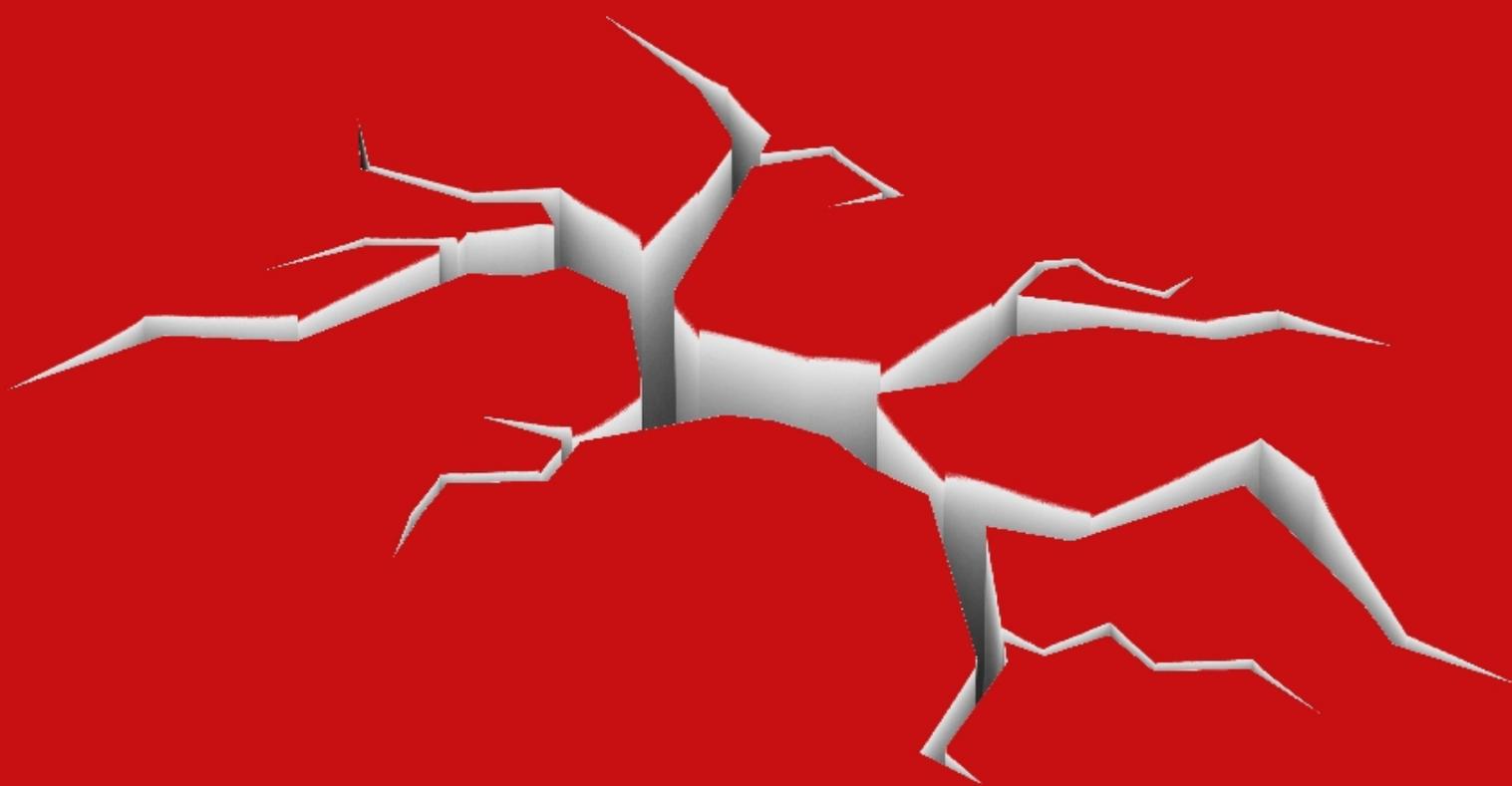


*Don't Call Me  
A Calvinist...  
Call Me A Baptist!*



# My Five Points

by

Earl Jackson

Don't call me a Calvinist. Call me a Baptist!

**My Five Points**  
*(Don't Call Me a Calvinist...  
Call me a Baptist)*

*By Earl Jackson*  
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## **PREFACE:**

Don't call me a Calvinist. Call me a Baptist! This is the cry of my heart after having spent over 35 years as a Calvinist pastor. I am fully qualified to warn you first hand of the dangers and pitfalls of Calvinism, because I served as an ordained "Reformed Baptist" pastor all those years. I started a Calvinistic Church, which to this day still tenaciously holds to the 1689 London Baptist Confession, which I taught it to hold to. That Confession is perhaps the most Calvinistic Baptist document ever penned, and now it is my opinion that it has caused the most damage to the true Baptist faith and message of any document ever printed.

Back in the early 1970's when the Presbyterian / Puritan oriented "Banner of Truth Trust" republished the first modern popular edition of the 1689 London Baptist Confession, it is my belief that they did so, because the 1689 London Confession, so effectively and completely blurred the lines between Baptist Theology and Reformed Covenant Theology, that it was in the interest of Presbyterianism to undertake to publish a so called Baptist document. In doing so, they were not actually trying to promote the authentic Baptist faith and message, they were deliberately trying to blur the lines of distinction within the Baptist community, and infect us with the Covenant Theology poison of Presbyterianism and promote modern day Puritanism with it's attendant hateful legalism. They did a good job. Today higher numbers of ex-Baptist Pastors are seeking ordination in the Presbyterian Church than ever before. When the Presbyterians reprinted the London Confession of 1689 they did so to transform Baptists from Baptists into Presbyterians. They did such a good job that today, all over the world, the Reformed Baptist churches, are virtually indistinguishable from the Presbyterian Churches, except in the matters of Baptism and the absence of Presbyteries or Synods. In my opinion however, Reformed Baptists should no longer be called Baptists. They have actually forsaken the ancient Baptist Faith and have wedded themselves to a harlot. Here's how it happened, and here's why it is so dangerous. I know because I was part of this.

All over the world, Baptist pastors were coming to believe in Calvinistic truths called "the Five Points" or TULIP. I was one of them, and we saw in the republication of an authentic early Baptist document (the 1689 London Confession), something to substantiate our Calvinistic faith, and give us roots for our beliefs. Many of us were actually suffering persecution, personal attack,

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name calling, and we were being kicked out of fundamentalist organizations which rightly saw many great dangers in Calvinism. Those were difficult days, but the Baptist Calvinists found strength and a new found source of unity in the 1689 confession and the modern "Reformed Baptist" movement was born. People like pastor Al Martin, Walt Chantry, the Reisinger brothers, along with many other clear thinkers and powerful preachers, were able to bring cohesiveness and direction to the early days of the movement into the forays of Calvinism, and were able to help the less experienced Calvinist's, who were coming in droves out of fundamentalism, to learn how to wear and function in their new found Calvinistic armor. I was part of all that. I established one of the first Reformed Baptist Churches in Massachusetts, (Pioneer Valley Baptist Chapel in Chicopee Ma), and I am sure that God was in those early days of the movement working to bring a revival of the doctrines of God's Grace and Sovereignty. It served a very important purpose, and I am glad I was a part of it, even though today I regret that it was all a huge mistake as far as the Baptist faith and message is concerned. While God was working to revive the doctrines of salvation by Grace and Divine Sovereignty, Satan was also at work through the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith and through the deviant doctrines of Covenant Theology. I contributed to the downward whirlpool of Baptist's ceasing to be Baptists and becoming followers of John Calvin, rather than Jesus Christ, and for that I am truly sorry. I no longer believe Calvins errors, and thank God He delivered me. In this little book I will explain why I no longer want to be called a Calvinist. I will point out the great damage that I have seen caused to the true Baptist faith and message, and to the cause of God and truth by this modern movement of which I was a significant part. I feel bad and repent for any damage I may have caused to the Baptist faith, by my departure into a Baptized version of Presbyterianism, and to help correct the damage that I have caused to Christ's cause, I send forth this book to all my Reformed Baptist Brothers urging them to "Flee!" "Come out from among them". Calvinism is a terrible form of idolatry, and I no longer endorse it. Please read this book carefully so you will not be sucked into it's black hole.

**1Samuel 7:3-4** *And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines. :4 Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only.*

**1John 5:21** *Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.*

**My Five Points (My TULIP)**  
*By Earl Jackson (Baptist Minister)*

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## Introduction:

Having spent over 35 years in active ministry of the Word of God, I am no stranger to controversy, nor am I a stranger to the history of the Christian faith and the various doctrinal branches of Christianity. I have seen everything, and I have explored all the areas of subtle theological distinctions that exist in this world. And the more I learn about the Bible, the less I want to know about the doctrines of men and of devils. I am convinced that all truth is one, and all truth is found exclusively in Jesus Christ (John 14:6), not in John Calvin, Martin Luther, Charles Spurgeon or Earl Jackson. Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17), and if we follow Him exclusively we shall never be led astray by the false teaching of mere men or human institutions. This is probably a radical or at the least novel idea in today's world where there are thousands of different splinter groups and denominations in Christianity. It proves my contention that "ism's are schisms". But God is not the author of such confusion in the churches (1Cor. 12:25; 1Cor. 1:10-12; 1Cor. 3:3; 1Cor. 14:33).

The five points that I have listed here are the essence of my theology. These are the five points as I see them. They are not Calvin's five points. Nor are they the Five Points of James Arminius. They are mine. I do not follow men, including John Calvin, I follow what I see only in the Bible. I am a Biblicist. In this sense I am not a "Calvinist". I dislike that term and many of the false doctrines attached to it. While I clearly identify with certain aspects of Calvin's soteriology (as do almost all historic Baptist's), I detest the legalism of the Puritans, the false notions of non-evangelism, and the dead-orthodoxy, traditionalism and hyper-intellectualism that his system spawns everywhere it goes. When it is unchecked by the Bible (Sola Scriptura), Calvinism has been a great bane of darkness and confusion in the churches. It has also brought huge amounts of light on many neglected areas of doctrine. While the five points of of the synod of Dort contain the essence of a great way to understand the plan of Salvation, they are far from the whole truth on the matter. Elevating them to the status of "the gospel", is a grave mistake that often goes with the system. When men fasten their hearts upon truth, they need to be very careful that their fastening and attachments to part of the truth does not detach them from other equally important truths. There is more in the Bible than the five points of Calvin, and that is one of the great dangers in the Reformed theology. It makes a few things central and it emphasizes them to the exclusion of many other equally important things. It becomes the central hermeneutic for interpreting the entire Bible, and

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when that happens Christ himself ceases to be the center. Calvinism is a form of idolatry, when that is the only thing you think the Bible says. The plan of God is not about predestination or even about atonement. The plan of God is about Jesus Christ and all the acts of God to bring glory and honor to Himself. Calvinist's tend to miss the great center, while focusing on minute and minor peripheral details. That's why their system is idolatrous. All false systems get you to think more about their views than about God. That's idolatry. All truth is important, but all truth is meant to be related to every other truth and concept in the Divine Revelation. When you focus on one concept and neglect other equally important concepts you are no longer teaching the truth, you are teaching lies. Half truths are whole lies, and this is the problem with any system that does not allow Scripture to speak for itself.

Calvinism tends to be a systematic and dogmatic approach to truth rather than a Biblically framed theology. Most Calvinist will try to deny this, and I am sure many people will write to me and tell me I am misrepresenting the Calvinist position. But I know these doctrines inside and out, and I have seen what they do to peoples minds and to the life and heart of churches all over this country. For every good thing you can show me about the Covenant Theology of the Puritans, I can show you five serious flaws in the system. I have seen how Puritanism turns people into pharisees, and how it saps every Baptist principle out of existence including separation of church and state. I have studied and identified with these doctrines for 35 years and I can say from experience that Calvinists interpret the entire Bible through the lens of the five points of Calvin, rather than from the lens of a Christo-centric Biblical Theology. Covenant Theology fits the whole Bible into a preconceived doctrinal paradigm called "the Covenant of Grace" and "The Covenant of Works", neither of which is mentioned anywhere in the Bible. Beware. The Bible is not primarily about the Five Points of Calvinism, but Calvinist's have great difficulty reading anything in the Bible without these Calvinistic spectacles on their eyeballs. This makes their system a system of false interpretation, because it forces them to interpret things from a preconceived doctrinal persuasion, rather than simply letting the Bible say what it says. They will deny this, but all you have to do, is read their extended theological arguments and contortions to "explain away" the "all" verses, the "world" verses, the "whosoever" verses, and you will instantly see that their system does not allow them to simply let the Bible say what it says. I am not speaking without experience here. I have been a champion for these doctrines for many years. I founded a Reformed Baptist church, and I have defended all

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of the doctrines of Calvinism in writing and in preaching with great detail, precision and great success. I have repented. Calvinism is an idolatry which God has graciously delivered me from.

I am not denying any of the truth, when I deny John Calvin the supreme seat of authority in my life and ministry. I am not a Calvinist, simply because I am a Christ-follower. All the truth is in Him, not just a part of it. Which would you want to have, a whole truth? or a half truth? A whole gospel? or a partial gospel? While I do not deny lesser truths (such as some of the ones found in Calvin's Five Points), I do not neglect the greater truths either, such as "He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world" (1Jn. 2:2). Want to see how Calvinism pretzel-izes the truth, convoluting and distorting things in order to make them fit with their preconceived Calvinistic spectacles, then ask them to explain 1John 2:2 to you? You will be amazed at the great lengths they go to in order to explain away the obvious and simple meaning of this verse. Trust me, I know all the arguments. But it's always wrong to interpret the word of God in such a way that it no longer means what it says. Such is the road to liberalism, and heresy. It is not the road to knowledge and truth, or to honoring God and His word. When you get in the habit of explaining away one verse, soon you will be explaining away ten and next hundreds of verses. "Explaining away" God's word, is not a method of Biblical hermeneutics. That is the method of the serpent in the garden. All Paedobaptist's are liberals, because they explain away all of the verses about believers baptism in favor of the traditions of men which teach them to Baptize babies. Dear Baptist brothers, please look and think clearly. Presbyterians and their Congregational and Anglican cousins, are not your friends. They hate your Baptist Doctrines. They persecuted your Baptist forefathers, and they will do the same to you, if you do not agree with their perversions. They want you to imagine them as your friends in Christ, but they are actually enemies because their view of Sola Scriptura involves forcing the Bible to say what they want it to say. I've even had Reformed Baptist brothers turn against me, a fellow Baptist, so they could side with the Presbyterians who do not believe a word of Baptist doctrine. Beware, because this is very subtle and insidious. It is a deadly poison. They want to turn you into Presbyterians. They will tell you that if you do not drink from their Reformed communion cup, you are a heretic.

The Congregationalist's in Massachusetts, were haters and persecutors of the Baptist heretics and many of our forebears suffered horrendous things at their

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Puritan hands. This is what puritanism does. It sniffs out heretics and eradicates them. It demands absolute and perfect obedience to their ruthless man-made system of interpretation, and it drives all Baptists out of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Modern day puritanism is the same poison. And many good Baptist people like myself, were taken in and poisoned by the allure of their false gospel of legalism combined with grace.

The Bible is our source for truth. God gave us that, not the various confessions of faith, statements of synods, or the teachings of men. I'm not saying that we should not study well reasoned human opinions and church history. I'm saying that we must always bring them to the bar of the sacred writings. God knows how to speak perfectly, and God knows how to say exactly what He wants us to know. So the answer is never to allow men to re-interpret God's word for us. His thoughts should be our thoughts, and if men disagree with God, then we should not embrace their ideas or allow their ideals into our lives or churches. In that sense no Christian should ever identify Himself by a mans name..."I am of Paul, I am of Apollos, I am of Calvin, I am of Arminius". Shame on Christians who do that. How about: "I am of Christ"? Shouldn't that be top priority for every Christian? "Ism's are schisms", and God hates those in the Body of Christ.

Here are the five points I believe in. This is my TULIP. I am not a Calvinist, and I am not an Arminian either. I am a Christian, and as such, I embrace all the truth and light that Jesus Christ my only leader brought into the world with Him. If men do not like my non-Calvinistic stance so what? I refuse to identify myself with what men like or dislike, or with what they agree with or disagree with. We all answer to our Lord, not to other people. We are all believer priests, and we all stand or fall based upon our relationship to Jesus Christ alone. If you dislike what I have to say, then, don't read it! I'm not trying to force my beliefs on you. You do not have to agree with me. But if you read with an honest disposition and a heart to know the whole counsel of God, I think you may find much to commend to your soul in these viewpoints which I have set forth here. But like I said before, make sure you bring all the teachings of men (including the ones I am setting forth here) to the bar of judgment which is the touchstone of the sacred Scriptures.

Please note, that I am presenting nothing new. Baptist's have historically denied being "reformed". In 1689 the first ecumenical Baptist Confession of Faith was

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written in London, because Baptists were suffering under intense persecution, and a consensus of Baptist ministers and people felt that by compromising with the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Savoy Declaration of Faith and Order, and by adopting it almost verbatim, except as regards to church polity and baptism, they might gain recognition and acceptance, and put an end to the persecution from the mainstream religious forces. They did it, and it saved many lives, and spared many people from much suffering. I would have probably done the same thing, if I was a Baptist living then, and if members of my own family and church were suffering horrible persecution. But in the process, of drawing their doctrines from the Savoy and the Westminster, they deviated from the historic particular Baptist tenets, and they became wed to "reformed" or Presbyterian Covenant Theology. They corrupted the Baptist Faith and message, and they did it intentionally. They did it to save their own skins! It was a calculated compromise, and it was probably necessary at the time, from a practical point of view. But I think this was one of the darkest moments in all of Baptist History. Today all over the world, "Reformed Baptists" as they call themselves, have embraced the 1689 London Confession and have become nothing more than Baptized Presbyterians. Shame on them, and shame on me, because I used to promote this stuff. God forgive me. Now I promote one thing..."Jesus Christ and Him crucified". I have learned that everything is explained in terms of Him, and through the spectacles of His Divine viewpoint. If my Reformed Baptist friends don't like it, so what? Perhaps someday they will see the error in their way, just like I did. No Baptist should ever identify Himself as a Calvinist, even when He is preaching or teaching many of the same truths. When I deny Calvinism it does not mean that I am denying any of the doctrines of God's Grace that are revealed in the Bible. I am still a staunch defender and proclaimer of the doctrines of Grace, even more so. Salvation is by Grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. When I deny Calvin, I am not denying Grace. I am not denying any Biblical doctrine. Actually I am reinforcing grace and making it stronger, because I am removing the UN-Biblical shackles that have been attached to it through traditions of men. Calvinism is a perversion, whenever It rejects the Bible in favor of the teachings of men. We should reject it on all those points that it rejects God's clearly stated viewpoint as found in the Bible.

This book is not a point by point dismantling of Calvinism. That is not my intention. Other people have written books like that. The purpose here is to present what I see in scriptures, and to show why Calvinism does not agree with

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it. All the points I make could just as easily be used to show that Arminianism is false as well. Contrary to whatever you may have been told, those are not the only two theological systems. Long before Arminius and Long before Calvin, there were vast centuries of Christianity wherein people simply believed the Bible and the truths of the gospel. Baptist's predate the Reformation, and they predate both Calvinism and Arminianism. Biblicism or Scripturalism is synonymous with all actual Christian doctrines. If it is not Biblical, it is not Christian. If it is not Christian, we should not have anything to do with it. I have left Calvinism very simply because it is a manufactured man-made doctrinal system which actually contradicts the Bible.

So what you will see here, is not a point by point refutation of Calvinism. There are many excellent books that do that sort of thing. This is different. It is some of my ideas that have come about after years of Bible study and preaching about grace. Even when I was a Calvinist, I never allowed the system to keep me from winning souls and presenting the full counsel of God as I saw it in the Bible. Thank God He kept that spirit within me, that I would always look to the Bible alone for my doctrines. I always resisted the Reformed intellectualism, that fosters belief in footnotes and expert opinions, over the simple words of Scripture. These studies are radically different than the five points of Calvin. They show that Calvin's views were lopsided and forced, a humanly contrived interpretation, not the actual truths of Scripture. By not taking Calvin point by point and showing his fallacies that way, I think I am actually presenting a stronger case against Calvinism, and a stronger case for the truth. The truth is where you find it. I found it by journeying through Calvinism to get to someplace else where God wanted to take me. We are all on different journeys, but God wants us all to have the mind of Christ, to have the same mind, and to mind the same things. Please follow my thinking with an opened Bible. These views are my own, and I have not provided documentation from any book other than the Bible. I had accumulated a 14,000 volume library over the course of my 40 years of ministry. But all those books do not contain one drop of the Biblical ocean. So I seldom quote from human authors to support my ideas, even though I could very easily. The Bible is truth, and the Bible speaks for itself. I prefer to use that authority exclusively. But that does not mean that I am not well informed about all the authorities and experts and what they actually say. I am well acquainted with their views. But this is Bible stuff. Hope it blesses and enlightens you, and helps to keep you out of error and in the way of truth and righteousness.

## Point One - The "T" in my TULIP

### Total Unconditional Stupidity

**Jeremiah 10:14-15** *Every man is stupid and without knowledge; every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols, for his images are false, and there is no breath in them. :15 They are worthless, a work of delusion; at the time of their punishment they shall perish.*

**Jeremiah 51:17-18** *Every man is stupid and without knowledge; every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols, for his images are false, and there is no breath in them. :18 They are worthless, a work of delusion; at the time of their punishment they shall perish.*

**Job 11:12** *But a stupid man will get understanding when a wild donkey's colt is born a man!*

These verses are from the English Standard Version (ESV) because they are easier to understand than the King James Version which uses the terms "brutish" and "vain" instead of "stupid". In 1611 England you would have instantly understood that a "brutish man" or a "vain man" was a "stupid man". But today those words have virtually lost their meaning. If you obtain a King James Dictionary, where the obsolete words are defined so that us modern English speakers can comprehend them; you will see that both "brutish" and "vain" mean "stupid". They might also be defined as "empty headed". The word "foolish" is closely akin to this word and it means "destitute of knowledge".

