inconsistent with Holy Scripture.”

CALVINISM BASICS



UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION Defined

“God’s choice of certain individuals unto salvation before the foundation of the world resting solely in His own sovereign will.”

—Steele and Thomas, “Five Points of Calvinism”, p. 30

“Chosen” & “Elect”

- ▶ **Used 28 times in the New Testament**
- ▶ **The same underlying Greek word “Eklogomai.”**
- ▶ **The term is used of Christ, Angels, Israel, Church, Disciples (John 15:16), Judas Iscariot (Jn. 6:70), and the poor (James 2:5).**
- ▶ **The term has the same meaning in the Old and New Testaments.**
- ▶ **The term does not refer to selecting some individuals and not others for salvation.**

Elect Angels

- ▶ “I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the **elect angels**, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.” (1 Tim. 5:21)

The Elect Christ

- ▶ “Behold My Servant, whom I uphold; Mine Elect, in whom My soul delighteth...”(Isaiah 42:1).
- ▶ “Behold My Servant, whom I have chosen; My Beloved, in whom My soul is well pleased”(Mt 12:18)
- ▶ Matthew 17:5 “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased”
- ▶ Mark 9:7 “...a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is My Beloved.”
- ▶ Luke 9:35 (NASV) “And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is My Son, My Chosen One

Elect Israel

- ▶ Gen. 12:2-3 - “...I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shall be a blessing...
- ▶ Deut. 7:6 - “For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath *chosen* thee to be a peculiar people unto Himself above all peoples that are on the face of the earth.”

The Elect Church

1 Peter 2:9 - “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation...”

Col. 3:12-13 - Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness...forgiving one another...even as Christ forgave you...”

“Election”: Summary

- ▶ **1. The term “elect” is never used of unsaved persons.**
- ▶ **2. Election is a blessing for believers once they have been saved.**
- ▶ **3. Elect persons possess faith, conformity to Christ, they are to be “holy and blameless before Him in love.”**

What is Election?

Election is the sovereign choosing by God, before the foundation of the world, of those who are in Christ to receive **spiritual blessings and a call to a divine work.** These high and spiritual blessings were purposed by God from eternity past for those who are elect in Christ.

—H. A. Ironside (1876-1951)

“There are two things that are absolutely clear in Scripture—one is that God by His foreknowledge has predestinated all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ “to be conformed to the image of His Son” (Rom. 8:29). Predestination is never to heaven nor yet to hell; but always to special privilege in and with Christ. All who believe in Him were chosen in Christ “before the foundation of the world.”

— H. A. Ironside, *What's the Answer*, (Grand Rapids, MI : Zondervan, MI, 1944), p. 43

Marks of the Elect

- ▶ **Holiness** - “...chosen...that we might be holy and blameless before Him in love” (Eph. 1:4).
- ▶ **Sonship** - “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will” (Eph. 1:5).
- ▶ **Conformity to Christ**- “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. 8:29).
- ▶ **Faith**- “Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God’s elect, and acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness.” (Titus 1:1)

Faith & the Elect

- ▶ **1 Thess 1:4 “...Knowing brethren, beloved, your election of God, how that...”**
- ▶ **Titus 1:1 “Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God’s elect...”**

Sir Robert Anderson

Bible Scholar and Author

“First, the scriptural expression ‘God’s Elect’ is a title of dignity and privilege, applicable exclusively to the Christian. Secondly, the prominent thought in election is rank and privilege and not salvation from judgment and sin.”

Proof Texts?

- ▶ **“You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in my name, He may give to you.” - John 15:16**
- ▶ **Matt. 20:16, 22:14 - “Many are called but few are chosen?”**

William MacDonald

“Many are called but few are chosen”

“Many are called is that the gospel invitation goes out to many. But few are chosen. Some refuse the invitation, and even those who respond favorably, some are exposed as false professors. The expression few are chosen does not mean that God is arbitrary in selecting only a few for salvation. All who respond to the good news are chosen. The only way a person can tell if he is chosen is by what he does with the Lord Jesus Christ”(Matt 22: 14, 20:16).

—Wm. MacDonald, Commentary on Matthew - p. 249

Proof Texts?

- ▶ **Romans 3:11 - “There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.”**
- ▶ **“All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” John 6:37**

Acts 13:48- “And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified God: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.”

1. Greek word “Tasso” is translated “ordained.”
However the Greek scholar Dean Alford and the *Liddel and Scott* Greek dictionary translates it as “they were disposed to,” “decided” or “gave themselves to.”

2. 1 Cor. 16:15 -The household of Stephanus “addicted” or “devoted” themselves to the ministry of the saints.

3. The word “Believed” (v. 48) stands first in the word order in the Greek text and is in the “aorist tense”, “active voice” , “indicative mood”—which means they were exercising their faith, not someone else’s and not a faith given to them.

A. T. Robertson

Baptist Greek Scholar

“The word ‘ordain’ is not the best translation here...The Jews had voluntarily rejected the word of God. On the other hand the Gentiles gladly accepted what the Jews rejected. There is not evidence that Luke had in mind the decree of election to personal salvation.” —A. T. Robertson, Word Pictures in the New Testament, vol. 3, (New York, 1930), p. 200

2 Thess. 2:13 "God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation ..."

- ▶ **1. "From the beginning" are two words in Greek "ap arches." Many have translated this phrase as "first fruits" or "new converts" (F. F. Bruce) and The Revised Standard Version Bible.**
- ▶ **2. The word "salvation" can mean deliverance from persecution. This is a common meaning in 1 & 2 Thess. and 1 & 2 Tim.**
 - ▶ **a. "God hath not appointed us to wrath but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thess. 5:9**
 - ▶ **b. "Jesus who delivered us from the wrath to com" 1 Thess. 1:10**
 - ▶ **c. "I endure all things for the elect sakes that they may obtain eternal salvation which is in Christ Jesus..." 2 Tim. 2:10**