Some people are instantly offended when I call men "stupid". But the doctrine of innate human stupidity is an important but neglected part of the Biblical doctrine of human depravity, which almost all Baptist statements of faith will recognize and agree with. Stupidity is part of the sinfulness of sin. It is the immediate result of sin. It is also the immediate direct cause of sin, because Adam was very "stupid" to do what He did. All sin is stupid, and all sinfulness springs from mans innate stupidity. This we will show in detail. But many people object to the language. The word "stupid" to them is insulting. That is because they value their own intelligence way more than God values it. God never calls men "intelligent", "smart", "brilliant", not even when He is discussing the men who are wisest men in the Bible. Solomon may have been wise, by the Grace of God, but His human nature was stupid. That's why He had so many wives and

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concubines. All men are stupid, just like God says. Even the wisest. This is a virtually unexplored doctrine, and to me it is the true doctrine of total depravity. Calvinism does not teach this at all. Yet they claim to teach total depravity. If they taught the innate total stupidity of all men, they would not rely upon their own minds to figure out truth. They would not rely on scholars to tell them what the Bible means. Scholars and experts are stupid also according to this view.

## **Speaking God's Truth Using God's Vocabulary is the correct way for ministers to speak.**

It is not an insult to call people what God calls them. Some churches no longer want us to speak about “sin”, or call people “sinners”. But these are terms which God plainly includes throughout the entire Bible. Who cares if somebody does not like the language that God has used in His inerrant and infallible communication to us? Once you start modifying the terminology of God's Divinely inspired vocabulary, you will start diluting and softening every doctrine in the Bible which you happen to dislike or find personally offensive. By redefining and modifying the words in God's word, the idea of an actual “Bible”, becomes a myth and what we end up with is a bunch of stupid peoples pathetic opinions about what should be or should not be included in the Word of God. If you're offended when God calls men stupid, then get over it! or you will be showing right swiftly that it is true at least in your case! Biblical language should characterize the speech of all Christians, especially those commissioned and ordained to preach the gospel.

God can call men anything He wants to call them. In fact, He calls them plenty of expletives that most people today find offensive. He calls them dung, snakes, vipers, dogs, children of Satan, whitewashed tombs, unprofitable, worthless, destitute, enemies of God, dead in trespasses and sins, liars, haters of God, lovers of darkness, aliens, beasts, godless, reprobates, grasshoppers, worms, “no man”, fools, wild asses (Hosea 8:9), brute beasts, and many other terms which most people would find highly offensive. That's OK. God does not have to please our tastes for smoothly refined non-offensive language. He is never a people-pleaser. And part of the reason why, is because He speaks so as to get our attention. Of Jesus they said: “Never man spake like this man”. That is true of every word that He ever uttered. God knows how to choose the perfect words for every occasion, because He has absolute mastery of all known

languages, and He possesses perfect understanding of the meaning of all words. Don't be accusing God of using bad words, poor choices of words, or offensive language. God does not speak for your approval. He speaks so that you will listen to Him, so you can gain His approval! God says you are stupid. And if you act so as to presume to judge The Almighty's vocabulary, you prove Him right once again! He is always right, because He knows what He is talking about all the time. If you do not think He knows what He is talking about? then you are calling God a moron. When you do that, you show who the real moron is! Even if you appear to be smart, God says you are stupid! So face the fact, and find out why He says that, before you start accusing God of not matching up to your lofty view of human intelligence. Your view is wrong. God's view is always right. Read His Lips..."Every man is stupid and without knowledge"! You don't need a PHD to understand those simple and inspired words which accurately describe every human being. God says: "Stupid" because that is the truth. Deal with it. Our job is not to question God's judgment about our stupidity. Our job is to bow to His infinitely perfect assessment and ask Him to show us why He speaks like that? but don't you ever dare to correct the Eternal God of the Universe. Your presumptuous over-appreciation of yourself, can quickly cause you to commit blasphemy. You do that, and you are not only stupid, but you are an idolater as well! Be very careful. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

I think the doctrine of mans total depravity needs to be properly accentuated by this important doctrine of mans total unconditional stupidity. These two fundamental doctrines go hand in hand, and while the first is generally well affirmed, (at least in Reformed or Calvinistic circles), the second is usually not even mentioned. Why is this?

I would go so far as to say that we tend to shy away from the important doctrine of mans total unconditional stupidity, (which actually stresses his total inability), because we have bought into the world's erroneous concept that "there is a little bit of good in everyone"...a little spark of divinity that just needs fanning. Really?

The Pelagian view of man is that man is fully intelligent because he was created in the image of God. This is the world's popular view. And this is the view of most Christians, and theologians who preach tradition rather than the truth. Calvinism also teaches this false view of the image of God in man. They teach however, that the image of God was marred or damaged by the fall. This is

also incorrect, as we shall see later. The image of God in man has never consisted of His intellect. If it were intellect, then the smartest people would be the most godlike. But such is clearly not the case. In fact, in most cases the smartest people by the world's standards, are actually often the most godless and the most UN-Godlike people on the planet. The image of God has nothing to do with mans intelligence. It has never had anything to do with mans mental capacity. Intelligence is not God's image in man. We will revisit this idea later.

In contrast however, the Biblical view of man says: *"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. 3:11-12). "There is none that understandeth", shows that human intellect is lacking and is deficient when it comes to spiritual perception. The result of human stupidity is human worthlessness or "unprofitableness". "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (Rom. 1:22).

No one has any understanding by nature. That is a mental characteristic that comes only by grace. This is why God repeatedly refers to men as blind and deaf (Matthew 13:15). He says: *"They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness"* (Psalm 82:5). God actually goes so far as to say, not only are they stupid and have no knowledge, but *they "hate knowledge"* (Prov 1:29). *"Fools hate knowledge"* (Prov 1:22). *" Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways"* (Job 21:14). *"But unto the wicked God saith... thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee"* (Psalm 50:16-17). *" For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved"* (John 3:20).

The Bible does not endorse the false notion that man is naturally brilliant. In fact it says that while they claim to be wise they are actually fools (Romans 1:22). Contrary to what the world says, man is not intelligent. He is stupid. That's what the Bible says, and that is not a message which is at all difficult to understand. In fact, I think even the most stupid of men can understand quiet easily what God means when He says: "Every man is stupid and without knowledge". That's so simple to understand that even the most stupid among us can grasp it. That's precisely why it needs to be an integral part of our message. God said it and so should we! It is a wonderful and beautiful thing to learn what God teaches us

about the subject of human intelligence. "Every man is stupid". How about that? When was the last time you heard a Sunday morning sermon about that?

God does not praise those who worship other gods as diverse and broad-minded people, but he calls their religions worthless, and He says that because they hate Him, they are stupid. The idea that every person is intelligent, and deserves our respect and admiration, even if they are worshiping false Gods, is a horrible UN-Christian notion. It's actually quite hateful! Yes, that's right! It's hateful to tell lost men that they are smart, to tell men who are in darkness that they are intelligent, because it disguises their true condition. It leaves the poor, ignorant, lost man, who happens to consider himself as an intellectual giant, with the idea that we admire his stupendous intellect and achievements! And it leads Him to think that God admires Him also. But God says that He is stupid, that He hates knowledge, that his false religion is idolatry, and that he is on his way to hell! Is it kind or loving to lead him on and lie to him like that?

We should never in the slightest way, condone man's sinful and idolatrous thinking. Sending the false signal that you, and God, approve of stupid people's intelligence, philosophy, false religion, godlessness, atheistic thought patterns, and hatred for the truth, is a horrible and hateful thing for Christians to do. It's time for Christians to actually speak what the Bible says. People are stupid, but they are not so stupid that they cannot see how stupid "the Christians" are who tell them a smooth message that they want to hear instead of the message they need to hear. When we tell people they are wonderful, and when we respect what God disrespects most about the sinful human condition, we are showing that we are more stupid than the lost, because they can see through our shallowness and our phony insincerity in a flash. If we as Christians, were actually endowed with Godly wisdom, we would preach the truth without worldly wisdom, and without false love. We decorate the simple truth, to make it soft and palatable, and in the process we adulterate the truth and make it unrecognizable. Many people hate the way that I speak. They find it too blunt. And they find it offensive. But guess what? Nobody can say that my message is unrecognizable. Even complete idiots can understand the way I preach and teach, because it is completely unadorned by the wisdom of the world and the pleasantries of feel-good-ism. There is nothing seeker-sensitive here, because "there is none that understandeth and there is none that seeketh after God" (Romans 3:11). People who hear this message will react almost instantaneously, because non-compromising language calls them to decide.

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They will decide either to listen and believe, or they will decide that I am a fool, and they will not listen at all. Guess what? God wins either way, because they have made a choice based entirely upon the accurate statement of truth. I know that men love darkness rather than light, and I know that they even rejected Jesus Christ Himself. So it should never upset me, or surprise me, or deter me, or discourage me in the least from preaching the whole counsel of God, just like the apostles did in the Bible. The Bible is not a pick what you like smorgasbord. It is not a buffet line. It is God telling us what to believe and how to think, and God never speaks with uncertainty or without perfect clarity. God is not a sounding brass or tinkling cymbal. And truth does not function the way the world wants it to function, nor does it agree with the butter frosting approach of most Christians who are more concerned about offending men, than pleasing God. God command us to eat it all, not just the morsels we find tasty to our warped and twisted pallet's.

Men are going to hell because they are stupid! And if you lead them on to think that there is something good in their religion, or something acceptable about their godless thoughts; or if you affirm the lie that there is something good in all religions, and that even people who reject Christ are still people of high intellect and morality; you are showing that you actually hate them, and want to see them go to hell! You would rather tell them how good they are, then how bad God says they actually are. Your not a good witness if you do not speak truth. You are not demonstrating Christian kindness, love and understanding, or any compassion at all. When you lather up the pride of evil people and tell them how wonderful they are, you are demonstrating that you want them to go to hell so much, that you are willing to withhold the truth about them, from them! You are telling them that you think more of them, than you think of God, and that you would rather please them, then to obey the command of your Lord to preach the gospel to every living creature including them. The gospel does not contain any lies. It contains all the truth that all men need to know about themselves and about the only way of salvation. When you modify the gospel to make it sweet sounding and nice, you are insulting Christ who went to the uttermost extreme to save sinners. You do not doctor up the salvation message. You should be ashamed of yourself if you do that. It's a grievous sin to modify or withhold information that sinners need and that Christ commands you to preach. When you think like that, you are thinking just like them, and perhaps that is because you are not saved either? Maybe secretly you know that you are one of them? and that is why you persist in thinking so stupidly. You should examine yourself

if you cannot wrap your mind around one of the simplest statements that the Bible makes anywhere... *"Every man is stupid and without knowledge"*! If you cannot grasp such a simple truth, it is probably because you have no saving light in you at all? If you have the mind of Christ, which Paul says all Christians have (1Cor. 2:16), then you ought to be able to comprehend extremely simple truths which describe the basic human condition. Nobody needs a PHD to understand that men are stupid. You need to learn to think and say exactly what God says, instead of trying to improve it by glossing over it, or ignoring it, or trying to cover it up or change it. That is very wrong to do on every level. And it is not something Christians should ever feel comfortable doing, especially if they are pastors of churches. Yet it happens so much in our churches, Bible colleges and seminaries, that we don't even realize we are doing it anymore.

The word of God is a serious message, not a Christian plaything or toy that we mess around with as a hobby. Life and death hang in the balance over the clear articulation of the truth. Speak it. Speak it factually. Or, shut up and don't even open your mouth if you cannot talk like God talks when you are delivering His message. Please don't blaspheme by adulterating, mollifying or codling people with false words. Slippery words fall off the tongue of the serpent with ease, but they ought never be on the tongues of Christian preachers. If people do not like your message, so what? They did not like Christ's message either, and on more than one occasion they took up stones to kill Him. When you preach like that, and enrage people that much, then you are approaching the Biblical norm for gospel preaching. But if people "enjoy" your message, as a preacher, you have miserably failed, and have been unfaithful to Christ who died to save sinners. There is nothing enjoyable about sin, death, hell, bloody sacrifice, death burial or resurrection. There is nothing enjoyable about telling people to turn or burn, to believe or be damned. There is nothing enjoyable about pointing out how stupid, blind, deaf, dead and completely lost men are without Christ. When people shake your hand at the end of your sermon and say "I really enjoyed that wonderful message pastor" you should go to your office and fall on your face and ask Christ to forgive for misrepresenting the Bible. Do you think that Christ dying on the cross, and bearing the sin of the world was an enjoyable experience for Him? It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God". Nobody gets Joy, till they get Jesus. If you are preaching to reach sinners, it will always be quite un-enjoyable and quite unpleasant. Prick them in their hearts and it will hurt. Men must be convicted if they will be converted. And the Holy Spirit does that only when the actual plain truth is presented without

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embellishment. How shall they hear without a preacher? Be a preacher, not a pussy-footer. Talk plainly so that men will know God Himself has spoken to them through you. They must hear the voice of God in order to live (John 10:16, 27). That's what you are to speak. Not human opinions, not human rationalization, and certainly not a seeker-sensitive feel good about yourself message. Men must feel bad about themselves if they are ever to be converted. They must know what they are by nature, in order to appreciate what they are made by Grace.

None of this is difficult or complicated. It is extremely simple. When Christian preachers cannot understand it, it is because the channels in their own brains have become clogged with thinking that has not actually come from the Bible. The Bible, and every truth in it, is designed to enlighten the minds of believers, not darken them. If you cannot understand and preach the actual condition of men, as God states it, it is because you have complicated something that is very simple. If you are in the process of being conformed to the image of Christ, then you need to think like God thinks, and speak like God speaks! Sentimental gush might make you feel good, and feel like everyone is intelligent and loving and wise, but God's truth should make you realize, and know that all people without Christ are lost, and all of them are totally stupid because if they are not worshiping Him, they are worshiping false gods! Those are the only options. Either men are believers or they are idolaters. There are no other options! And idolatry is the height of stupidity, because it worships what it knows can never be God. Faith is the only option to stupidity. Either you have faith and believe what God says and are recipients of His thinking; or you are lost, blind and stupid.

Human stupidity is what keeps men in the dark.

Human stupidity is what keeps them loving darkness rather than light (John 3:19).

Human stupidity keeps men lost.

Human stupidity is what sends people to hell in the end.

Human stupidity is the primary characteristic of every unsaved man, and even the saved are stupid if they do not walk in the light that God gives them.

So dear Christian friend, do yourself a favor, and do the people whom you care about a favor. Think what God thinks, and say what God says. Get busy doing and saying everything in your power to correct the false pride of the lost people whom you know and want to see come to Christ. They value their own

intelligence. They think that their baseless opinions are just as good as yours. But they are the ones who are lost! Correct them! Chastise them! Rebuke their ignorant excuses and lame ideas! Your God, if you are a Christian, says that they are totally stupid. Believe God and say what He says! If God's estimate of fallen man is that He is stupid, then fallen men need to know exactly what God thinks of them so they can seek His only remedy for their stupidity, which is found only in the person of Jesus Christ who is the truth, light, life and only way out of ignorance and blindness. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Do not pay attention to their stupid questions, which are designed only to trip you up and make you as stupid as them. Do not follow their stupid rabbit trails through the rivers and woods trying to get you to prove something for them, or to answer something which is ridiculous. If you are going to reach them, and if you are in fact the agent of change that God wants you to be in their life, then you will need to confront them, refuse to listen to their garbage, and explain why they are so stupid and in such complete need of Christ to save them from their utter and complete intellectual, moral, social and spiritual bankruptcy. You need to silence their stupid remarks and questions and get them to listen to the only thing able to help them. The only question you should ever listen to is: "What must I do to be saved?" That is the only question which they can ever ask you that does not proceed from their stupidity, but from the realization that they know finally how stupid they really are and that they need to be saved from it. They need Christ to save them from their sin, and to save them from themselves! Their problem is not just what they do, but it is what they think and what they are. They are dead (Ephesians 2:1,5; Colossians 2:13). The dead know nothing (Ecclesiastes 9:5)! Never act or speak like they do, because in doing so, you mislead them to trust in themselves more, rather than to trust in Christ alone.

That is why God calls Christians to preach the gospel. This means that you declare the truth to them without compromising it, and without doctoring it up so that it will soothe their evil minds and make them feel good without salvation. Nobody should ever feel good if they are lost and are enemies of God! The gospel must convict them, before it can convert them! It must awaken them before they can see the light. And it will do neither if you make it appear, even in the slightest way, that they are OK already, that they are thinking right, when actually they are totally insane! They are not OK. They are not even close to being OK if they have not yet cried out..."What must I do to be saved?" If they

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are lost, they are dead and doomed without Christ. They are miserable and ignorant. Their only hope is in Jesus Christ, but they are too stupid to recognize it. That's what you must get across, and you must do it so that they will take it seriously, when you say it. Tell them, show them, and weep in front of them, because of their terrible stupidity. But never, never, never, tell them or imply that they are smart when God says otherwise.

Here is the wrong way to witness to a stupid person. If they are Buddhist, and you tell them, "Oh Buddhism is a wonderful way, and Buddha had many wonderful ideas. I know lots of wonderful people who are Buddhists. I think there is good in every religion. But Jesus said you need to believe in Him, more than you believe in Buddha". You have not witnessed or preached the gospel at all, if you talk like that. In fact, if you speak and act like that toward your friend, because you figure you don't want to turn them off, and you want to be gentle; what you have actually done, is said to them: "Jesus Christ is a liar, and the Bible is not true! You will be just fine if you continue to stare at your navel. You don't really need to be saved because you're alright just the way you are". That is horrific and abominable! That's not preaching the gospel. It's denying the gospel. It's withholding the gospel from someone who desperately needs it! The gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16).

Christians do stuff like that every day; and every unbeliever sees right through it, knows that is not the true message of the gospel; knows that Christ claimed to be the only way, the truth and the life. But because they don't want to hear that, due to their unconditional stupidity, they seek the ways that are right in their own eyes, which are the ways of destruction (Proverbs 14:12). You give them your approval to disregard Christ and the gospel message when you screw it up by trying to doctor it up and make it sound more loving than it actually is! You give them exactly what they want (nothing), when you tell them how good they are. Shame on you! Your false message is contributing to their final damnation if they fail to become believers. "Speak the truth in Christ and lie not" (1 Timothy 2:7).

When you do not think like God thinks, and you do not speak like He speaks; and when you falsely assume that you can improve his message by taking the side of your friend instead of the side of God, you have disgraced the Lord, and have probably helped to drive your friend even further from Christ, and further into His own stupid world of darkness and damnation. Do you want to be used in

the damnation of men? or as an agent for their salvation? Are you trying to drive your friends and relatives further from Christ? Or are you trying to introduce them to Christ? If you withhold the truth of what God says about their complete lack of intelligence, then you are confirming that their wrong, screwed up and idolatrous thinking, is alright. You should be ashamed of yourself if that's how you try witness to anyone! That's not loving. That's not kind. That's hateful. That's withholding the truth, not preaching it. That's certainly not witnessing or evangelizing. You show that you actually hate your friend when you want to keep the truth from him. And you show that you are embarrassed by the message of the Bible, because you think you can improve upon it, by clothing it in velvet and delivering it with pansies and butterflies to decorate it! God help you if you think like that. It is perfectly right, and good, wholesome, beautiful, and beneficial, to tell people everything that God says about them. It sinful to say less than what God says about their condition. We have no right to withhold anything, and we certainly have no right ignore anything either. It also shows that you are very arrogant and stupid yourself, if you think that the Bible and the truth revealed by God, is an embarrassment that needs to be hid, doctored up, and modified by your helping hand, in order to make it sound sweet and loving in all those areas where it actually sounds harsh and condemning. When you affirm that unbelievers have any intelligence at all, you are calling God a liar. He says they are stupid...utterly stupid...absolutely stupid...and totally stupid. You call God a liar if you disagree.

*Jeremiah 10:14-15 Every man is stupid and without knowledge; every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols, for his images are false, and there is no breath in them. They are worthless, a work of delusion; at the time of their punishment they shall perish.*

*Jeremiah 51: 17-18 Every man is stupid and without knowledge; every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols, for his images are false, and there is no breath in them. They are worthless, a work of delusion; at the time of their punishment they shall perish.*

*Job 11:12 But a stupid man will get understanding when a wild donkey's colt is born a man!*

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## Point One - The "T" in my TULIP (part 2)

### **Total Unconditional Stupidity is The Essence Of All Sin.**

***Genesis 6:5*** *And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

***Proverbs 24:9*** *The thought of foolishness is sin.*

All forms of Biblical theology...Calvinistic, Arminian, Pelagian and Catholic; acknowledge that sin is the great problem in the universe. Christ came to deal with the sin issue according to all systems of theology which are based upon the Bible. There is also a pagan system which is sometimes read into and twisted into the Bible by some, which denies the reality or presence of sin at all. But very few people who read the Bible actually try to justify such an absurd position. Sin is mentioned literally thousands of time in the Bible. It occupies a huge place in the Biblical message, not a secondary spot. It is not an insignificant few passing comments. This is major doctrine in the word of God, with thousands of references and examples. Generally speaking, all Judeo-Christian theologians tackle the sin question and recognize it's importance to a correct understanding of the Bible. In fact, there is an entire field of theology called Harmartiology which deals with the Biblical doctrine of sin. It is an extensive field. We therefore cannot be exhaustive in this Bible study. These ideas are suggestive and are designed to open up new avenues of thinking for you.

As with all things that you read from any human author, you should verify these concepts with the actual teachings of the Scriptures themselves. The Bible is the book from which we are to derive all our doctrines. Sola Scriptura means that any doctrine which does not agree with the actual truths of Scripture, ought to be forsaken and tossed aside as a false doctrine. The truth is the guide to the truth. Truth brings discernment, but error brings confusion and darkness. The Bible contains no contradictions. All contradictions are of our own creation, or are the product of our unchecked and sinful imaginations. All truth is one. Technically there is "truth" (singular) not "truths" (plural). This is why when

Jesus said that He was the truth (John 14:6). He was claiming that there is no truth that is not in (and from) Himself. It is His cosmic claim to all light, life, knowledge, validity and reality. Truth is the full thought of God. It is “the Word”. “Grace and truth came by Him” (John 1:14,17). Sometimes, as humans, we speak in terms of “truths” (plural), because it is difficult for us (as humans) to conceive of, and contemplate, “the full thought of God”. “I Am that I Am” is more than just God's name. It is His essence. It is His being. It is His thought about Himself and everything else. God does not think many thoughts. He thinks one thought, and that thought embraces the sum total of all that is, was and will be. Because He is, everything is what He has ordained it to be. There is no meaning or reality apart from Him. *“For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen” (Romans 11:36).*

## **The Definition of Sin**

Right now, I am going to attempt to prove a rather controversial idea to you from the Scriptures. I will show you that all sin is “stupidity”. The essence of sin, and sinfulness, is unconditional human stupidity. Some of you will disagree with this idea right from the outset and will dismiss it simply because you reason that if sin is stupidity, then education ought to be salvation? If sin were stupidity, as I am saying, then the plan of salvation would have been nothing more than a plan to “educate the stupid out of the sinners”. Actually Liberalism and the Social Gospel is based on this very idea. According to humanistic theological liberalism, Christ set an example for us in how to educate our minds in the things of God so that we can know the truth and the truth can set us free. Education becomes the savior of humanity, the panacea of society and the cure for all moral ills. Christ was the great teacher, and salvation was the great lesson he taught. If you do not follow me carefully, you might misunderstand and think I am teaching this sort of nonsense.

When I say that the essence of sin is stupidity, I am not saying that the cure for sin is education. The cure for sin is salvation by grace alone through Christ alone, and through His finished redemptive work alone. The nature of salvation (as redemptive restoration) proves that the nature of sin (as stupidity) cannot be educated out of the stupid. Nor can it be worked out by good deeds, religious actions, or through any other imaginary system contrived to solve the sin problem. The cure for stupidity is the Divine intelligence of the atonement. There is no other plan of salvation besides the blood of Christ. Blood washes

away stupid. Blood washes away sin. But stupid can never cure itself by itself, because it is too stupid to think God's thought. When God thought "salvation from stupid", He thought blood, not human works. That's why all humanistic systems fail to save. False religions, and false systems designed to rid men of their stupidity without the cross, are destined to complete failure. *"The preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God" (1Corinthians 1:18).*

Look carefully at the context of this verse.

*For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. :18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. :19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. :20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? :21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. :22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: :23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; :24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. :25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. :26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: :27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; :28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: :29 That no flesh should glory in his presence. :30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: :31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. (1Corinthians 1:17-31)*

Notice that in this passage the gospel is a powerful life-changing message about the wisdom of God vs the foolishness of men, the power of God to save vs the weakness men to save themselves. It is the "foolishness of preaching" that saves those who believe (v 21). "Christ Crucified" is called "the power of God

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and the wisdom of God” (v 24). The whole passage is about the foolish things of God vs the wise things of man. Christ is “made unto us wisdom and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption” (v 31) “That no flesh should glory in His presence” (v. 30). God's foolishness far surpasses all of mans wisdom. God's foolishness saves completely, whereas mans wisdom is the problem that keeps men from God. Jews are busy seeking signs (The mystical cure) and Gentiles are busy seeking wisdom (the educational cure), but God's thought is Jesus Christ and Him Crucified. This simple message demolishes human wisdom and understanding (v 19) *“For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. : 20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?”*

These wonderful verses show that the plan of salvation is all about destroying human wisdom through the foolishness of a cross. God's thought wins over stupidity, and there is no other message that brings to nothing the wisdom of the world and the power of its mighty men. This message tears down every stronghold of sin. But it is not a message of education at all. Look.

Paul continues His discussion in the next chapter (1Corinthians 2: 1-16). Please read and study this entire chapter carefully. It will help you to understand this part of my five points.

His message is not based upon *“excellency of speech or of wisdom”* (1Cor. 2:1).

It's a message with a single focus...*“Jesus Christ and Him Crucified”* (v 2).

It's not a complicated message that would have required education or fine words i.e. *“excellency of speech”* or *“words of mans wisdom”* (v 4).

This is not *“the wisdom of this world”* (v 6).

It is a message of faith and the power of God, not human learning or ability (v 5).

When Paul preached the gospel, He said He was speaking the hidden wisdom of God in a mystery. This is the very same wisdom that God had before the world began (v7).

Please note: “The wisdom of God” in all of these verses is synonymous with the plan of salvation and the gospel, but it actually embraces the “eternal is” of who and what God is in Himself. I refer to this as “the thought of God”. God is non-linear because He is above time. As such there is no multiplicity of “thoughts” in Him, no succession of ideas. All of God's thought is “one thought”. This idea corrects all the Calvinistic errors of infralapsarianism, supralapsarianism and sublapsarianism. Those vain and meaningless discussions presume to analyze and know “the order of the divine decrees”. There is no such order in the divine decrees simply because there is no succession of events in the divine thought. In fact, there is no such thing as “divine decrees” at all. One decree embraces everything that is, or was, or is to come. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. But if there were multiplicities of decrees, or order of decrees, or multiple thoughts in God, it would make a god who is subject to the time which He created. Such a god would not be that actual God of the Bible, but would be a false god. This is one way Calvinism leads to idolatry. The Divine Mind is undivided and unsegmented by any and all ideas of time. God is, and He always was, exactly what He is. He changes not, and His idea is but one thought. He exists because He is, and everything in creation exists because He thought it! God is above time, not in it.

## **God's Lips!**

When the first chapters of Genesis tell us “God said...let their be... and there was”, it is not describing actual words which God spoke with actual lips. God does not have lips. Jesus had lips after His incarnation. But He was not incarnate in Genesis 1. Without getting too technical let me just say that “lips” when spoken of on God, are a figure of speech called a metonymy where “lips” stand for words or speech in general. God does not actually have a mouth, even though the Bible refers to one. By this figure “metonymy”, God's mouth sends forth Gods speech, from God's lips to God's people; but the whole affair is anthropomorphic accommodation so that finite creatures such as ourselves can form mental images of the incomprehensible God. We can know things which surpass the capacity of human knowledge (Eph. 3:19), through these limited means of accommodation to our puny brain capacity. It is describing “in human terms” through the vehicle of anthropomorphism (i.e. hands feet, ears, voice, lips arms etc.) the thoughts of God in a way that we can comprehend. Anthropomorphism makes the thought of God accessible to us, because we cannot conceive of the inconceivable. But they in no way transfer the defects or

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limitations of physical existence to the incorporeal Spirit who is God. God is a Spirit, and Spirits have no body parts. God actually has none of these things even though they are mentioned in Scripture. But don't ever think that God is a man, or that He has human physical characteristics. Such false ways of thinking about God, (as though he were a man, or some type of creature) , are strongly condemned by God himself (Look up and compare Psalm 50:21; Psalm 94:7-11; Numbers 23:19; and Isa 40:15-18).

When “God said”, He said it to Himself because there was no one, or nothing else, present to hear the spoken words. There was nothing through which sound waves could have passed. The word of faith cults assigns creative power to the spoken words and they insist that creation is the result of the words spoken, rather than the God who spoke them. There was nothing through which the sound waves of “words” could have passed. These words are God's thoughts, expressed in a human form that we can try to comprehend. When He spoke, it came to pass. But God has neither body, parts nor passions. He is the infinite intelligence, the One, The Source of the all. He is The All in All. He speaks just as surely, just as authoritatively, and just as powerfully with His infinite uncreated mind as He ever could if He had lips. The Bible is “God's word” in a similar fashion to the creation account “words” that He spoke when He said “Let there be”... “and there was”. The words of God are sure and certain, and they accomplish all the purposes to which He ordains them (Isaiah 55:11). But they have nothing to do with literal lips or the formation of literal sound waves passing through literal air. On a few occasions God sent a message through the airwaves and they landed as an audible voice on literal eardrums. But that is a miraculous way for the Divine person in heaven to speak. Words are for humans. God does not need them to communicate his full thought to Himself or to every atom in the universe.

## **Why Sin is Stupidity**

Many people are already criticizing everything I have written in this chapter because I did not offer one shred of evidence or proof for the underlying thought that the essence of all sin is stupidity. But that is not entirely correct. I did show you from First Corinthians Chapters One and Two that message of salvation from sin is the message of God's simple wisdom in the Cross. The wisdom of God trumps the foolishness of man, precisely because human foolishness (stupidity) is really the main issue.

It is easy to take a few verses from the Bible and assume that you have an accurate definition of “sin”, especially when those verses appear to be offering just such a definition. Here are some verses which people think fully define and explain what sin is.

**1John 3:4** *...for sin is the transgression of the law.*

Sin is Law-breaking.

**1John 5:17** *All unrighteousness is sin.*

Sin is unrighteousness.

**James 4:17** *...to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

Sin is failing to act according to what you know to be good.

**Romans 14:23** *...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*

Sin is anything that does not proceed from faith.

These are the standard verses that almost everyone uses to shape their doctrine of sin. But they are not the only verses, and in my opinion, they are not even the most important verses. These verses are very important, and are inspired statements about sin. But they seem to tackle the question of how sin acts, not what sin is? In the above verses sin is approached from the idea of “things that you do or do not do” when you sin. Those are valid discussion, but they are not the most important elements in the doctrine of sin. That is the exact reason these verses are secondary verses and not primary definitions of sin. Sin is not just what you do. Sin is what you are! Sin is what happens even before you do anything! Jesus made this important distinction when He pointed out that “adultery is not an act”... “it is a thought!” Look!

**Matthew 5:27-28** *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: :28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*

Likewise, murder is not primarily “a bad action” it is “a bad thought” first and foremost. Look!

**Matthew 5:21-22** *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: 22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in*

*danger of hell fire.*

Every theologian should start with the authoritative teachings of Jesus Christ when they are formulating any doctrine. Jesus is the source of all truth, and in many places such as the above verses, He explains that sin is bad thinking. Bad thinking precedes bad actions. The Jews were unaccustomed to teaching like this, because God gave them over 600 laws that they were expected to follow perfectly, even though they couldn't. They saw sin exclusively as a matter of "do this" and "don't do that". Their doctrine about sin, was false. What they practiced was legalism. But many verses in the Old Testament agree with what Christ emphasized and show that sin is not just what you do it is what you are! Here are some primary verses about the definition of sin. These are the very verses most people neglect because of a legalistic mindset. These verses all show that sin is what you are, not what you do as the result of what you are! Thoughts always precede actions, and it is the thoughts that form the essence of sin, not the actions that result. This is always the case because as a man "thinketh in His heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7). According to this view, (which is the view I am teaching you here), the primary problem with man is his defective thinking. It is the foolish thoughts that always result in actual sins. We are sinners not because we do things that are wrong. We are sinners because we are wrong, and we think wrong, and that causes us to disobey God all the time. Sin is positional and not just progressive. It is what we are. Deep down in a place that no human effort can ever correct, we are stupid fools.

***Proverbs 24:9*** *The thought of foolishness is sin.*  
Foolish thinking is sin.

***Genesis 6:5*** *And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*  
Every human thought is only evil continually.

***Genesis 8:21*** *... for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth.*  
Imaginations are sinful thought patterns

***Isaiah 55:7*** *Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts.*

Thoughts need to be forsaken because they are the cause of wickedness.

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**Jeremiah 4:14** *O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?*

The problem is a wicked heart and the solution is to be washed from the “vain thoughts lodging within”.

**Matthew 9:4** *And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?*

Evil was in their thinking, and Jesus knew their thoughts. They were accustomed to think that evil was what you do, but Jesus showed them it is what you think, because you never do anything without thinking first.

**Matthew 15:19-20** *For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.*

The problem is what comes out from within man. “Evil thoughts” is first on the list. But all these things are internal before they are external.

**James 1:15** *Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

Lust is a thought pattern it is not an action. It is the cause of bad actions, but the bad thoughts of lust are just as sinful, even if no external sinful action is ever committed.

**Deuteronomy 9:7** *Remember, and forget not, how thou provokedst the LORD thy God to wrath in the wilderness: from the day that thou didst depart out of the land of Egypt, until ye came unto this place, ye have been rebellious against the LORD.*

Rebellion is not an action it is a thought which leads to actions. Rebellion against God is a mental attitude deficiency of thinking. There is a sense in which all sin is rebellion.

**Joshua 1:18** *Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage.*

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Notice: Rebellion against God is a failure to hearken to His words. Harkening is a thought process whereby God's words are taken into the soul and processed through correct thinking. Failure to think right about what God says is rebellion. This is one of the most prevalent and serious sins hidden within our modern day form of Christianity.

**Numbers 15:30** *But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.*

Actions that spring from PRESUMPTION are a reproach to God. Presumptuous sins are talked about throughout the Bible. (Look up Psalm 19:13). Presuming is a defective thought pattern and is a serious mental attitude sin.

**Hebrews 3:13** *But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*

“Deceitfulness of sin” is a phrase that sin is deceitfulness, it produces deceit, and it deceives. All deception happens in the brain, and is a mental attitude thought problem. Deception is a thinking disorder. Right thinking does not deceive, but sinful thinking does.

**Psalms 90:8** *Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.*

Secret sins, are secret because they are hidden deep inside, where nobody can see them. But God sees them, and He knows our every thought. God is a perfect mind-reader.

These passages ought to be sufficient to prove that the primary definition of sin is as a thought problem. Sin is “bad thinking” long before it is “bad doing”. This is why it is called stupidity, and why God says that all men are stupid. It is that which is within that defiles the man. This is clearly what Christ taught, and is the correct understanding of sin. Any definition of sin, that does not include its seat and stranglehold in the mind, is a faulty definition. We are what we think, because we think sin. That's what we are, and that's why we do what we do. Sin is stupid. We are stupid. We are all sinners, every one of us.

## Point One - The "T" in my TULIP (part 3)

### Total Unconditional Stupidity

### **The History of Human Stupidity is the History of Sin.**

*1Timothy 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.*

*2Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

People have a tendency to read the Genesis account of the fall of man in Genesis chapter three and miss what actually happened there. They get side-tracked by the narrative about the trees, the serpent, and the forbidden fruit, and they tend to miss the really important teachings that the transgression was all about deception from a subtle crafty lying creature, and the attendant corruption of the mind of man away from the truth of God and His ordained simplicity for man. Deception, subtlety, lies, beguilement, and mental corruption away from the simple truth, all preceded the actual eating of the forbidden fruit. Sin existed before it was actually committed in an act of overt disobedience. Man was stupid, before He acted stupid.

## Adam was Not Deceived

The Bible is clear that Adam "was not deceived". If this was true, then why did He disobey and commit willful, voluntary transgression? The only explanation is that He was stupid. It did not take Him long to become deceived, once He made the stupid decision to follow His wife into deception. But what He did was not out from deception. His sin was not the result of deception. It was the result of following the woman, instead of leading her. It was not the result of the serpent's deception, his craftiness, his subtlety or His lies. If you miss this you will never understand sin, and you will never understand why female leadership is forbidden in marriage and in the church. Eve was deceived. Adam was not. This is not complicated. It is stated simply because it is the absolute truth. God knows exactly what happened in Eden resulting in plunging all humans into the

baneful woe of total depravity. Do not argue with God. Accept what He says and build your theology around that, not around a bunch of human opinions.

## Male Leadership and the Divine Order of The sexes.

Adam was not deceived. The woman was deceived. And that is why she is excluded from all future attempts at usurping the male headship and leadership roles. The Bible is clear on this.

***1Timothy 2:11-14*** *Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. :12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. :13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. :14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.*

This doctrine is not something in the Bible that is optional truth, that we do not have to pay perfect attention to. This is actually one of the most important passages in the scripture because it shows us how sin came about, and why women are forbidden from holding male-only leadership roles in the home and in the church. Eve attempted to usurp her husbands leadership, and that was the essence of her sin. She upset the divine order of the sexes, and she overturned the idea of male headship and leadership when she allowed herself to be deceived by “listening to voices” other than God's voice or her husbands voice. Her sin was the original women's liberation. She chose to ignore the Divine order of the sexes that God Himself ordained and established for her protection, benefit and for the benefit of human society. But she thought she knew better, and she imagined that it was OK for her to be the leader. Satan snagged this flaw in her reasoning, and he deceived her in short haste. He has been whispering these same society destroying gender confusion things to women ever since. He knows she will always listen because it is part of her nature to be deceived by hearsay, gossip and “voices in her head”. He twisted her mind into a doctrinal pretzel, and everything that resulted from her poor deceived brain, has plagued the world ever since. Women, look to Eden if you want to see the horrors brought into the world by the women's liberation movement. The confusion of the God ordained gender roles is a plague on our society which has resulted in the annihilation of marriage, homosexuality, bestiality and many other abominations. Soon it will be ruled by our courts to be

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illegal for churches to even speak of male headship over the woman, or of homosexuality as immoral sinful behavior. It has all happened because women rebelled against the divine order and refused to keep their ears away from strange voices. You think you have made progress by freeing yourself from your husband and from male leadership over you. But you have gotten ever further away from God, away from the truth and away from your created role in this universe. Ladies, no matter what arguments you use to try to prove that it is not so, God says that you were deceived, and that disqualifies all women from male-only leadership roles, because Adam was not deceived when He sinned willingly.

This is serious doctrine, but it is sadly neglected and ignored today. It has created gigantic problems which will eventually destroy all God-appointed order in the home, the church and society. Womens Lib, and it's associated false ideas of the equality of the sexes, are a direct attack upon God Himself. God created them "male and female", for plenty of good reasons, that should never be blurred by godless rebellion and the voices of the deceiver. God has a right to define male and female roles and boundaries. He does not ask permission from us when He tells us who and what we are. "Male and female", "husband and wife" are clearly defined and separated roles that the Almighty has established. It does not matter if people disagree with God's perfect system of authority and order. When we disrespect what He says, we will suffer the consequences. It is stupid to go contrary to God.

## Sin is Mind Poisoning

2Corinthians 11:3 indicates that it was through the subtle and direct effects of Satan's poisonous words on the mind of man. The fall first happened in Eve's mind before it affected her body. The mind was the playground for Satan's false doctrine, that man was free to act independently of God. Satan invented the doctrine of free-will, and encouraged man to use it in direct violation of the revealed will of God, which is the only source of true freedom for human beings.

I have said that sin invaded the human race, and that is true, but it also came as an invited guest. Adam was not just a victim of sin, but He was also an active agent in it's establishment in the human race. He was victimized and complicit of high treason at the same time. In fact, the Bible seems to downplay the victimization part and emphasize the complicity part. Satan was the *tyrannus in*

*titula*, but Adam Himself was the *tyrannus in regimine*. Both tyrants were at work in Eden, and throughout all of human history.

The key that must not be missed is that the mind was corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. Christ is the truth, and it is never complicated to find the truth in Him. But through the subtlety of Satan actively perpetuating lies mans mind was poisoned. When we say that man is stupid, it is a powerful way of showing the most serious effect of total depravity. But he was stupid before the fall, in the fall and after the fall. It is wrong to view depravity only as the result of the curse. It was the thing that caused to the curse to come forth.

## The Doctrine of Free Will

**1. The doctrine of free-will is a false doctrine**, except as it applies to God, who is the only being in the universe with a free will.

***Ephesians 1:11*** *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.*

**2. The Serpent invented the doctrine of man's free will**, and used it to entice man to sin against God by extending an imaginary choice to know either good or evil, to choose either good or evil, (Genesis 3:4-5). This choice was the core of the temptation, and is Satan's doctrine of free-will. It did not exist in man prior to Satan putting the false doctrine in mans mind. Notice, what God actually gave to man (Genesis 2:15-17), the ability to obey, which was to be his true realm of freedom. The prohibition did not imply the false doctrine of human free will, it implied only what would happen in case of disobedience. Disobedience brought bondage and death, not free will (2 Peter 2:19). Man never has had it, and never will have it. It is a myth created by Satan to allure and entice man into sin. As long as man obeyed God's will he would be free indeed. Christ, likewise, is the only source of true freedom for man. Freedom does not exist apart from Christ who redeems men from the curse.

Look up and Compare John 8:36; Luke 4:18; Romans 8:2; 2Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:1; and Romans 8:21.

When men believe and promote the false doctrine of free-will they show just

how stupid they really are. Decision making is not free will. Everyday choices in life is not free will. Free will, is being able to will yourself out of sin. Free will is being able to will whatever you desire into existence. Free will is being able to do anything, unhindered and unimpeded by outside forces or circumstances. Nobody has it, except God. Even Satan does not have it, and He is the most powerful created being in the universe. He has to ask permission to tempt Job.

## Beware of mimicking the world's philosophies.

It is amazing at how much is passed off as Christian doctrine, that is actually worldly viewpoint. Human philosophy is radically different from Biblical doctrine. Doctrine is revealed by a supreme authority. Humanism make man his own authority. Christians should immediately recognize the humanistic and satanically inspired philosophies of the world. The human free-will doctrine is just such a false system. Not once does the Bible ever say that man has free-will. In fact the only time free-will is ever mentioned is with regard to a special kind of offering that was commanded. It is called a free-will offering, not because man has a free-will, but because that offering is to be given without grudging. It has nothing to do with Satan's alluring false doctrine of human free-will.

### **3. When man bought into the imaginary doctrine of human free will, as presented by the serpent, he lost all freedom, and plunged humanity into bondage and slavery to sin.**

1. Instead of being free man died, Romans 5:12.
2. Instead of being free man became the servant of sin, John 8:34; Acts 8:23; Romans 6:16,19-20; Romans 7:14; Romans 8:21; Ephesians 2:2; Titus 3:3; 2Peter 2:19; John 3:8-10. Please study these verses carefully and you will never imagine the false doctrine of free-will brought freedom. Instead you will see that it brought enslavement to sin.
3. Instead of being free man became an imprisoned child of Satan, John 8:44; Matthew 13:38; Acts 13:10; 1John 3:8-10.
4. Instead of being free mans mind (thought processes)became corrupted from

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the original normal way of thinking which honored God, so that man could not even think correctly, let alone have a free-will, 2Corinthians 11:3; Genesis 8:21.

5. Instead of being free man began to walk in the spirit of disobedience, rebellion, and Satanic inspired lust patterns known as "the course (or the way) of this world", Ephesians 2:2.

6. Instead of being free every person is born in a state of death and corruption, Romans 5:12; Psalm 51:5; Psalm 58:3; Ephesians 2:3.

7. Instead of being free every person faces the horrible reality of sin, and God's wrath against it, Romans 1:18.

8. Instead of being free man's sin, blighted him and cursed all of creation with him, Genesis 3:17; Romans 8:22.

9. Instead of Being free, every person is born fleshly and sinful John 3:6; Psalm 58: 3; Genesis 8:21; Job chapters 14 and 15.

## What about The Law? And Law-breaking?

Many verses talking about sin being the transgression of the Law. So if the essence of sin is actually the mental condition called stupidity, then how are we supposed to think about sin in relation to the law?

**Romans 3:20** "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

**Romans 7:7-9** "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died."

**Galatians 2:19** "For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto

God."

Man does wrong, because He is wrong. So God placed an infallible yardstick whereby all men can measure themselves and see just how far they miss the mark of perfect morality which God has set as the requirement to enter heaven. The law is the standard which reveals mans shortness from God's glory (Romans 3:23), a perfect scale to make known to man all his deficiencies (James 2:10), an x-ray machine to expose mans diseased and broken condition (Matthew 5:27-48), a plumb-line to expose mans crookedness (Romans 7:14), a judge to condemn him (Galatians 3:10), and to sentence him to death (Romans 7:10). The law expresses the moral perfections of God, and the moral corruption of all men.

The Law focuses attention on the fact of sin whenever overt sins are actually committed, but we must never conceive of the law as some sort of system of salvation. Nor should we conceive of it as the cause of sin. The law shows us what sinful acts are, and points out our disobedience. Paul says "I had not known sin except the law said..." The Law is that which clearly reveals sin, because until overt disobedience takes place sin remains hidden deep within the stupid brain, where it is busy thinking evil thoughts. As soon as it manifests itself externally Divine laws are broken. Such was the case in Eden. Adam sinned as soon as He thought incorrectly about God, about himself, about his wife, and about the commandment which God had given him. It was not the act of eating that constituted His fall. The act of disobedience to the law only showed the deeper rebellion of his heart and mind. He had already been corrupted in his mind from the simplicity in Christ, long before he ate the fruit His wife gave him. The law revealed Adam's overt sinfulness, but His inner stupidity revealed his actual deviation from God's truth.

## Sanctification and Stupidity

We have already shown how salvation in general is the wisdom of God revealed and triumphant over human stupidity. (See comments on 1Corinthians chapters 1 and 2). The cross of Christ is the power of God over all the wisdom of this world. The foolishness of God trumps the wisdom of men, because men are stupid, and God's plan washes away sin, not by education, but by redemption.

But salvation is not just eternal in it's effects. He gives unto us Eternal Life. But

salvation also has a temporal aspect. We are saved from ourselves and the eternal damage of sin, but we are also saved from ourselves as we journey through time. This is temporal salvation, and specifically it relates to our sanctification and our progress. Eternal salvation is positional truth. Temporal salvation is progressive truth. We are in a process of becoming Christ-like. But we have not arrived yet. As long as we are progressing, we will never achieve sinless perfection. Stupidity has to be unlearned, and righteousness has to be learned. It is not a process of educating the stupid out, it is the process of a transformed mind.

***Romans 12:2*** *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

This important verse shows that worldiness is not what you do, it is what you think. If you think untransformed thoughts you are worldly. But if your mind is thinking transformed thoughts you are proving the good and acceptable and perfect will of God is operative in your life. The key idea is that we have been renewed in our mind. Now “we have the mind of Christ!”

***Colossians 3:10*** *And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.*

The new man is renewed in knowledge after the image of God. This implies that the lack of knowledge, or the corruption of knowledge, is what removed from man when he lost the image of God through the fall into sin. Notice it is all about our stupidity. Our minds were corrupted through our fall into sin, and the image of God was somehow lost. But now as born again people, regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit, our knowledge is renewed after the image of God. Renewal becomes the method of restoration to the created image of God. Renewal restores us from stupidity. But this is actually temporal as long as we are in this fleshly body. Now we know in part (1Corinthians 13:9,12), but when we get to heaven we will know in full, we will know as we are known. Thank God, that sanctification allows us to work on our stupidity, and thank Him more, that one day we will be stupid no more.

***1John 3:2-3*** *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him;*

*for we shall see him as he is. :3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

## Sin and The Believer

Paul, was certainly one of the mightiest Christians who ever lived, and he declared unswervingly and testified to his own pitiful and wretched condition when he said: "I know that in me dwelleth no good thing"(Romans 7:18). David likewise confessed: "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 51:5). Or how about the mighty Isaiah when he says: "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness's are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away" (Isaiah 64:6). Paul described it as a powerful law which worked in his members. He called it "the law of sin". "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin" (Romans 7:25). Paul seems to describe the motions of sin in himself, and in all believers as well, as "The flesh". It wars against the spirit, and believers are not to live under it's power but to mortify it, or put it to death. See Romans 7:5,25; 8:3-13; 13:14; John 3:6; Galatians 5:19-21,24. As long as believers wear flesh, they will struggle with sin.

The believer is always faced with the reality and rottenness of his own sin. He has seen the evil of sin and loathes it. His sin put his Savior on the cross. He beholds what havoc sin works everywhere it pops up its viperous head, and he avoids it like the plague that it is. He looks into the heart of sin, when he looks into his own heart, and he distrusts it, and judges it to be death and destruction. He knows how screwed up his rotten thinking really is, and what happens every time He acts on his own thoughts. He perceives the subtle allurements and dainty baubles that sin holds before the senses, and he annihilates them through faith. The mountains of sin are cast into the sea, when the saint has even the faith of a grain of mustard seed. The saint dies to sin in his fellowship and union with Christ in His death. He is crucified to it in a powerful and practical sense so that sin no longer has complete mastery, and he can progress and grow in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and become in some sense an image bearer once again, having overcome the cruel lordship and slavery of sin, in humble submission to the Lordship and deliverance of Christ. Little by little we put to death what we are by nature, and grow into what we become by grace. Sin looses is hold of dominion upon us so that we can become more and

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more like Christ. "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace" (Romans 6:14). In justification we are declared righteous, but sanctification is not just a standing, it is also a progressive and continuous action whereby we are conformed to the image of His Son, even as we are mortifying the deeds of our flesh. When we get to heaven the process will be complete, and sin will be forever gone from us. But as long as we are in the human body of our flesh, sin will still lurk somewhere "inside" of us, and require confession and cleansing (1John 1:9). Thank God that he has made repeated and continual forgiveness available to every one who calls upon him in confession and repentance. Thank God.

## Conclusion

In this chapter we have seen a short history of human sinfulness as it relates to our defective minds. Sin springs from minds that harbor corrupted and impure thought patterns. Stupidity is any thinking that functions apart from God and His revealed truth. Stupidity in our thoughts is always sinful. Stupidity always results in us making wrong decisions. Stupidity causes all sinful actions.

***James 1:15*** *Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

***Proverbs 24:9*** *The thought of foolishness is sin.*

## Point Two - The "U" in my TULIP Unlimited Divine Wisdom

Earl's 5 Points (TULIP)

1. Total Unconditional Stupidity
2. Unlimited Divine Wisdom
3. Limited Human Freedom
4. Irresistible Divine Sovereignty
5. Persistent Truth

**1Samuel 2:3** *Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.*

**Job 37:16** *Do you know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him who is perfect in knowledge?*

**Psalms 147:5** *Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.*

## THE FIVE POINTS OF CALVIN

So many people are concerned about the so-called Five Points of Calvin, that I think our entire emphasis in contemporary evangelicalism has become distorted and off balance. The Calvinist's are busy arguing with the Arminian's and both are engaged in a never-ending battle to exegete and prove things that have been proven 600 years ago! Let's get on with it. It's time to get back on track and start exegeting and explaining the other 50,000 points of the Bible instead of always riding a five legged hobby horse that takes us nowhere. If people refuse to believe what Calvin and Augustine and others saw in the Scriptures, so be it. Let them believe whatever their twisted minds want them to think. Let's get on with the business of declaring the whole counsel of God. We do not follow Calvin or Arminius or any other man. We follow the Bible, Christ, His Apostles and the Holy Spirit who is the only authority on the Scriptures. Its time we quit sending mixed messages here, and start sending out the truth that Christ is the substance of our religion, and not Calvin or any human. Ism's are schism's, and Christ hates them.

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That's why I have decided to call this series Earl's Five Points (tulip), because I want people to see that there are at least 5 more things that are of equal (or more) importance than the 5 points of Calvinism. In my mind these points are far more important in today's world than Calvin's 5 points, because they are seldom heard today in all their correct dimensions, and in most cases they are not even mentioned; yet if you understand these things you will have a solid foundation for Biblical knowledge which will help deliver you from the many perils of false teaching and thinking which pervades our age of hyper intellectualism or the opposite extreme of sentimental emotionalism. These issues are far more relevant and important today than the 600 year old Calvinism debate. Calvin is musty and old. He has become a cult. I for one do not wish to follow Him. You need to settle whether or not you are a Christian first, and then move on toward getting yourself firmly established as a Biblicist foremost. Calvin does not even enter into the picture. Nor does James Arminius. I can tell when people have been reading theology books instead of the Bible, simply by what they quote and what they discuss. The moment I hear about a man, or about a man-made doctrine, I know I am talking to somebody whose mind is being influenced more by humans and worldly wisdom, then by Christ and the sacred pages. Even Christ told us to study the Scriptures for they speak of Him (John 5:39). Calvins' Institutes or the Westminster Confession of Faith are not the Scriptures! Case closed. Quit studying human inventions and human contrivances and start studying the Bible.

So what I am trying to do here, is not downplay the importance of theological issues, but to up-play the fact that there are many other issues of equal or more importance to the church and the world today. It's time for Christians to move onward and upward so that we are speaking relevant truth to our society today, and not just rehashing dead issues from antiquity. The Bible is a living book, and the message of Christ is a living message, and while it never changes, it is always adapting itself on a level of relevance and importance.

## **THE ISSUE OF SOCIALY RELEVANT DOCTRINE**

Let me give you an example, I just encountered today. A friend of mine, who became unemployed recently, was very sad and dejected because she had to have her cable TV disconnected, because she could no longer afford the cable bill. She was complaining how horrible it is to have no TV, and I suggested that

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she Get herself a digital antenna and watch TV the old fashioned way with only a few channels but for free. Who on earth wants to pay for something if you can get it for free? She was more concerned about feeling sorry for herself, and the horrible sacrifices she is making because of her situation. Then I reminded her that TV is not a necessity but a luxury, and that in India, one of the worlds most populated countries, almost half of the billions of people who live there do not even have the ability to plug in a light bulb. Half the country has no electricity at all. But in America we have come to think that televisions, cell phones, computers, gizmos and contraptions are absolute necessities. What's wrong with us? This true example shows us that in our age of electronics, and extreme luxury, we have to address issues and concerns that John Calvin and the other ancient theologians could have never imagined. People weeping over television sets, and traumatized by lack of luxuries, is a relatively new phenomenon, and somebody needs to show these people how insane they are, and how blind they are to what is really important. Televisions and stuff should never cause people to have emotional and mental trauma, but it is happening in our day. Our gospel, and our message must address the issues of today, while keeping the message of the unchanged and absolute truth of the Bible and Christ. That is what we are supposed to be doing, not hashing and rehashing the issues from John Calvin's day. We become a completely irrelevant force when we act like that. What does Christ expect us to tell the people today? You have been predestinated to have television sets, hardly seems like an appropriate message! Does that sound right to you? You have been preordained to have creature comforts. Is that what we are supposed to be telling today's generation?

What is keeping people from God in our country and our world today? Of course I know it is sin, but specifically which ones? Calvin did not have to preach about gay rights and sexual mis-identification, because people knew in his day whether they were male or female. But that is not the case today in our very complex and confused society. People think that they are females in male bodies, and men in women's bodies, and everybody seems to be confused about something. The issue today is not the five points of Calvin. It just isn't. That may be a very small issue, among a very small group of conservative Christians, but it is not even remotely one of the main issues facing our world.

What about the issue of Islamic terrorism? Would Calvin have ever considered the possibility that a biological weapon could wipe out Geneva in five minutes, and that it was a distinct possibility in the hands of a terrorist network, or a

deranged sociopath? People today, need to think about it, and Christians need to explain that. That is far more important than debating whether or not the elect will actually be saved, and how. If there are elect, of course they will be saved and we already know how, because even the morons today have heard about what Jesus Christ has done. Is salvation, and salvation doctrine important? of course it is. But this other stuff is important also, and it is high time that Christians start preaching to this generation before it is forever lost. That is our responsibility and our duty, not to sit around and endlessly debate idiosyncrasies of interpretation, and mindless points of irrelevance to our own age, while men are perishing everywhere around us. Believe what you want about election and predestination. God settles all those issues without your approval anyway. God made the atonement on the cross, and it saves men, that's all you really need to know. Was it limited, was it unlimited? You tell me? Is God limited? If He is not, then He does not have to do any limited things. You and I know nothing about what God has limited or made unlimited. We do not even know what "unlimited" means? In my mind if God is "unlimited" then so is the atonement, so is the love of God, so are all the attributes of God. Even God does not limit Himself, so who are we to think his atonement on the cross is somehow limited? Are brains are smaller than peas in the scheme of things. We cannot possibly know the infinity of God. It's a waste of time to teach doctrines that magnify our own imagined intelligence. We are stupid, as I have already shown. All of us, including John Calvin and Earl Jackson. Humility will go a long way to correct our self-infatuation. Nobody knows how limited or unlimited the atonement is. Just like nobody knows how vast the universe is, and nobody knows how infinite the Almighty is.

***Job 11:7-12 (ESV)*** "Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty? :8 It is higher than heaven--what can you do? Deeper than Sheol--what can you know? :9 Its measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea. :10 If he passes through and imprisons and summons the court, who can turn him back? :11 For he knows worthless men; when he sees iniquity, will he not consider it? :12 But a stupid man will get understanding when a wild donkey's colt is born a man!

Do not misinterpret this, and yank it out of context, I am not saying that pure doctrine, and correct Biblical interpretation are not important. They are, and they are of supreme importance, but once we have established what we believe, and

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why; then it is time to move beyond that to translating that pure doctrine and correct Biblical interpretation into language that speaks to all the relevant issues of our society and our age. We do not live in the age of Calvin or the puritans, and God bless their dead bones, we know how great and important they were; but we have to become the new Calvin's, the new puritans, the new reformers, the new Baptist's in our own age. And we will never get the job done by rehashing their ancient message, or imitating their ancient ways. This is the 21st century, and this is the century we are trying to reach. Let us bury the blessed puritans and reformers once and for all time, and let us become the new Reformers of this century. Baptist's have been called the only true reformers, and that is partly because we bleed Bible blood, not Calvinistic blood or Arminian blood. Don't ever lose sight of what is really important.

## THE CONCEPT OF SPEECH

*1Sam 2:3 Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.*

One of the reasons why this issue of the "Unlimited Divine Wisdom" is so important in our age is mentioned in this text. Proud talking and arrogant speech is the modus operandi of the modern philosophers, theologians and the scientist of our day. Speech of all kinds, however, was created by God and given to men to communicate truth and to glorify Him. Speech exists for no other reason than to communicate the glory of God in all things. David recognized this when he said: "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14). One of the unique characteristics of the New Covenant is it's trans-formative effect on man's speech. God describes the content of New Covenant speech is Isaiah.

**Isaiah 59:21** *As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.*

This is the reason why Jesus insisted that "man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3), and why He further insisted that every idle word that

proceeds from a mans mouth will be judged in the day of judgment (Matthew 12:36).

**Matthew 12:37** *For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.*

**Proverbs 13:3** *Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin (ESV).*

You ask yourself, what does this have to do with anything? and you probably don't see any indication yet of the fact that God connects human speech with the highest aspects of truth and religion. But the whole story of the Bible is in fact the story of God's revelation through words... written words in the form of Scripture, Laws which He wrote with His own finger, and the incarnate Word (Jesus Christ, the logos of God, the word of God in the flesh). The entire Bible is the story of words, both Divine words and human words. Words are therefore something of great importance, because they are the form in which God has chosen to express himself throughout all of history and in all the acts of His divine will. God spoke and it was so. God said "Let there be light and there was light". Words are also the form in which He intends for man to communicate and express Himself, both toward his fellow man, and back toward God in worship. Words are the currency of all human existence and meaning, and that is why God places such importance and emphasis on them. When God says something, it happens, because His words are His "thought in action". By the same token man's words express his thoughts as well. "Out of the heart the mouth speaks."

**Matthew 12:34-37** *O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.*

**Luke 6:45** *The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks (ESV).*

## WHAT ARE WORDS?

It is impossible to think or to communicate anything that is thought without words. Even pictures which flash by in our mind derive their meaning and interpretation through the words which we associate with the images. When I say "cow" you have an image of what a cow is. The thought of cow is transmitted by the word "cow" because the image of a cow is associated with the word. You instantly recognize a cow, and can call Him by his name..."cow" because the word means something to you. You think by means of words. Proof of this basic human psychology can be seen in the simple game that people often play when they draw a series of strokes and images on a piece of paper and they hold it up in front of the whole group and the first one to guess what the image is or means, is the winner. Symbols on the picture are translated into a meaning through the use of words. Everybody tries to guess, this one sees a circle and guesses cup, the next person might guess bowl. Somebody else might say moon or wheel. Eventually somebody (the winner) will correctly identify the image. This childhood game illustrates the basis for all rational human thinking and logic. But it only works because of the words which we understand in our minds. If we don't understand the words, the images mean nothing and no comprehension of logical thought can occur.

The person who guessed cup was wrong. So A is not B. The next person, who guesses Bowl is also wrong so now we have, A is not B and A is not C. That gives us the next deduction that B and C together are not A. Through this most basic process of human logic we can make sense of both the image and the words which we might try to use to describe or think about the image. Eventually somebody will hit upon the correct conclusion and the cryptic image on the paper will be confirmed to be a coin. All this is through the most basic law of logic functioning through words which express thoughts which are equal to images which float around in our brains. There is no other way for humans to think. God Himself thinks this way and He wired us to think this way.

This is the basis for our entire religion. We know that God has thought, and we know that He has words, and we also know that He has expressed His thought by His words which created everything, and in His word which explains everything He wants us to know. God communicated His full thought in the creative word of His eternal decree, and He has communicated His full thought

toward us in the written word of the revelation written by His Holy Spirit called the Bible. He has also communicated His full thought regarding salvation in the incarnate word of His Son, so that God needs to say nothing else! We on the other hand need to say "thank you". "Thank you" is our worship, and basically everything that comes from our mouth that does not add to our continual "thank you" or worship of Him, is an idle word. God created us for this purpose. God's purpose is that "in all things He might have the preeminence" (Colossians 1:18). Language enables both Him and us to achieve all His purpose.

## **EPISTEMOLOGY - WHAT IS KNOWLEDGE?**

Language is also the tool whereby God reveals His own infinite wisdom and knowledge. God is said to be "perfect in knowledge" and his "understanding" is said to be "beyond measure". "Jehovah is a God of Knowledge". Theologians and philosophers are fond of discussing what they call Epistemology, and they make detailed discussions about it, and it is nothing more than a theory of knowledge. They have an insane way of complicating really simple concepts so that only people living in some book strewn ivory tower can grasp what they are saying. It makes them feel important to baffle everyone with their superfluous knowledge. But if you listen carefully to the speech of God the image which He wishes to convey from the infinite brain to our finite brains is quite simple and clear. His thought includes all thought about all things, within all realms, spheres and brains. Our thoughts are quite simply "derived" from Him. We have never thought an original thought, or conceived of an original idea! We know this because we have never been able to invent a word that He does not already understand better than we do. We have never been able to draw a picture of anything which he has not already conceived of. In fact every design that any artist or engineer has ever made consists only of sticks, circles, ellipsis triangles and geometric images synthesized from shapes which He has already created. God created all known shapes, and we appropriate them to make our art and stuff. Man is 100% non creative. We are re-moulders and re-fashioners, but not creators. We have never created anything. We create nothing either in the physical realm or in the realm of thought and ideas. All our thought is derived from what He has already thought. Therefore our thoughts are but miniature reflections of something that existed billions of years ago in the Divine mind. (I am speaking purely humanistically, here, because God is above time, and His thought is non-linear). The point is this: All knowledge derives from Him who has

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all knowledge. There is no knowledge apart from Him. No creature has ever had an original thought, a secret thought, or a hidden thought which God did not already think before Him. God saw in one eternal instant, the thoughts and intentions of every heart, as well as all the implications and applications of every action resulting from any and every thought of any sentient being in the universe, throughout all of history and beyond. Nothing is hidden to Him. All things are naked and open before His all-seeing gaze. In an eternal "is", everything is comprehended by His infinite mind instantly, eternally and exhaustively. It's mind boggling for us to try to comprehend, but God never learns anything, because knowing all things (Omniscience) is one of the qualities which make Him God and which distinguish Him from everything else.

**Job 34:21** *For his eyes are on the ways of a man, and he sees all his steps.*

**2Chronicles 16:9** *For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth*

**Proverbs 5:21** *For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders all his paths.*

**Proverbs 15:3** *The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.*

**Jeremiah 16:17** *For my eyes are on all their ways. They are not hidden from me, nor is their iniquity concealed from my eyes.*

**Hebrews 4:13** *And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

When contemplating the sublimity of God's wisdom and this whole process of thought, look at what David says. This is only the first part of the chapter. The whole chapter merits careful exegesis. But look. Don't miss these important words of the Psalmist.

**Psalms 139:1-6** *To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold,*

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*O LORD, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.*

## **THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PERFECT DIVINE THINKING ON HUMAN THOUGHT**

This is where our study becomes really important. Notice carefully what David said in verse 4

*"Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether".*

We use words in order to express our thoughts, but David is showing us that God is not limited by that mechanism. God goes directly to the knowledge, because words impose vast restrictions on the ideas which they try to represent. We cannot think without vocabulary. But our "thinking is limited by our vocabulary", and by the accuracy of our definitions of the words we use to think with. This means that all human thinking is deficient because no human has an exhaustive vocabulary with exclusively accurate definitions. This deficiency accounts for all the processes of learning, investigation, scientific research, exploration and discovery. Men are always on a quest to correct the deficiencies they have in the realm of knowledge. All learning and education consists of human the quest to correct deficient vocabulary and definitions. When you quit learning, you shrivel up mentally, or you succumb to various mental illnesses. Learning is based on language, and language is the basis for all human thought and social progress. Words form the constructs of everything we do. Things that do not think, are vegetables, minerals, plants or irrational beasts. We pull the plug on people that do not think, because the absence of brain waves shows the absence of thought. Those people have already died, and machines cannot restore thoughts to dead brains. Pull the plug and bury the dead. You should be able to tell that the person no longer is inhabiting the shell of the body. Years ago before electric life support these people would have died natural deaths. But machines and electricity have confused our definitions of life. *"To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord"* (2Corinthians 5:8), and the body needs to be buried, not kept in artificial non-living suspension. Pulling

the plug on a dead person is not murder. It is normal closure.

David says however, concerning his thoughts and the thoughts of all living people, that God knows all of David's innermost thoughts, before they are ever spoken, which means they are in their non-verbal picture form, and he says that this knowledge which God possesses is exhaustive..."Behold, O Jehovah, you know it altogether".

Hebrews affirms the same thing but with different terms. Look. This is wonderful theology.

**Hebrews 4:12-13** *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

The author of Hebrews may be talking about the word of God in its written form here, and most Christians hold to that position. That is, however, a very doubtful interpretation. I think it is more likely that he is referring to Jesus Christ, the incarnational word of God, because of the actions he describes "discerning of thoughts and intention of the heart" and because of his use of the pronouns in the next verse "No creature is hidden from his sight". And then it speaks of "his eyes" and concludes with actually calling him "our great High Priest, Jesus, the Son of God " in verse 14. If this is indeed speaking of Christ, as I think is clearly warranted from context, then Christ discerns thoughts and intention of the heart, directly and without words, because He is "The Word" and "The Word" which He is, is the word of God which is the expression of the full thought of God.

## **GOD'S KNOWLEDGE IS ALL-COMPREHENSIVE**

By this we mean that it includes every possible thought that can ever be thought about everything or anything. Because the thinking of every sentient being in the universe is fully understood by Him, even before it is actually thought we conclude that He knows all creaturely thoughts. We also know that He has His own realm of thought, which is not ours, "My thoughts are not your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8). His thinking in this realm, is unlike our thinking, because these are

the thoughts that we cannot think. They are the secret things which belong to the Lord, not the revealed things which belong to us (Deuteronomy 29:29). We also know that His thoughts are "exceedingly abundantly above what we can ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). So as far as we are concerned and are able to conceive of it, God knows everything, seen and unseen; things in our brains and things beyond our brains. God's thought is all-comprehensive. There is nothing hidden from God.

## **ALL-COMPREHENSIVE THOUGHT REQUIRES KNOWLEDGE OF ALL CONCEIVABLE EVENTS**

There is a special term in the Bible used to describe this type of infinite cognition. It is the term "FOREKNOWLEDGE". It is used exclusively of God, and it has two meanings. It means that God has absolute and complete prescience or knowledge of all events before they happen at any human viewpoint in time. It's second meaning is derived from the translation of the Greek words *proginosko* and *prognosis* in the New Testament, in which instances the word "fore-knowledge" means "Fore-ordination" which is another word for Predestination. (never be afraid of Biblical words, just get the definition of them right and you will never be confused by them. They are in the Bible because God wants you to know about them). These two different uses are seen in the two following verses.

**Acts 2:23** *Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:*

**1Peter 1:20** *Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.*

There are certain anthropomorphic verses in the Bible which seem to say that God does not know certain things, and that is because the Bible often speaks in terms that accommodate our limited human viewpoint. In verses like this the Bible speaks as if God were a man, by way of using simple human analogy. It does not mean that God's knowledge is in any way incomplete or imperfect. Verses which also speak of God as seeing everything, are also purely anthropomorphic, because actually God does not see. God does not actually have eyeballs. He is a spirit. Seeing is a human quality. God sees all because

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He is God, not because he has human eyeballs. God tells us about His vision, so we know that nothing is hidden from Him, not because He wants us to think of Him like an old man with eyeballs that go to and fro in heaven.

**Genesis 11:5** *And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.*

**Genesis 18:21** *I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.*

**Proverbs 15:3** *The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.*

Think of anthropomorphic verses like this where God is said to be or have something which is obviously not Divine, as word pictures intended to enhance our comprehension and place a visual image in our mind to illustrate a truth about God. Jesus said that He was “The bread from Heaven”, and we know that He really was not a literal loaf, although “wonder bread” might conjure up some delightful images. “Bread” is not actually what Jesus was. Please don't literalize portions of the Bible that were never intended to be taken or understood literally. Jesus is not a loaf of bread or a wafer. (Try explaining that to the Catholics?) Nor does God have eyes, ears, hands, arms, or feet. God does not even have a brain. He has no body parts or passions like us.

God knows everything about everything, and the word "Foreknowledge" indicates that He knew it before there was anything. "Predestination" means basically the same thing, but links it to the idea of the divine will instead of just the divine thought. If you understand one, you understand the other. But if you think wrongly about either, you will be confused about both. GOD IS. GOD KNOWS. GOD DOES. GOD WINS IN THE END! That's predestination and foreknowledge according to Earl Jackson. Please don't make it more complicated than that. Case closed.

## **FOREKNOWLEDGE AND DIVINE DECREES?**

Foreknowledge is generally considered to be part of the Doctrine of the Divine Decrees, but technically it has little to do with what God decreed would come to pass, because even before He purposed to do anything, He knew everything.

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The doctrine of "Divine decrees" is a man made doctrine, not found anywhere in the Bible, and it is part of the cult of Calvinism, so please do not allow yourself to be sidetracked by these human invention.

God decreed everything that will come to pass and He did it once and for all time. There are not "decrees" (plural) there is "decree" (singular) everywhere where God is said to decree something.

I know that these things are hard to grasp, because we think linearly...that is, in terms of the continuum of time. We think in terms of sequence...one thing following another, but God is above time and is above sequence. God is non-sequential, non-linear. The past, present and future are irrelevant terms when speaking of God. He is Alpha and Omega; beginning, middle and end; the same yesterday, today and forever.

There are people who make little or no attempt to try to think like God, and instead they persist in forcing words like "predestination" or "foreknowledge" into some sort of sequential box. The Arminian's are correct when they conceive of Foreknowledge as being the basis for our salvation, because God did in fact know everything about everything even before He purposed to do anything. But the Calvinist's are also correct in saying that the reason God knows the future perfectly is because He predestined everything that would occur in the future. Both are right in some sense. Foreknowledge and Predestination are not contradictory concepts, in fact they are identical concepts which have merely been presented to us in a linear, human, fashion by way of anthropomorphic illustration. The reality is that God's perfect knowledge and His decree to ordain all things are identical. God comprehended, planned and actualized all events in a single eternal is moment, "the eternal is". This is why the Bible speaks clearly about Christ "being slain before the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8; 1Peter 1:19-20). There is no time with God. In the same way it says that we have been "predestined" and "foreknown" from the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4; Romans 8:29-30. Romans 8:30 even says that our final "glorification" has already happened! This concept is unfathomable if you do not allow yourself to think like God thinks... outside of time, above time, and in a way where time is irrelevant. Foreknowledge then becomes identical with all realities and all possible realities. Predestination becomes synonymous with the existence of all things and all events.

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It is only when we force God into our little box, and our irrelevant humanly devised theological categories, that "foreknowledge" "predestination", "foreordination", "decrees", "election" and "reprobation" become confusing terms. They all mean exactly the same thing. Here it is again so you can gain liberation from endless years of fruitless toils trying to figure out the nuances of the Ivory tower crowd. GOD IS. GOD KNOWS. GOD DOES. GOD WINS IN THE END! All history is HIS-STORY! Even the history before time and after.

Calvinist's especially, would do well to expand their thinking and teaching on this subject. Many of the ideas that they have come up, such as all the various lapsarian ideas about the order of the decrees; (did God decree to do this before He decreed to do that?) are absolutely ridiculous, and are completely artificial and contrived. They have nothing to do with truth and the Bible at all. God decreed nothing before something else, because time is irrelevant to the all-knowing one. He thought everything at once, thought it perfectly, thought it completely and exhaustively, and that thought was the actualization of all reality. Nothing exists, or ever will exist, or ever did exist, outside of that one thought of the almighty. That is foreknowledge. That is predestination. Anything else is bogus nonsense, that no human could ever comprehend. So don't waste your time with the Calvin cult or the Arminius cult. They have both added so much to the word of God, that the truth is no longer recognizable. Flee from them. Flee to the Bible, and your thinking will be superior to all the wisdom of the worldly wise! It will be other-worldly, and truly wise, because "God's thoughts are not mans thoughts, and Gods ways are not mans ways" (Isaiah 55:8).

## **FOREKNOWLEDGE REMOVES ALL VERB TENSES**

We must divorce God from time completely in order to understand Him, but sadly, the theologians have repeatedly failed to do that. Here's what they do when faced with an idea like I have just stated. They will immediately revert to their linear concepts and reply to me when I insist that God thought all thoughts in one timeless instant, and "that thought" is "the fulness of all reality". They will immediately tell me "that implies that God is no longer thinking". That's correct in one sense, and very wrong in another.

When I teach about this I have to use human verbs, which are in tenses. The

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word "thought" is in past tense. My statement is: "God thought all thought in one timeless moment, and that one thought comprises all reality". These statements are all in the past tense and that's why these people conclude that this teaching implies that God is no longer thinking. The problem is linguistic not logical.

If I used present tense, instead of past, and say God knows all things in one eternal moment, and that moment is now, and encompasses all reality. They would have less problem understanding it, but then they might say, "that statement implies that God did not think in the past". Again, they would be right and wrong at the same time. The same thing can be said with equal force of future tense, which is the basis for all the prophetic utterances in the Bible. The future is a present and past reality at the same time.

The correct way to try to think about these things is to remove time, and all tenses from the equation. That is the only way to approximate the thinking of God. It is difficult to do using English, but logic is not the problem here. In fact trying to think of the true God as a being "in time" is completely illogical based on all the revealed doctrines about His attributes.

The old ISBE Bible encyclopedia recognized this problem 100 years ago, and said this in their article on God's Foreknowledge: *"God is not only without beginning or end of days, but with Him a thousand years are as one day. Hence, God knows in one eternal intuition that which for the human consciousness is past, present and future. In a strict sense, therefore, there can be no foreknowledge or prescience with God, and the distinction in God's knowledge made by theologians, as knowledge of reminiscence, vision and prescience, is after all an anthropomorphism. Nevertheless this is the only way in which we can conceive of the Divine omniscience in its relation to time, and consequently the Scripture represents the matter as if God's knowledge of future events were a foreknowledge or prescience, and God is represented as knowing the past, present and future". More theologians need to understand these simple concepts, it will deliver their minds from heresy."*

## **CONFUSION OVER PREDESTINATION**

As I have already indicated the Calvinist's need to radically alter their thinking about predestination, to reflect the idea that a decree to predestine is the exact

same thing as the full thought of God in an Eternal "is" moment. The predetermination of God is no different than the knowledge of God. Because everything He knows comes to pass exactly as He knows it. They are identical in every respect. The differences reflected in the terms are for the benefit of men, they really relate little to God Himself. The words "foreknowledge", "predestination", "election", "reprobation", and other terms such as "counsel of God", "immutable counsel", "Divine Decree" etc. are all terms of human vocabulary, and are all terms describing different aspects of the same thing. They apply only to our minds and our way of thinking only. None of them apply to God, because just as He is above time, He is also above vocabulary describing events pertaining to time. Words like these are designed to increase our limited and restrictive knowledge about God. These vocabulary words and their definitions are for the benefit of our understanding. They are all irrelevant to God, since he knows and ordains all things simultaneously. None of these things actually apply to God even though they all have reference to Him. That is why I think the better term to use when referencing any of these things is the term "foreknowledge", or better still simply... "knowledge". That's what God has...perfect knowledge! All things that God has done, or ever will do express His All-inclusive knowledge. He is the All-knowing. "History"... past, present and future, is "His thought". His thought was activated and completed the exact moment He thought it, and generally speaking we say that this was before time. The Bible says "Before the foundation of the world".

Notice all these things which were "realized" before the foundation of the world, the moment God thought them.

**Matthew 13:35** *so that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, "I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world."*

**Matthew 25:34** *Then the King shall say to those on His right hand, Come, blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

**Luke 11:50** *so that the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation;*

**John 17:24** *Father, I desire that those whom You have given Me, that they may*

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*be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me, for You have loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

**Ephesians 1:4-5** *according as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.*

**Hebrews 4:3** *For we who have believed do enter into the rest, as He said, "I have sworn in My wrath that they should not enter into My rest;" although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.*

**Hebrews 9:26** *(for then He must have suffered often since the foundation of the world), but now once in the end of the world He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.*

**1Peter 1:20** *Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,*

**Revelation 13:8** *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

**Revelation 17:8** *The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.*

## **THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD ELIMINATES FALSE DOCTRINES FROM OUR MINDS**

I am not saying that predestination is not a true and important doctrine. Certainly it is, that's why it is revealed in Scripture. It teaches us that all things are controlled by God. Ultimately even our salvation or damnation is in His hands. Certainly that is very important. Doctrines like predestination have become great sources of false doctrine when they are misunderstood, or elevated to a position which makes them the main thing in the Bible. The great truths like this are

more easily comprehended, and better understood when you look at them in the light of God's incredible knowledge of everything. Theological problems and heresies arise because most people do not think right about thought, and about God's thought in particular. That's why I feel that Calvinist's (and Arminian's for that matter) need to shift the bulk of their discussions away from concepts like election and predestination which are very limited concepts with very limited applications, to the larger concept of the knowledge of God. When we concentrate on that with more precision and clarity, all these narrower concepts will come into clearer focus and false doctrine will be eliminated. I have already discussed how the knowledge of God eliminates the various lapsarian positions entirely. We will never postulate that God did this or that before he did that or this, because all notions like that are completely foreign to God. Those man made ideas perpetuate false views of God. God did everything the moment He thought it. His full thought was realized before the foundation of the world.

## The Idea of God

The Bible however, was written in time, and for people who are in time. It records history passing by sequentially, and that is good for us, because that's what we are in and that's how we think. We are in history, and we think historically. But that is not how God thinks. We make a huge mistake when we turn God into one of us. WE were made in His image. HE was not made in our image. He was not made. He is. "I am, That I am!" Until we learn to think about His "IS", His "I AM", we are thinking foolishly and we are bound to embrace any and every false doctrine. All False doctrine originates from false views of God. That's why there are only two concepts of God... the true concept... the "I Am" concept; or idolatry... "the other gods" concept. The First Command embrace all worldviews and all God views. *"Thou shalt have no other gods before me"* (Exodus 20:3). It is "right God" - "wrong god"; "True God" - "False god". There are no other choices. It is "I Am" or "is not". There are no alternatives. This is the basis for every truth. God Is. God Knows. God does. God wins in the end.

Every correct Theology begins with "Theos". And "Theos" is not a man or an idol of man. That means that men better spend much time correcting their thinking about God, and spend no time at all trying to get God to fit into their own notions of Him, because all human notions are "other gods". The only view of God that is correct, is God's view. It does not matter what you think, it matters what He thinks. He thinks everything perfectly and always. That's why this is the

most important doctrine in the world. It is the only doctrine which correctly identifies who and what God is. The knowledge of God is the knowledge of God, and there is no truth, or light, or knowledge outside of Him. The source of all that is known or knowable is Him. Him is "I am"! Him is "I know". It is like the philosopher Descartes who said: "Cognito ergo sum" (I think therefore I am). My thinking proves my existence, because it defines my reality. God's thinking defines the reality of all things. He thinks therefore all Is.

## **GOD'S PERFECT UNLIMITED WISDOM EXPLAINS THEODICY**

Theodicy is the question of the origin of evil or sin. Actually there should be no question at all. God knew all about it before it ever occurred, and because it was in His perfect and Infinite Mind, He comprehended all of the ramifications, implications and results of every sinful thought, action or event. Since all things originate from His perfect Thought, sin was clearly foreknown and predestined by Him...all sin, all sinful acts, all sinful beings. Sin did not create itself. Nothing just happened. Nothing happens apart from God. Everything that exists originated in the Perfect Mind of God.

Theologians like to propose the question "How could sin originate with an all-wise, holy and benevolent God?" And then they like to propose ten million reasons why God could never be the author of sin. But that idea is a complete straw man, because the fact of sin already exist. Just look at the dark pages of both world history and your own personal history. Look everywhere around you. Sin clearly exists. So the question is not how could a Holy Loving God have ever made it? The question is: "How could it have ever originated from any other source?" The answers put forth by traditional orthodoxy, and which are maintained like some sort of holy grail, are nothing more than human speculations, which are insanely contradictory and absurd in the extreme.

The traditional orthodox view can easily be represented by the position illustrated in the Westminster Confession of Faith and most of the mainstream statements of Faith. Most confessions follow the Westminster in her man-made confusion and contradictions about the origin of sin. It goes like this. In Chapter 1 They tell you that God is the creator of all things, and they show you the wonderful verses which prove that. Then somewhere later when they are discussing sin, they tell you "God is not the author of sin". But they never have

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even one verse that proves this. You do not have to be a PHD to see that this is a glaring contradiction. God created all things, but He is not the author of sin. So which is it? Did He actually create all things? Or did sin create itself? If God is not the author of sin, then who is?

This part of their statement of faith was clearly “made up” and “hatched” out of some peoples brains, who could not wrap their minds around the actual Biblical teachings. They had in their head the traditional view which is mindlessly parroted over and over again: "a holy God could never be the author of sin". So, because they could not think in any way other than that, they chose to obviously ignore what God himself said about this matter. The Bible is not silent on this. What happened is that these people ignore what the Bible has said, because it does not fit with their already made up minds. Their view is clearly false because it ignores the actual revelation of the Bible. God tells us exactly what to think about this, and we should no more ignore the Biblical statements on this than we do on anything else. All scripture is given by inspiration and is profitable for doctrine. Look.

**Isaiah 45:7** I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

Many have sought to get around this clear statement by saying evil here does not mean sin, it means war or calamity in contrast to peace. The word here rendered evil is the one commonly used throughout the Old Testament to denote wickedness, sin, wrongdoing. In some five hundred passages it is so used, it means the exact same thing here. (For example, see Genesis 6:5; Numbers 14:27; Deuteronomy 31:29; 1Kings 11:6; 16:30; Psalm 34:21). The very same Greek word is also rendered “wicked” and “wickedness” more than a hundred times. (See for example Genesis 6:5; 13:13; Psalms 94:23; 101:4).

The old Trapp's Commentary had this to say about that idea. "Sin, Satan and War all have one name...EVIL!"

The traditional orthodox interpretation is sustained by using James 1:13 as the only proof text from the Bible for the doctrine which says “God is not the author of sin”. But here is what it actually says: "Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself

tempts no one" (ESV). The issue being discussed in James is not the question "is God the author of sin?", but "is God tempted by sin or is He Himself the tempter?" How does this verse in any way say that God is not the author of sin? It says God is not the tempter. He created a being who is. But God is not Satan. The verse says nothing at all about the origin of sin in the universe. It actually proves that God cannot be a sinner. God is not tempted by the sin which He created, nor is He the tempter.

Verse 17 is also sometimes listed as proof. It says: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change (ESV)." How does a verse telling us about the unchangeable goodness of God, his light and perfect gifts come to mean that God cannot be the author of sin? Are they trying to show that because God is so good He therefore cannot be the author of sin? The verse simply says what all Christians including myself believe, that God is infinitely good. If he created sin? that would in no way mean that He was somehow no longer good. When God clearly says that He is not the tempter, and that He is un-tempted by sin, He is simply saying that He is completely unaffected, untarnished and undiminished by sin. God is unaffected by the effects of His own causing. God is above all things. He is nowhere denies that He created sin. Instead He actually says that He created "all things" on numerous occasions, and that would include sin and sinful beings. "All" pretty much means "all" unless you have some contextual warrant telling you otherwise. Look

**2Corinthians 5:18** *And all things are of God*

**Romans 11:36** *For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.*

**1Corinthians 8:6** *But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.*

**1Corinthians 11:12** *for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God.*

**Ephesians 1:11** *...Him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.*

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**Hebrews 2:10** *For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things...*

**Revelation 4:11** *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

**Proverbs 16:4** *The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.*

**Isaiah 45:7** *I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.*

These verses show clearly that all things exist because God created them or willed them into existence. The idea that something just happened, or came about on it's own is an absolutely pagan idea. There is nothing complicated about this doctrine. Nor is it something new. Christians have always believed these things simply because that is what the Bible says. Men only quit believing them when so-called orthodoxy creeds and supposedly intelligent theologians started teaching that God created everything except sin.

In the light of these very uncomplicated and strikingly simple verses, how on earth could the framers of the traditional orthodox view ever justify the idea that there is no explanation for sin? That God is absolutely sovereign over all things, except sin, is a ludicrous and blasphemous idea. Sin just sort of intruded by itself, and interjected itself into God's perfect moral order without God's knowledge or involvement? Poof! Sin magically appeared by itself? But God is absolutely sovereign, he just had nothing to do with the origin of sin! Does that make any sense at all to anybody who can actually think? You do not help the cause of God and truth when you fabricate lies and myths about things that exist and how they got here. No wonder so many people believe in the evolution myth. It is based on the same kind of reasoning. It just happened. It evolved on it's own.

According to this view, which mindless theologians have been parroting for hundreds of years, sin was not a part of God's original plans at all. He did not plan it, because He is not the author of sin. Many have said...Sin is an "interloper" (whatever that is? Intruder?). They will go on to say: "God's plans

cannot be thwarted nor disarranged in the least, because He is all-wise and almighty". Yet they will admit that sin has in fact entered the perfect universe which the Almighty created and made. How does that make any sense at all? If God, according to this definition, cannot be the author of sin, then why on earth did he ever create man and place him in a garden that was crawling alive with evil serpents? A good God who could never have authored sin in the first place, surely would have been so good that He never would have created an innocent being (man) and placed him in a paradise that was actually a sin trap waiting to be sprung? He could have chosen to not create man if He was actually unable to control the existence or non-existence of sin. What kind of a God is that? You don't do God any favors when you try to protect Him from Himself. That view of God actually turns Him into some kind of viscous monster, and is far worse than saying that God actually did create sin, and that He also controls it perfectly according to holy and completely sovereign plans. A sovereign God controls all things. But their view of sovereignty means that God really isn't in control of everything, because He could not be in control of sin. If God does not control everything, then He does not control anything, and He is not Sovereign.

## **Secondary Causes?**

Saying that God is not the author of sin logically means that He also would have no control over sinful beings. But that is exactly the position of the Westminster Confession and The London Baptist Confession of 1689 on the matter of the origin of sin. According to these statements of orthodoxy, God does not control sin, nor does he He violate the free will of His creatures, or control second causes or the freedom of second causes. That is Pelagianism, pure and simple. But it is not orthodoxy. It's heresy. It's a pagan and godless view. That's where this whole false doctrine of Free-Will has come from. Satan had free will and sinned. Man has free-will and sinned. And according to this traditional orthodox view, God was incapable of doing anything about any of it! Yet we are told in the next breath that He is sovereign and works all things after the counsel of His own will. Well which is it? God is either in control or He is not in control? You cannot have it both ways. If He is not able to control all things and all actions, then obviously He is not in control. God therefore is not actually Sovereign, nor is He All-mighty, because He cannot control the actions of free-moral agents. This heresy should never have been included in such a well crafted document as the Westminster confession, but it was and it was by rebellion against the

truth that it entered in. That is the only way it could have gotten there. Somebody, or some group simply did not like the idea that a holy God could be the sovereign creator and lord even over sin without Himself being sinful. They could not wrap their brains around such a concept, so they explained away the Scriptures which clearly show us that, and chose instead to draft a heretical statement that blasphemes the nature and power of God, and ignores the actual teaching of the Bible. Somebody or some group was too rebellious to submit to the actual teachings of scripture, and the rest of them were too rebellious to fight for the truth. Somebody obviously did not want to believe what the Bible actually says, and the rest of the framers obviously either were too tired to resist or too stupid.

Chapter 3 and paragraph 1 is a hideous statement of false doctrine that was carelessly allowed to enter into a great document. The whole thing is horrendous, and it is one of the reasons I am no longer a Calvinist. (This language is also in the London Baptist Confession of 1689). Let me quote it to you so you can also see this Pelagian language about doing violence to the free will of creatures and to any maybe secondary causes. (What on earth is a secondary cause? and why is it established by removing the absolute Sovereignty of God? Does that imply another creator? I have no idea where any of this language came from, but it was not found anywhere in the Bible, not even by way of implication if not by direct reference.)

"God from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass; yet so, as thereby neither is God the author of sin, nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures; nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established".

Just so you are clear about this screwed up, so-called orthodox view, here is how someone else summarized it, and while I disagree with most of this mans theology, because He is a Universalist, I think he hit the nail right on the head with regard to this. Keep in mind he is paraphrasing the traditional view, which makes absolutely no sense and which theologians blindly subscribe to, that is his purpose here...to show you how horrendous that view really is.

***"God allows it (sin) to come into contact with the man He created when He might have prevented it, knowing full well what the result would be; yet He***

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***is in no wise responsible for the consequences of evil. In fact, it is blasphemy to entertain any such idea. Evil having come into existence contrary to God's will, He cannot put it out of existence, but it will continue as long as He exists, an eternal blot on His otherwise perfect universe and a perpetual offense unto all the purified; yet His will is absolute and sovereign and the redeemed will be perfectly happy. Thus, God is in no wise responsible for either the origin, existence, consequences or continuance of evil; yet He can have everything as He pleases, and is the Creator of all things.***

***So Orthodoxy goes on, stultifying common sense, throttling human reason, and stupidly expecting that intelligent, thoughtful men and women will accept its idiotic patter as the infallible utterances of divine inspiration.***

***Cannot everyone see that the entire orthodox view is contradictory and absurd in the extreme, and hence self-destructive and untenable?"***

-Arthur P. Adams (1845-1925) ***The Purpose of Evil***

Adam's conclusion and the alternative to this fallacious thinking is stated by Him quite simply, and it is the exact thing that I have said over and over again in countless articles I have written and sermons I have preached on this topic. Here is Adam's again.

***"So Orthodoxy goes on, stultifying common sense, throttling human reason, and stupidly expecting that intelligent, thoughtful men and women will accept its idiotic patter as the infallible utterances of divine inspiration.***

***Cannot everyone see that the entire orthodox view is contradictory and absurd in the extreme, and hence self-destructive and untenable?"***

***Now, I hold that the following proposition is self-evident: Given a God of infinite power, wisdom and goodness, He is responsible for ALL things that exist. This also follows from the wisdom and goodness of God: all things that exist are for an intelligent and benevolent end. These conclusions are inevitable from the premises; they cannot be modified***

***except by modifying the premises. For instance, if you say that some things exist contrary to God's will, then it follows that God is not all-powerful; and you cannot escape this conclusion by bringing in the orthodox doctrine of man's free moral agency, for whatever a free moral agent may do, He is responsible for it who made him a free moral agent. If God made man a free moral agent, He knew beforehand what the result would be, and hence is just as responsible for the consequences of the acts of that free moral agent as He would be for the act of an irresponsible machine that He had made.***

***Man's free moral agency (free will), even if it were true, would by no means clear God from the responsibility of His acts, since God is his Creator and has made him in the first place just what he is, well knowing what the result would be.***

***If God's will is EVER thwarted, then He is not almighty. If His will is thwarted, then His plans must be changed, and hence He is not all-wise and immutable. If His will is NEVER thwarted, then all things are in accordance with His will and He is responsible for all things as they exist. If He is all-wise and all-good, then all things, existing according to His will, must be tending to some wise and benevolent end."***

-Arthur P. Adams (1845-1925) ***The Purpose of Evil***

*(Please note that I do not endorse Arthur P. Adams' Universalism, but these statements are dead on accurate. Adams agrees with the Bible on this point, and so do I.)*

***Amos 3:6 Shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?***

***Job 2:10 What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?***

The perfect wisdom of God necessitates the logical and Scriptural truth that sin and evil originate and are absolutely controlled by the Sovereign God alone, because were that not the case anarchy and mayhem would reign over everything. This universe is in the all-powerful hands of an infinite being who knows all things because He causes and controls them all. Truly His wisdom is perfect.

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## Point Three - The "L" in my TULIP Limited Human Freedom

### Earl's 5 Points (TULIP)

1. **T**otal Unconditional Stupidity
2. **U**nlimited Divine Wisdom
3. **L**imited Human Freedom
4. **I**rresistible Divine Sovereignty
5. **P**ersistent Truth

**Proverbs 16:9** *A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.*

**Proverbs 19:21** *There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.*

**Proverbs 20:24** *Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?*

**Jeremiah 10:23** *O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.*

I hope you take the time to carefully read the verses at the beginning of each chapter in this book, because they are the basis for many of the comments and conclusions that I make. If you read those above, you will instantly recognize that they clearly say: "Man does not direct his own steps. Man's goings are from the Lord. Man plans things, but God's counsel always stands". These verses are often used to defeat the doctrinal heresy of "free-will". They are flung around by Calvinist's like drops of water off their fingertips. But I fear that while "free-will" is most certainly a heresy, and all preachers ought to preach against it, these are not verses that show it at all. These verses show "limited human freedom". Men are planning, devising, going and coming in these verses, even though God is over-ruling and directing every step. It is wrong to pit two Biblical concepts against each other, unless there is some profound and necessary Biblical reason to do so. Man can plan, devise, go and come as he pleases, and these verse do not say otherwise. They say that as man does what he wants to do, God is doing what He wants to do at the very same time, so that

God's will is being done at the same time as mans will.

Some of my Calvinist friends may not agree with my understanding of these verses, but that would be because they are reading them from a Calvinistic perspective that forces them to squash the idea that man has any will at all. The way they teach against free-will is sometimes identical to teaching no-will. As we read in the previous study they do talk about “the freedom of secondary causes”. But this is another one of the Calvinistic inconsistencies. They talk about “the freedom of secondary causes” when they are trying to say that God can't be the author of sin. But they adamantly deny “the freedom of secondary causes” when you say that man is one of them (i.e. a secondary causer). It is when you try to say that man is one of those free secondary causer's, that many Calvinist's starts preaching “the bondage of the will” doctrine espoused by Martin Luther, who wrote a lengthy book about it. Not all Calvinist's do this sort of damage to the doctrine of the human will, but generally speaking in their desire to exalt the sovereignty of God, they always downplay the human will and over stress its powerlessness. It is a case of forcing the Bible into a theological mold, rather than actually allowing the Bible to say and mean exactly what it says. The position that I see in the Bible is not the position of the free-willer's, but it is also not the position of the no-willers. Somewhere in between these two extremes is the simple idea that man has limited free-will, or as I call it limited human freedom. This is the view that I take. And this is the view that I am going to show you is consistently taught in the Bible when you actually look at all the verses and not just selectively read only the verses that you choose to believe (pun intended). First I will show why free-will is wrong. Then I will show why no-will is wrong. And lastly I will show the Biblical doctrine of “limited human freedom”.

## **Why the Doctrine of Free-Will is false doctrine?**

For 35 years I have taught that the idea of free-will is an incorrect idea. I still stand by that. I have tons of articles and information on my websites disproving the notion of free will. Most of these however are from the Calvinistic perspective. As a former Calvinist I can say with certainty that I used to over-emphasize the powerlessness of mans will. I believe however that the arguments against human free-will are the same no matter what you call

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yourself. The Calvinist's sometimes tend to go to the extreme of squashing human will altogether, and that is different than just saying that there is no such thing as free-will. We should agree with them that free-will is a myth, unless of course you are talking about God.

## **God has unlimited and absolute free will!**

Clearly God has free will. He can do whatever he wants to do. He is God.

### **...not according to some Calvinists?**

Some Calvinists are so warped in their doctrine of the will that they even go so far as to deny free-will to God! They come up with lists of things that “God cannot do”. A few examples of the “God has no free-will” heresy include: God cannot be the author of sin; God cannot save all men; God cannot save non-elect men; God cannot elect to non-elect “the elect”; God cannot offer salvation to anyone destined to burn in hell fires; God cannot break His own laws; God cannot change His mind; God cannot give the gifts of the Holy Spirit in post Apostolic times; God cannot speak in an audible voice today; God cannot teach us doctrine except through the printed words which are in the Bible; God cannot turn reprobates into saints; God cannot write any new names in the book of life; God cannot be the true Savior of “carnal” Christians; God cannot save anybody without being their Lord; etc.

Instead of focusing on what God cannot do, why don't these people teach that He can do anything He wants? That is the only correct idea of Divine Sovereignty. Needless to say, if there is something that God cannot do, then God does not have a free will.

The Bible destroys the false idea that God cannot do whatever He wants do. God has perfect and absolute free will. And because He has it, no other creature can have it. Free-will is exclusive to God Almighty. It is a Divine attribute. Look.

**Isaiah 46:10** *Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.*

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**Isaiah 46:11** ... yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

**Daniel 4:35** And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

**Psalms 33:8-11** Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. :9 For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast. :10 The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. :11 The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

**Psalms 115:3** But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

**Psalms 135:6** Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.

**Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

These verses are more than sufficient to disprove all the lies that say God cannot do certain things. He has all power. He can do whatever He wishes to do. That is both absolute sovereignty and perfectly free will. God is God. The converse is also true. Man is man. Man is not God. Man does not have what belongs exclusively to God. Man has no free will at all.

These verses are all the verses that are necessary to prove that man does not have free will. There is no need to site endless references and examples to prove that man does not possess an ounce of free will. If free will belongs exclusively to God? then it does not belong to man! The absolute perfect freedom of God, prevents the perfect freedom of any other beings. These verses show clearly that God does all that He wills to do. That consistently and always overrides all other wills in the universe.

This explains why Satan has to have God's authorization to do any of His evil

deeds (Job 1:6-12). Satan is not permitted to do whatever He wants. He must act according to the will of the Lord. The lion roars only when God Almighty activates His vocal cords and says to Him “now you can roar”. The lion roams seeking whom he may devour, only so far as the chain of God's sovereignty allows Him to roam. How else could it be? If God did not control Satan, then He could never have told you: “fear not little flock” (Luke 12:32). He would not have told you “to resist the Devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7), unless He was the one who absolutely guaranteed that it would happen. Your victory over Satan (and anything else for that matter) is secured only by God's control of Him. He is a devil yes, but He is not God. “Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1John 4:4). “Fear not” proves that God is in absolute control of all things. Man really controls nothing. Satan really controls nothing. God controls all things. All things are of God, Through God, and to God. This explains how God can even be glorified in the evil acts of sinful creatures like Satan.

**Romans 11:36** *For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

## **Why Hyper-Calvinistic Ideas of No-Will are bad doctrines.**

I have just proven, with no difficulty at all; that if God does always what He wants to do, then no-one else can do the same. I have established clearly from Scripture that God has free will, and ONLY HE HAS IT! God is God. God is in perfect CONTROL of all things.

Most Calvinists have enough logic still left in them to know that man has at least some sort of freedom of the will. It is only the ones who are extremely bad at theology who would deny man any freedom at all. They dance a theological jig when they try to explain John 8:36 - “*If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*” The word FREE is somehow excluded from the hyper-Calvinist dictionary. Please understand that not all of them feel like that, only the most extreme in their camp. But it does show the dangers in their system. The sovereignty of God does not exclude human freedom, it just limits it. It does not do away with human responsibility, choices, volition, decisions and the like. It explains them. It controls and guides them. But God being God does not keep

man from being man. Don't fall into the error of no-will.

Here are some verses these no-will type of hyper-Calvinists hate.

**Genesis 2:16** *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat.*

Calvinists tend to miss this important verse when they talk about the context of the fall of man. Some will say that it shows that man had free-will before the fall but not after the fall, but I think this is an erroneous view. Man never had free-will, because that has always belonged exclusively to God. So what does this verse show us? It shows us that man has a limited human will, and is free to make choices which will affect his destiny. After the fall nothing changed. Man was still free to eat from any tree, but God drove the man out of the garden, thus narrowing and limiting His choices even more. But God did not tell the man He could no longer choose his own fruits. He never told Him that, not even in this verse. The fruit from the tree in verse 17 (the forbidden fruit) still available as an option for the man. It comes with grave penalties of sin, but “Thou mayest freely eat OF EVERY TREE IN THE GARDEN”, still stands even in the light of the divine prohibition. The command to not eat of one tree did not nullify God's statement “Of every tree thou mayest freely eat”. Divine prohibitions do not limit mans freedom, they make it possible. Now Adam's choices have consequences. This underscores the importance of the freedom which Adam had. If he made a bad choice, he would have a bad outcome. But the prohibition did not remove his freedom at all. To read these verses that way, is to ignore their true meaning and significance. The scriptures teach that “by the law is the knowledge of sin” (Romans 3:20), but they do not teach that the law excludes or limits human volition.

Prohibitions prohibit, but they do not prevent the exercise of human freedom of choice. They were never intended for that purpose. “Do this”, and “don't do that”, when seen as coming from God, are the very things that actually make mans choices to have eternal significance. The law establishes the principle of freedom of choice. It does not destroy it. But the Calvinist always misses this. He believes that only God's choices have eternal significance. But that view contradicts even the first instance of human sin in the Bible as we have shown. What Adam chose to do, most certainly

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affected Him and all His posterity forever. “For by one man sin came into the world and death by sin” (Romans 5:12). Adam chose death. Likewise, what men choose to do with the second Adam affects their eternal destiny. “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved” is a command with a promise. Just as Adam was commanded with the promise of death for disobedience, so all men everywhere are commanded with a promise of life. “Choose Life”, ought to be on the lips of every Bible preacher. It's a command with eternal significance. Had Adam done that, we would not be in the whirlpool of sin that has blasted the entire creation.

***Acts 17:30 -31*** *And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: :31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained*

***Genesis 49:6*** *O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall.*

This verse is important because of the word “selfwill” as seen in the King James Version. It means self-delight, volition, or will of pleasure. The obviously murdered somebody through an act of their own self will. The emphasis of this word is on voluntariness. They did what they did with absolutely no constraint. It was a voluntary act, not forced behavior. We know for a fact that God could force men to not commit murder, because He holds all life in the palm of His hands. Sparrows do not fall from the sky without His authorization (Matthew 10:29-31) so we must never imagine that God is powerless to prevent murders. God can prevent murder, but he does not do it because of voluntary human volition. The murderer murders freely. He makes a choice. He can take the life, because he has limited human freedom, but he cannot bring the life back after he has taken it, because true free will belongs only to God. If the murderer had absolute free will, he could resurrect his victims, he could turn them into birds if he wanted. But because he has only limited human freedom, he can only make limited free choices. The Calvinist will say that murder is predestinated. But what was predestinated was the ability of

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the criminal to make free choices, without constraint or interference, and with full voluntariness. If you want to find out how much a Calvinist actually believes about human freedom? ask Him about verses like this which show voluntary actions of men, when God could have prevented their actions but didn't. The cannot interpret these verses correctly, if they believe that predestination is contrary to human freedom.

**Leviticus 1:3** *If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD.*

Notice the words: “of his own voluntary will”. This is the same word as in the last verse. It stresses the idea of voluntariness, without compunction, without constraint, without outside pressure or influence being exerted on the human will. In this case, “any man” (see vs 2) could gain acceptance with the Lord by offering a voluntary sacrifice freely and without compulsion.

The words “of his own voluntary will” become very important therefore in any discussion about our human approach to God when we preach the gospel. If “any man” could approach God through this voluntarily act of His will during the age of the law? then it would be completely unreasonable to imagine that in the age when Grace reigns supreme, that man would have any less freedom than he had during the age of restriction. If men could make free choices to worship God under law, He is certainly free to do so under Grace, even more so. See also:

**Leviticus 19:5** *And if ye offer a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the LORD, ye shall offer it at your own will.*

**Leviticus 22:19** *Ye shall offer at your own will a male without blemish, of the beeves, of the sheep, or of the goats.*

**Leviticus 22:29** *And when ye will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving unto the LORD, offer it at your own will.*

**Luke 23:25** *And he released unto them him that for sedition and murder was cast into prison, whom they had desired; but he delivered Jesus to their will.*

It may not be readily apparent why I jumped from talking about freely approaching God through a voluntary act of the will to this verse where Pilate gave Jesus over to a mob's will. We are all familiar with the story, but the event actually teaches something that Calvinists never admit. That men can voluntarily will to act against God Himself. The word "rejection" is seldom spoken about in Calvinistic circles. But Jesus came to His own and His own rejected Him (they received Him not). For a Calvinist they really did nothing at all. They just continued on in their already existing state of unbelief and hardness of heart. They were dead reprobates, and to them when it says they did not receive Him it means they continued doing nothing because they really can do nothing anyway. Their view completely removes volitional choices from the matter of "receiving Christ". Likewise it ignores these words that Pilate gave Jesus over to their will. The will of the mob, made a choice against God, against Christ and against the prohibition of murder. But we have already seen that murder is an act of free human choice (see comment on Genesis 49:6 above). God does not prevent murders, even though He could. (Abortion is a good example of this, as is genocide, euthanasia etc). This does not make God bad. This does not make God complicit in sinful deeds. God is sinless, no matter what He does. If He could stop murders and does not, that does not make Him evil, because He sets all the rules. The rules apply to us and not to Him. But the point here is that human choices are clearly free and unconstrained when it comes to what to do about Jesus. The mob made a choice, by their will, and Pilate turned Jesus over to their will, and God did nothing to prevent, restrain, or influence their bad decisions.

The answer to this objection is found in Acts chapter 2. Look:

**Acts 2:23** *Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:*

This is a wonderful verse, and the Calvinist is absolutely right in using it to show that behind the worst sin ever committed lay the pre-determinate plan of God. God planned the worst sin in human history. This verse

clearly states that. Christ was delivered to the mob by “The determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God”. The Calvinist is right about the murder of Christ being predestinated. God knew (foreknowledge) that Christ had to die in order for the salvation of sinners to be accomplished. He predestinated this worst sin in History.

But the Calvinist is wrong at the same time when He uses this verse that way. Because he emphasizes only the first half of the verse where God tells us that Calvary was according to a predetermined plan. He completely misses the second part of the verse which says: “*ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain*”. The mob acted, and they did it without constraint. Pilate gave Jesus to “their will”, and “their will” was done on earth as it had been determined in heaven. It is not just God's will that is done on earth as it is in heaven, it is mans will that is also being done. The free human choices of a mob did not alter the predeterminate counsel of God one bit. God predestinated what He did, but man still acted freely. Man however did not have free-will in the sense that they could have willed in such a way as to prevent the death of Christ. The murderer cannot will life back into his victim, and these people could not have willed to spare their victim. But the volition of man is still operating freely and without outside constraints. It boils down to free choice. They chose to kill Jesus. They chose to reject him. The event was predetermined, but their actions were 100% free human choices. Calvinism gets the part about the predestination right, but they always screw up on the part about the human choices. This is why they refuse to press men to decide for Christ. The believe that decisions for Christ are something only the elect can make. But when they do that they deny that “all men” can accept or reject him freely. For them all men are lost and the lost simply do nothing to go to hell. By the same token, and this is the huge flaw in their system. The lost can do nothing to go to heaven either! What they do by this, is strip all human choice away from man, and effectively teach the doctrine of no-will. If you cannot choose for God, and you cannot choose against God, then you cannot choose period. This doctrine is a twisted view of human volition, and it results in a twisted view of preaching the gospel to sinners. If they cannot choose, then you cannot urge them to repent, believe, turn, flee to Christ or anything else that might be contained in the gospel. That is false doctrine plain and simple.

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**Acts 17:30 -31** *And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.*

Calvinists cannot preach this verse. It is impossible for them because men cannot obey it according to their system. They have to weave theological webs in order to fit the idea of “commanding dead men to repent” into their doctrinal straightjacket. Trust me I know. I preached Calvinistic doctrines for too many years. I know that system inside and out. I am not lying to you. Every Calvinist will tell you that lost men cannot repent. That's why they cannot preach this verse. They are teaching false doctrine when they teach half of the truth. A half truth is a whole lie. They interpret all verses that disagree with them in the light of their own mindset, rather than let the Bible say what it means and mean what it says. All cults act just like this. That's why I now consider Calvinism to be a cult. Don't call me a Calvinist. Call me Baptist. Better yet, call me a Christian!

**John 1:11-13** *He came unto his own, and his own received him not. :12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: :13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

This is a passage that you absolutely must know if you are going to effectively defeat the no will heresy of extreme Calvinism. It is one of their prime babies. They always end up here when they are proving their idea that men are not born again by the human will. They emphasize verse 13 where it clearly says that the saved are not born of the will of man, but their understanding of this is all wrong. Here's how they reason: Men are dead in trespasses and sins, and dead men cannot exercise their will, because it is dead also. They use the text to show that the new birth is not by blood (human genealogy or birthright), not by the will of the flesh (natural generation), nor by the will of man (human volition). That is all true. Volition is never the cause of salvation. You cannot regenerate yourself, that is an act of the Holy Spirit in Divine creative power. No Bible scholar ought to ever dispute those facts. The Calvinist is right on this stuff. But here's where they go wrong. The verse does not deny the presence or actions of the human will. The will is certainly not the cause of salvation. On that they are correct. But the will is very much present

and active none the less. It is not causal. But it is responsive. Man is not the cause of God's effects. God is. But man is the one who responds to the gospel, and receives Christ by faith. God does not receive Christ for you. People receive Christ personally and individually. They do so "to become the sons of God." The gospel is preached and a decision is made by the human will regarding the truth. You cannot take just a part of the passage and ignore the rest. "His own received Him not" indicates negative volition. "But as many as received him" indicates positive volition. "To them gave He the power to become the sons of God" indicates that responding with positive volition precedes becoming a child of God. In other words they could not be considered sons, until they first received Christ. This part of the passage is horribly neglected and misinterpreted by the Calvinists. "They received Him" (positive volition), and then "He gave them the power to become the sons of God" - conversion.

**Romans 7:18** *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

Here we have an important verse showing that the will is operative even though the power necessary to carry out what is willed may be absent. The Calvinist uses this verse to show that the will is powerless to perform what God wants. But they miss that fact that the will is present and active even though the performance of that which is willed does not occur. Capacity and power are two different things, but the Calvinist consistently confuses them so that the result equals the false doctrine of no-will.

**Acts 7:51** *Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.*

The correct interpretation of this verse shows that men naturally resist God and that they are fully able to do that. The Calvinist however, tries to use this verse to say that the will is powerless and that resistance is futile. They use it as a proof text for both the doctrines of irresistible grace and the deadness of the human will. The verse says nothing about either of those things. It does not say that the holy spirit cannot be resisted, which

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is actually the exact opposite of what it really says. And it does not say the the will is so dead that it has no power at all. That is also the opposite of what the verse says. It says that men always resist God Himself. What it says is that men are stiff-necked and hardhearted because they actively resist the Holy Spirit. Clearly God lets them do that, and clearly their will is effective in resisting. Contrary to the verse showing inn activity of the will, it shows that the will is very much alive and well, even in people who are dead in trespasses and sins. To be dead in sins does not of necessity mean that your will, your intellect, or your emotions are dead. Other verse that show mans freedom to resist God are:

***Isaiah 63:10*** *But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.*

***Ephesians 4:30*** *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

## **The Calvinist View of “Spiritual Death”**

The Calvinist's interpret “dead in trespasses and sin” (Ephesians 2:1) to mean “lifeless” in all the things that actually make you human. Mind, body, will, emotions, and soul; according to them, are “dead and totally depraved”. “The dead know nothing” and the dead are completely devoid of life according to their view. Death is all-pervasive. It even robs man of his will, his intellect and his emotions. But their view denies reality. Look! You do not even have to be a theologian, a scholar, or a very good thinker to know that the mind, emotion and will of every living human is active and alive. Regardless of what you may think “dead in trespasses and sins” means; IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT PEOPLE ARE LIFELESS ROCKS. All people are very much alive even though the “spirit” is dead. Their mind still freely functions, their will is still able to make free choices, they still laugh and cry. The Calvinist does not see this. They have a false view of death. They think when Adam sinned and lost “the image of God” that he somehow lost his humanity and became some sort of mindless, will-less, beast. But man actually remained very human and very alive as a human after the fall. Spiritual death cannot mean what they teach.

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By necessity they also have a false view of life. This is one of the biggest blunders of Calvinism. They do not generally recognize the trichotomous nature of man (body, soul and spirit). Instead they usually teach that man is a dichotomy, body and soul. This false doctrine causes them to erroneously attribute “total depravity” to both parts that they see in man, body and soul. It is “total” in that it affects all parts, and it is “depravity” in that it is sinful corruption. Thus they end up with depraved minds, depraved emotions, and a depraved will. People who hold to the “man is a dichotomy view” (body and soul, material and immaterial), always get the fallen nature wrong. When you get the created human nature wrong, you get the fallen nature wrong as well. Only the trichotomous view that man is body, soul and spirit takes all the teachings of the Bible into consideration resulting in true doctrine. Dichotomy is false because it is only a part of the truth. Here is the real truth.

***1Thessalonians 5:23 ...and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

The Bible actually teaches that when man sinned, the “spirit” in him died. Spiritual death exists anywhere the Holy Spirit no longer dwells. The Holy Spirit in man, is “the image of God”. Man became “spiritually dead” the moment He sinned. Please notice that Adam was still physically alive. He was still 100% human with all the attributes of humanity..intellect ...sensibility and will. When men are saved, the Holy Spirit returns to man and the human spirit becomes alive again. The new birth deals with the issue of spiritual death. And when man is recreated, the Holy Spirit returns activating his dead human spirit. Human nature is tripartite, body, soul and “spirit”. The spirit is dead because of sin and requires quickening (Ephesians 2:5). Calvinists normally deny this view, because they understand the implications for their false view of depravity. To them depravity is death in all the things that actually make us human... dead will, dead mind, dead emotions. Clearly this is wrong. Everybody that you know has all of those things, and all those things are absolutely alive in all humans. The problem of spiritual death is separation from God. The moment man sinned, God left him. The Spirit vacated the premises. They lost the Holy Spirit. And that's what it means to be dead in trespasses and sin. Conversely the moment a man is born again, the Holy

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Spirit comes back! He indwells every born again person restoring the image of God that was lost by the fall. That's what it means to have spiritual life...image of God lost - image of God restored! This is not the complicated doctrine that the Calvinist's have made it. Death is the absence of life. The Holy Spirit is "the Spirit of Life from God" (Revelation 11:11). "God is a Spirit".

***Romans 8:10-11*** *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. :11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

This is not complicated, but the Calvinist's have made it complicated.

No Holy Spirit = Death  
No Holy Spirit = No Image of God  
No Holy Spirit = No Life toward God

Holy Spirit = Life  
Holy Spirit = Image of God in man  
Holy Spirit = Life Toward God restored

Men who have not the Spirit are lost. Men who have the Spirit are saved. Having a body and soul is not enough, you need the Spirit also.

***Romans 8:9-10*** *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. :10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

***Luke 13:34*** *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!*

Please understand that Calvinist's are aware of all these verses, and they

use these very same passages to try prove that man has no free will. They are right when they say man has no free will, but they are wrong to make that mean that man has no will whatsoever. For all practical purposes they deny that the will has any function at all when it comes to accepting or rejecting Christ. When the Bible talks about “believing on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved” the Calvinist denies that men can believe. They teach that men are dead and that dead men cannot hear, cannot respond, cannot will, cannot even think when it comes to spiritual realities. This is one of the theological flaws that prevents some Calvinist's from preaching the gospel to sinners. Not all of them do that, but some do. They all have seeds of doctrinal poison in them that leads to the conclusion that men cannot believe.

They try to prove that when Jesus longed to gather his children under his wings they did not believe and embrace Him, because they could not believe and embrace him. Their view is etched in stone. They were dead, and the dead cannot believe. But if they were so dead? Then how is it that Jesus said of them “Ye would not”? I would have gathered you, but you willed not to come to me. If a dead will cannot believe, it surely cannot will to resist God either? They are forcing the verse to say what it does not say. The verse actually says that they had a choice. They chose not to believe. It does not say they could not believe. It says they willed not to believe. If man has no will, then He has no choice. But if he has a choice, then the will is alive and well and is fully operative in these non-believers. This is not a moot point. This is vitally important to understand the truth. No verse in the Bible says that men cannot believe! Many verses say they “do not” believe, or they “will not” believe. But no verse says men “cannot believe”. But this is exactly what Calvinism always teaches about all the non-elect. The non-elect cannot believe. The non-elect cannot be saved. It's impossible for the non-elect to ever believe. The Bible simply does not say anything even remotely similar to this fictitious doctrine.

Please listen carefully, I do not think Calvinist's teach a false doctrine of the human will out of bad motives. They actually see the issue of free-will as some sort of threat to the doctrine of Divine Sovereignty. They believe correctly that if God has free-will, then no other being can also have it. That is absolutely 100% correct. What happens however, is they feel that

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it means man has no-will. Their system actually teaches that human depravity prevents all lost men everywhere from exercising any will at all in spiritual matters. That is the essence of their doctrine. It leads to denying and explaining away, modifying and re-interpreting clear verses just like this, where men are given spiritual choices. God is not an idiot and He knows perfectly well how to speak and how to say what's on His mind. You do not need 400 page dissertations explaining away the idea of freedom of choice in spiritual matters. But that's what they will give you if you take them to simple verse like this one.

Here's another just like it.

**Luke 7:30** *But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.*

It's not complicated. It requires no lengthy debate. The pharisees and lawyers "REJECTED THE COUNSEL OF GOD". Obviously they were not so dead that they could neither accept or reject God's truth? The counsel of God is another term for "the will of God". This verse is a clear and obvious case of lost men exercising their human volition and rejecting God and choosing their own way instead. The Calvinists will tell you 50 reasons why this verse does not mean what it says. Why not just let it mean what it says? Does it in any way remove some power or glory from God? In my opinion it actually brings glory to God! because God is never threatened by the free choices that men make. He is above all that. But the Calvinist's simply don't get it. In fact they hate it.

Here's another verse just like these:

**Romans 10:21** *But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.*

God pleading with Israel again, but what did they do? They resisted him, they rejected him, they disobeyed him, they gainsayed or refused him (all obvious actions of the human will). God did not force them to believe, and He does not force anyone. He honors the decisions that men make, and they will have to suffer with the consequences of their own decisions. This was why Israel was lost. They rebelled when they should have believed.

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They rejected their Messiah instead of embracing Him. Election was not an automatic ticket into heaven for them. Nor is it for anyone. You must believe and be saved. You must respond and accept God, not reject Him.

Calvinist's cannot see this. It's too simple for them to comprehend. They imagine that predestination eradicates all human volition. According to them Israel did not have any choice at all in the matter. They could not have believed, because they were not predestined to believe. There was no real offer or choice given to them. There is no real offer of choice given to any lost man, according to them. Only "the elect" receive a real calling to Christ. They are "effectually called". The rest are "effectually blinded". They go to great lengths to "explain away" the obvious meanings of verses where men are given spiritual choices in the matter of salvation. They deny that men have these kinds of choices.

Here's another similar verse:

**2Corinthians 6:1** *We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.*

The Calvinistic message is built entirely around the doctrine of Sovereign Grace. There can be no doubt that salvation is by grace without works. No Bible believer should ever doubt the idea of salvation by grace alone. I agree with them about grace. Salvation is of the Lord.

But their idea of "Grace" is actually not the true Biblical concept at all. This verse is one of many that prove how deficient their concept really is. To them, grace is the absence of human works, human will, human activity, human reasoning, and all things that originate in men. Calvinists cannot preach about this verse, except to explain it away. If God's grace is irresistible as they teach? then how is it that men can receive it "in vain"? What is the Apostle Paul referring to when He talks about men who "receive" the grace of God "in vain"? If it was "grace", and if they "received it", then surely it would have saved them? How could that ever be "in vain"? In fact: how could they "received it" at all if their wills were dead and inactive in the process? "Receiving" a gift is not a passive activity. They try to trip you up with this, and they want you to go along with them when they tell you that you do not do anything at all when you receive a

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gift. But it simply is not true. The giver can hold the gift in front of you, or put it on the table smack dab in the middle of your living room, but if you do not take the gift you have not actually received it. Receiving always involves “appropriation”...”taking”...”reaching out”. God's gifts, (which we call grace because He did not have to give them to any of us), are received through the non-meritorious system of faith. But faith involves human volition. It involves Hebrews 11:6 “he that cometh to God must believe that He is”. There is no “receiving” anything that does not involve the acts of the recipient. Receiving involves believing. If somebody hammers my head I have received a blow, but it certainly is not gracious. Grace does not shovel salvation down the throats of the helpless and unwary people who have been predestinated to receive it. They receive it willingly, as they are drawn by the secret operations of the Holy Spirit in the gospel. But they are not inactive stones being called to life, which is what the Calvinist wants you to believe. God could make the stones into children of Abraham, yes! But He does not do that. He makes people who “believe” and “receive” by faith into His own people.

What about the people who receive grace but it is in vain? Who are these people? The Calvinist will tell you that they are the non-elect. But that makes grace not really grace. What kind of Grace is it that is a complete waste of time (it's vain grace)? Is that really grace? If not then why did God call it grace?

Paul spoke of grace in a similar way in Galatians. Look.

**Galatians 2:21** *I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*

Notice in the previous verse Paul spoke about a grace that is received in vain. Here he speaks about a grace of God that can be frustrated. When God grace is frustrated as He speak about in this verse he says it makes the death of Christ vain! Think about that if you are currently viewing scripture through the Calvinistic bifocals. Gods grace can be frustrated and when that happens Christ died in vain. What does that mean? Needless to say this verse is not on the top of the list of the Calvinists favorite verses. In fact, I have personally never heard a Calvinist preach about it except in a very casual manner. This verse destroys the entire

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Calvinistic system. They teach that Christ's death is absolutely and always effectual. They teach that God's grace is irresistible. That means it cannot be frustrated. They teach that grace is imputed without any human activity whatsoever. But if that is true, then how could it ever be received in vain? or be frustrated through human resistance to the truth? How could Christ have died in vain? What is the scenario in Calvinism which would allow this verse to be true? There is none. Their view demands that this verse be altered, tampered with, explained away, or modified to fit within their faulty system. There is no Calvinistic scenario where this verse could be true as stated according to their doctrines. They will insist that Paul is speaking hypothetically and will try to convince you of this by pointing to other doctrines and insisting that there is no contradiction in the Bible. There is no sense in which "then Christ is dead in vain because the Grace of God has been frustrated" could enter their theology. Don't fall for this.

## **The "Exegete The Plain Meaning Away" Fallacy**

This verse amply illustrates one of the greatest delusions of the Calvinistic system. In fact, I think it is the seed within it for its own destruction. It is the tendency to "exegete the meaning away" from simple, in order to understand passages of Scripture. This verse is a case in point. It cannot mean that "Christ died in vain" because... and then they give you 75 reasons why the verse does not mean what it actually says. This is similar to the technique of an old time shyster car salesman. They used to call it "bait and switch".

Here's the bait: "There are no contradictions in the Bible" (a true statement, a true principle of sound hermeneutics).

Here's the switch: "These are the reasons why this verse does not contradict these other verses over here. These are the "exegetical reasons" why this verse does not actually mean what it says. It contradicts grace. It contradicts bondage of the will. It contradicts the true doctrine of the atonement. It contradicts this. It contradicts that.

Don't be duped by this faulty and deceptive logic. They are telling you that one thing that is true (There are no contradictions in the Bible), and then

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they are proceeding to show you why the verse which is in the Bible contradicts all the rest of the Bible?

I am not saying that some verses do not require explanation. Many of them do. What I am saying is that Calvinism takes verses which require no explanation at all, and they explain away their obvious and inspired meaning. This verse absolutely does say that there is at least one scenario where Christ died in vain, and that is the scenario where the grace of God is frustrated by legalistic methods of salvation. Legalism frustrates grace, and frustrated grace equals Christ dying in vain. Calvinism cannot admit to this, so they "exegete it" right out of the Bible! They "exegete" the simple meaning away. This is a hugely dangerous and very serious problem with Calvinistic theologians. Trust me, I have been interacting with this stuff for almost 40 years and I have followed their reasoning, in great detail. It is an unwritten and un-admitted rule of Calvinism that if you cannot get the Bible to say what you want it to say? you began exegeting the meaning out of the text, and back up your theories with plenty of footnotes from the so-called experts, so that by so-called "solid research" and exegesis you will be able to harmonize all the "apparent contradictions" right out of the Bible.

There are no contradictions in the Bible, not even apparent ones! Don't listen to their faulty reasoning. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and you do not need a pile of reference books a mile high in order to read and understand the word of God. God wrote it so that even little children could receive it. No contradictions. Period. If some seem apparent to you, then you are sinning by mentally trying to get the Bible to agree with your already made up mindset. No contradictions....not even apparent ones. No antinomy's!

Allow me to show you how insidious this exegetical poison is.

John 3:16-17 is one of the most popular and easiest to understand passages in the Bible. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."*

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No Calvinist can allow these critically important, and very easy to understand verses to remain in their Bible without exegetical tampering. What's so difficult about the idea that God loved the whole world? And that He sent His only-begotten Son to save the whole world through believing in Christ? Is that something so complex that nobody can understand one of the most popular and comforting verses in the word of God? John 3:16 requires no exegeting, no redefining, it's simple by design. The Calvinist is bent on protecting the world from the Arminian poison. They therefore rob one of the most basic verses and virtually cut it right out of their Bible through bait and switch hermeneutics.

BAIT... There are absolutely no contradictions in the Bible. (The bait is always true).

SWITCH... Here are 75 reasons why "world" does not mean "world". World means "the world of the elect" or something other than the actual world of mankind. As if God did not know how to say that if that's what He meant? (The switch is always false).

Bait is always true. Switch is always false. The false part robs the truth out of the Bible.

The Calvinist is compelled to deal with passages like this, which do not agree with their iron-clad theological system. They interpret the entire Bible through the lenses of their five key points. They literally ride a 5 legged horse through every passage of the Bible, and they could care less about what the verses actually say, as long as they can exegete them to make them mean what they want. This is horrendous. I have been guilty of this grave sin of mishandling God's word myself. Arminians do it too, but it seems to be more prevalent in the reformed or Calvinistic circles.

The bottom line in this is that we do not tell God what the Bible means. He tells us. We should never not let the Bible mean what it says and say what it means. While I do not believe in any sort of contrived literalism, I do believe that the first and obvious meaning of the sacred text should never be dispensed with through exegesis. It's a sinful method of handling the word of truth. Bait and switch is not scholarship, no matter how many footnotes and experts they quote. It is rebellion against God. It is an

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insult to the divine veracity of the truth. They teach “dead will” this way. They teach false views of grace this way. They teach that man does nothing and God does everything, thus negating faith and belief and active volition. And they teach a restricted atonement this way. Beware.

## Conclusion

Each chapter in this book is meant to be suggestive, not exhaustive. There are many other verses and lines of reasoning that I could present showing that the Calvinistic idea of no human will relative to salvation is a false doctrine. The Bible is filled with verses disproving the ideas that: “man does nothing at all to receive grace and to believe on Christ, and that God does everything leaving man without any choice at all in the matter”. They stress that there is really “no decision” and “no human choice” when it comes to spiritual matters. I have shown that this is simply false. The human will is very alive and active even in the most sinful and lost of souls. Salvation is not nailed into our hearts by a big sovereign hammer. It was nailed on a cross in a person who actually loved the world enough to die for it, so that when men see it they can be wooed and can become lovers of what they formerly hated. They can willingly turn their stubbornness and their rebellion, to faith and belief simply by receiving what Jesus did for them and everybody else on that Cross.

**1John 2:2** *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. (No exegesis required!)*

**Hebrews 2:9** *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. (It means what it says!)*

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## Point Four - The "I" in my TULIP Irresistible Divine Sovereignty

Earl's 5 Points (TULIP)

1. Total Unconditional Stupidity
2. Unlimited Divine Wisdom
3. Limited Human Freedom
4. Irresistible Divine Sovereignty
5. Persistent Truth

**Isaiah 14:26-27** *This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations. For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?*

**Isaiah 46:10-11** *Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure ...yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.*

**Ephesians 1:11** *...who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.*

Calvinism has contributed a very important part in the history and defense of many important and sound doctrines of the faith. Nobody can deny that. Catholicism has also done that. Look at the Trinity doctrine. We need to find truth wherever it is. We should seize it and use it for the glory of God. All truth is one truth, and in the Calvinistic system there is certainly much which is true. But the most outstanding and important aspect of their teachings is their emphasis on the sovereignty of God...a great and glorious truth which Calvinism always calls attention to. I rejoice in the fact that most Calvinist's appreciate and defend the idea that "God is God", and that He is the indisputable Sovereign of the universe. That is Calvinism's best doctrine.

I have not made this book a point by point attack on Calvinism, because that was not my purpose. They have many good points mixed into their errors, and many great men have been, and still are in the Calvinist camp. I just no longer am one of them. We must be careful not to throw out the baby with the

bathwater. While I do not consider myself to be a Calvinist, I once did, and I learned many important truths from them. But nothing they taught me is more important than this idea of the sovereignty of God.

But like other aspects of their system, I think they have erroneous views of this doctrine as well. They stress divine sovereignty, but only when it suits them. I do not think that they actually believe and teach the sovereignty of God in it's fullest sense, or as it is actually taught in the Bible. Yes they say that God's will and reign is supreme, and that He is Lord of all realms, but practically I think they are very inconsistent and illogical when it comes to how they apply this doctrine. In my opinion, they err when it comes to the matter of actually letting God be God. They say He is God, but then they present an idea of a micro-managing god who is "obsessive/compulsive" about everything in the universe. They present all the necessary trappings and support to justify their belief in the indisputable sovereignty of God. But they do not believe in the irresistible sovereignty of God because they contradict it when it comes to the practical applications of the doctrine. Hopefully I will be able to explain what I mean and site some examples so you can grasp what I am saying. This is the most difficult of my five points to grasp.

Let me start in a negative fashion by showing some ways that Calvinism practically denies the sovereignty of God which they claim to embrace and teach.

## **Irresistible Grace**

Calvinists teach what they refer to as Irresistible Grace. On the surface it certainly seems that if men cannot resist the grace of God, then they must surely be teaching that God is absolutely sovereign. The idea is that non-resistance equals absolute compliance. But they are actually teaching that men cannot resist, because they secretly know that men do! They are afraid of that. We have shown in the previous chapter how men frustrate the grace of God and how they "do always resist the Holy Spirit" (Acts 7: 51). Irresistible grace, says that nobody can resist the Holy Spirit because He is Sovereign. So lets think about this for a moment?

**Acts 7:51** *Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.*

This verse clearly shows that both the people to whom Stephen was preaching and their fathers before them, resisted the Holy Spirit. The Calvinist is not content to let this mean what it says, so they develop detailed arguments and they design contrived proofs to show that this verse does not actually show any sort of human freedom at all, their actions were all predestined. And when they are done with “bait and switch” techniques they actually “flip” this verse around to teach “irresistible Grace”. They end up saying: “These men resisted because they were predestined to resist, but the ones who were predestined to be saved, “the elect” cannot resist, and never resist. Their inward call is always effectual”. They “flip” verses from their simple and obvious meaning, and confute them beyond recognition to support their system. The same could be shown in the case of Arminian's. But Arminian's do not pretend to defend the absolute Sovereignty of God. That is a pet doctrine of the Calvinist's. However, if they actually believed in the Sovereignty of God, like they assert; then they would not feel compelled to protect men from the implications of verses like this. If God is really Sovereign? then He is really sovereign, even if men are exercising their human volition, are hardening their hearts, and are resisting with all their might against everything that God throws at them. God is no less Sovereign because men have human freedom. God is no less Sovereign when men kick against the pricks. He is no less Sovereign when an atheist shakes his fist at heaven and says “I'll never believe”. In fact He is more Sovereign, because He is so Sovereign that even the free choices of men are woven into His irresistible plans without compromise to Himself or to human identity. Sovereignty actually rests on the idea of immensity. God is so immense that He is beyond all outside influences. He is so immense that no causes or effects against Him are real. An ant might believe that he has free-will, and might attack a battleship in the harbor, but does the ant have any real effect at all against the immense battleship? Of course not. A sovereign God is not afraid of human freedoms. But Calvinists are deathly afraid of them. That's why they are inconsistent on this point.

This is the exact argument for Divine Sovereignty presented in the Scriptures. Look.

**Isaiah 54:16-17** *Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. :17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This*

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*is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.*

**Psalm 2:1-5** *Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? :2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, :3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. :4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. :5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.*

**Romans 9:19-20** *Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? :20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?*

These verses, and many others, all establish the Sovereignty of God based on the doctrine of His immensity. Ant's can have no effect on the causer of all things. Pieces of clay can have no argument or doubts against the maker of the clay. Weapons cannot prosper in the hands of people who are dead set in their intention to use them. Sparrows cannot fall without the controlling factors of the Divine presence and power. The Divine Sovereignty needs no defense at all if God is actually Sovereign. By the same token doctrines do not have to be manufactured to protect us from the effects of humans against themselves or against God if God is really sovereign. All effects are incorporated into the immensity of the one Sovereign thought of all things which we call the decree of God. Trying to defend God by propping Him up with man made doctrines is a joke and it's blasphemous at its core. God can call all men, call some men, call no men, and have His perfect will accomplished under any scenario. Nobody, and no thing, can overturn, counterbalance or over-rule the one eternal thought of God. Endless discussions about could God do this? or could men do that? are moot. All things happen, because God planned them to happen, and that includes every human action that has even taken place. He "worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" (Eph. 1:11). (No exegesis required). "All" means "all" all the time.

We should not err into understanding Divine Sovereignty as God forcing everything and everyone into submission. That doctrine presents a bully god; one who bullies and bosses the universe into submission. God could do that,

and probably would if He really wasn't sovereign. But His rule is absolute and irresistible in such a way that He does not have to bully, or beat everything or anything into submission in order to get His way. God is simply God, and that makes Him absolutely and incontrovertibly sovereign. He has to force nothing to be in absolute control of everything. That's why the Bible clearly tells us about men who resist Him. He is sovereign when they do that. They resist, and He wins anyway! We need never fear either the possibility that He may not actually be ruling, nor the possibility that some free actions of creatures might overturn His rule. All possibilities, and all possible results, are included in His Divine and sovereign plan. It does not matter what a free agent purposes, chooses or designs. God controls all actions and all outcomes. That is what I mean by irresistible sovereignty. It is not just a sovereignty whereby a king rules through force or penalty of law. It is a sovereignty where none of His purposes or plans can ever be modified, shaken, or overthrown in the least. He is so Sovereign that every idea and every thought is included in the one thought and the one plan. He is sovereign even over potentialities and possibilities. He is sovereign over the flapping of a butterfly's wings, and over the aimless howling of a tortured soul like Stephen Hawking. He is sovereign when men choose to trust Christ, and He is sovereign when they resist and refuse to believe to their own damnation. Grace does not need to be irresistible in order to keep God sovereign. Grace is sufficient without being irresistible, because God himself is the one who is irresistible. If the sovereign is irresistible, then all other doctrines can stand on their own without artificial help. Human choices never have to be coerced or forced in order to comply with God's perfect sovereign will. He is sovereign over all possible outcomes, all possible worlds and realms, and all possible freely made decisions of moral creatures. What decision of man has ever altered or changed the infinite plan and purposes of God? If they resist, that is part of the plan for their own damnation. If they believe and repent that is part of the plan for their own salvation. Nothing needs to be excluded and nothing needs to be controlled by inserting false doctrines. Irresistible Grace is a false doctrine, because it undermines the character of God's absolute sovereignty. They want you to think it enhances the Divine Sovereignty. It does nothing of the kind. It is an attack on the infinity, immensity and power of God.

***Romans 3:3-4*** *For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God Forbid! yea, let God be true, but every man a liar.*

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Because He is sovereign human resistance is part of the plan. Because He is sovereign, all the outcomes of all the stupid decisions, of all the stupid men who ever lived, are woven into the fabric of history and reality. Sovereignty is not threatened by a history which is filled with human choices and decisions. It is controlling history absolutely and without deviation. God is sovereign especially in the free choices that all men make, because He is the God of all possible outcomes. If it were not so, then chaos and anarchy would rule, or men would not actually be able to make any choices whatsoever. The only alternatives to the Bible doctrine of absolute Sovereignty of God are anarchy or total human slavery where nobody has any freedom at all. Both those alternatives are ridiculous and nonsensical.

## **Calvinistic Theodicy**

Calvinists have shaped the world's thinking about sin. So much so, that even Arminian's (and everyone else for that matter) have false views about it. Their doctrine about sin is the outgrowth of their defective doctrine of Divine Sovereignty. But it is on this point that they are the most inconsistent, and that their false concepts have caused the most irrepressible damage. Calvinism reached it's zenith in the 16th and 17th century religious movement known as Puritanism. The Puritans were the consummate Calvinist's. In fact, today there is a movement to bring about a New Puritanism. You better hope that the masses do not welcome the New Puritans to your neighborhood, because the old ones spread nothing but hatred, murder and doctrinal poison everywhere they went! The new ones are worse than their doctrinal forefathers. During the Puritan error, the doctrines of Calvinism were formulated into iron-clad doctrinal statements which were required to be believed in order to not be persecuted. The Westminster Confession was the mother, and her two children were the Savoy declaration and The London Baptist Confession of 1689. Don't be fooled by the name Baptist in the 1689. It is really nothing more than 17th century Puritanism (extreme Calvinism) that has been modified to make the attachment of the name Baptist appear to be legitimate.

All three of these documents developed and propagated a false view of sin. The Puritan system was designed to teach that sin is "what you do". It stresses the idea that "sin is the transgression of the law", and it is a system of legalism based entirely upon the law and law keeping. Grace only exists under this system to make us keepers of the law. The modern Puritans, do the same thing

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and promote the same Puritan idea that the law of God is supposed to be the basis for human governments on this earth, and all humans are required to function according to the pattern established in the law. This is called "Dominion Theology", but I do not wish to get into that here. Suffice it to say that the concept of Divine Law forms one of the two over-arching principles of the Calvinistic system. They speak of "the covenant of works", and "the covenant of grace". (Neither of which can be shown in the Bible). This is the essence of Puritanical Calvinism. It is an elaborate system of legalism with an artificial grace terminology attached to it to disguise it from plain view. It is very dangerous. Calvinism promotes very high "ethical standards". It is the same exact ethics as the Pharisees. It is completely devoid of real "grace". It is law-keeping and judgmental-ism to the extreme, hidden under a cloak of words that sound like grace but really are nothing of the kind.

The covenant of works. Is said to be what Adam was under in the garden, and all His children after Him are also under this covenant. They teach that Adam received the ten commandments in the garden, because the moral Law of God is eternal. The Bible however, teaches that the 10 commandments were given to Moses on Mount Sinai, and they are not eternal. The Calvinistic forced interpretation, changes the meaning of Scripture into a false understanding of sin. It has also influenced all branches of modern evangelicalism as well. Sin becomes "something you do" or "do not do" instead of "something that you are". If you break a law you have sinned and are therefore a sinner. If however the law was not given till Moses like the Bible actually says, and if the definition is absolute that sin is the transgression of the law, then Adam could not have sinned! He could not have actually been a sinner if the law had not yet been given. The Calvinist's know this flaw in their system, so they have invented the doctrine of the eternal law (also called the moral law) and have placed it in Eden where it cannot actually be found, in order to explain the origin of sin in a way that fits within their system. Again this is all "bait and switch" theology. But their views are believed almost universally in Christendom, because people just assume they are correct. I believe however they teach a false view of sin, because they do not teach Divine sovereignty correctly. They cut and paste together a false view of sin in order to emphasize and enforce a false view of Divine Sovereignty. Both false doctrines are inter-dependent. This is what makes the Puritan form of Calvinism so especially dangerous. Let me show you?

It is true that one verse in the Bible says that sin is the transgression of the law. (See 1John 3:4). But this is not the only definition of sin in the Bible. When you make sin consist exclusively of what you “do” or “do not” do, you destroy the teachings of Christ which emphasize that sin proceeds out from “within the man”. According to Christ, sin is not what you do, it is what you are. “As a man thinketh in His heart so is He” (Proverbs 23:7) is consistent with the teachings of Christ that sin issues forth from within man, and only later becomes actual overt breaking of the law.

## **Sin is what you are, not just what you do!**

Calvinism makes sin to be what you do, because it stresses the law as God's system of righteousness. Believers are still under law according to Calvinism.

Jesus taught an entirely different concept of sin. He taught that it is not “externals” which defile a man but “internals”. This transfers the idea that “sin is something you do” into to the idea that “sin is something you are”.

**Mark 7:20-23** *And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.*

According to Christ's teaching Adultery is no longer just a promiscuous physical act. Instead it is a lustful sinful thought...adultery committed in the heart!

**Matthew 5:27-28** *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: 28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*

This definition of “sin as a heart issue” before it ever becomes an overt act, is a critical redefining of the doctrine of sin by the Lord Jesus Christ. The legalistic approach to sin which says “do this” and “don't do that”, was no longer valid according to Christ, because “The law makes no one righteous” (Romans 3:20-21,28; 8:4; 9:31-32; 10:4; Galatians 2:16,21; 3:10-13). Sin is a defective heart. Sin is a soul out of whack with God. Sin is the interior missing of the

mark, the transgression of the law in the mind and heart. Physical acts always spring from sinful thoughts. Christ moved the issue of sin from “bad actions” to “bad thinking”! Christ was the lawgiver, and it is His prerogative to issue God's actual definitions and explanations of things. According to Christ's perfect assessment and redefinition sin is a spiritual condition not a physical act. The physical act becomes the “effect”, but the spiritual condition is the real “cause”.

Why then do I see this as a faulty Calvinistic teaching about the Sovereignty of God? Clearly it is an inferior view of sin to make it all about external laws and lawbreaking. But how does this show a wrong doctrine of Divine Sovereignty? Let's go back to the idea of Grace in order to see what I am talking about. The Calvinist is quick to point out that salvation is of the Lord, and it is through sovereign grace. They are correct. But if God is sovereign in saving men by Grace, then why is it that according to Calvinists he cannot also sanctify them through the same sovereign agency? Calvinist's contradict their own ideas of salvation by grace, the moment they tell Christians OK God saved you by grace, now here put this yoke of bondage on, and start keeping the law that God saved you to keep. Keep the sabbath laws, keep the ten commandments, suffer not a witch to live, stone your sons if they are homosexuals. This is the essence of Calvinistic legalism. God then is really not sovereign. He is sovereign to bring you to Christ, and it's up to the spiritual leaders to enforce His laws for him after that. We have fruit inspectors in the vineyard to to make sure that the fruit on your branches is not rotten or worm infested. The elders of the church will help you micro-manage you life so that you are in compliance. God is not so sovereign that you can actually have Christian liberty (a Baptist distinctive). God is not so sovereign that you can make your own decisions and choices as a believer. God is not so sovereign that the idea of your individual believer priesthood (another Baptist distinctive) would allow you to live by grace and walk by faith without endless laws to ensure that you are actually living like a Christian is supposed to live. God is not so sovereign that Grace is sufficient to bring you to Christ, and to keep you in Christ along your journey. God is only sovereign to bring you to the cross, but after that it's up to rigid laws, and endless submission to the elders and church councils so that they can make sure you are not sinning. This is Puritan Calvinism...Calvinism at it's highest. Put locks on your daughters chastity belts immediately after they have passed the virginity exam by the elders, because she can't be trusted to make good decisions on her own. Jesus cannot really lead her without their supervision. Jesus saves by grace only to bring you to the wonderful law. Don't move your

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bed on the Sabbath. No smiles or Joy, because frivolity is a heinous sin. Let your women be shamefaced, or be stoned. Does that sound like people who believe in God's sovereignty to you? A God who is afraid you might think, or move or act on your own? A god who is so afraid of witches in Salem that He has them all mercifully put to death! Does that sound like the correct view of God's sovereignty? It's not. It's a serious deviation from both Biblical sovereignty and grace. Both those doctrines are screwed up in the Calvinistic system, and it is very dangerous to the life and vitality of any Christian. It kills church life, and results in hatred, murder, strife, witch hunts, non-stop judging and hyper critical spirits. It's spiritual death in a Biblical cloak. It's a wolf in sheep's drag. It's pathetic and hideous to the extreme, because it mutilates almost every doctrine of scripture in order to accommodate its twisted ideas and perversions.

When any group practices legalism under the guise of grace, they do so, because they do not actually believe in God's power to transform men's hearts. If God saves men by Grace, then He can lead them to live by Grace as well. We are not saved by grace, in order to live by law. The just walk by faith. The just live by faith. Faith is non-legalistic and is a gift from God. Grace means absence of human merit, and it therefore means total reliance upon divine sovereignty. Legalism means we cannot rely upon God, we must rely upon ourselves, and laws, and punishments. God is really not in control after all. We are. This is a defective view of sovereignty. If any man takes it upon himself to micro-manage another person, then that person is obviously not free to stand or fall before the living God on His own. This is the Baptist doctrine of soul liberty, and it is based on the correct Biblical idea that a Sovereign God is actually taking care of everything Himself. Anything that needs to be taken care of is being taken care of, and it is not up to human fruit inspectors to prune God's branches for Him! "Keepeth thy long proboscis out of my business" is what Grace means for every individual believer. We all answer to only one Lord, and His name is Jesus Christ. Christ can handle any and all issues. And we need to let Him do that, and keep our fat noses to ourselves. Calvinists cannot do that, because their system is designed to make you look just like them, not like Jesus Christ. They will enforce their laws upon you, if you let them. This is the "Sharia Law" system of the Christianity not of Islam. Beware. It's against grace and against human freedoms to the nth degree. These doctrines cannot be found in the teachings of Christ, the apostles or the New Testament. They are a cut and paste whack job on the entire Bible.

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God is God. And if we claim to be proponents of divine sovereignty we should also be proponents of all the things that are consistent with divine sovereignty. If we say we believe something, then it should be evident in our thinking in our practices, in our doctrines and in our lives. The Puritans; all worried about the witches in Salem; prove that Calvinism really does not believe in the correct view of the Sovereignty of God. The Puritans; banishing Baptists and Mennonites from Massachusetts; prove that they do not believe in religious freedom and toleration (more Baptist distinctives). Their nonstop efforts to form Christian governments, state religions, theocracies, and to establish dominion theology with a Christianized Sharia Law, prove that they do not believe in Separation of Church and State (another key baptist distinctive). They want the state to be the church, and the church to be the state. The commonwealth of Massachusetts should have been called 'The church of Massachusetts' because the congregational churches, were the state. No town could even be incorporated without a congregational church!

Please study my next heading carefully, because it shows how we will act if we have the correct view of absolute and irresistible Divine Sovereignty. Anyone who disagrees with these simple concepts probably has defective views of who and what God is, and what He is doing with His universe.

## **The correct view of absolute and irresistible divine sovereignty teaches and promotes all of the following concepts:**

Live and let live!

Mind your own business!

God is taking care of business!

Don't interfere in my life, because God is running it not you!

Saved by Grace from start to finish.

Grace to get to the cross.

Don't call me a Calvinist. Call me a Baptist!

Grace to get to heaven.

Grace each step of the way.

Don't worry. Be Happy!

Get your long nose out of my affairs. God is actually in charge.

Quit plucking specs out of my eyes when you have logs in your own.

I'm under grace not under your laws.

Relax! God is not up-tight about anything.

Fear not!

I answer to only the higher authority! and you are not Him!

Jesus is my Lord and Master, not you!

I can think and decide for myself!

God is not a deaf mute.

God is fully capable of speaking, through any means that He chooses to use.

The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth!

God is not cowering in fear, so why are you?

If the joy of the Lord is your strength, then why are you such a sour-puss?

If you don't understand something you can ask Jesus when you get to heaven.

The Holy Spirit does not tell anybody lies! He is the Spirit of truth.

The Son has made me free indeed!

Don't call me a Calvinist. Call me a Baptist!

God is capable of defending Himself!

God does not need you to protect me from witches, harlequins, ghosts, fairies, dragons, or anything else!

You have no right to force your beliefs and opinions on me.

And I have no right to force mine on you!

God's kingdom is not of this world,  
so do not try to legislate morality through human government!

Church and state are separate  
because God controls both and wants them to be separate.

Quit looking at circumstances and external things, because they too will pass.  
Start acting as if you believe in the actual power of prayer.

Quit acting as though you are in charge. You are in charge of nothing.

God is in charge of all things.

Quit being a pharisee.

Put a smile on your sullen face, because either the Joy of the Lord is your strength or it isn't?

Miserableness is not a Christ-like virtue.

God now writes His laws on hearts not on tablets of stone.

God's Sovereignty does not require your assistance or help.

God does not make any mistakes.

Handcuffs, jail cells, stocks and pillories, do not cure sin.

Since God is in charge we need never worry about anything.

Don't call me a Calvinist. Call me a Baptist!

Lack of faith is always mistaken thoughts about God.

There are no things that God cannot do.

God can take care of my shortcomings and false views without your help.

God is in charge of my sicknesses and my health.

God is in charge of saving whoever He wants to save.

God is in charge of the effects of all preaching.

God is sovereign in the teaching and enlightenment of all truth.

God's sovereignty sends false doctrines as a form of judgment.  
False teachers, preachers and doctrines are judgments from God on people who think they know more than Him.

I do not have to beat my doctrines into your head, and you do not get to chop mine off if I disagree with you.

God is able to run His church without committees.

God is able to run His church with exclusively male leadership.

God is not an idiot.

God knows the difference when He makes males and females. He does not misidentify genders.

God is able to give any and all gifts that He so chooses,  
and for whatever reason that He chooses.

God is able to both bless and to curse whenever He wants.

God's purposes are never thwarted or changed by human volition.

God's purposes are never hindered or thwarted by human actions.

Don't call me a Calvinist. Call me a Baptist!

God is so sovereign that He may not give you the Mercedes that you imagine He owes you!

All human actions glorify God in the end.

Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess.

Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess.

God is so free that He is still sovereign no matter what we decide about anything.

Our choices do not change God in the least.

Human unbelief does not threaten God or His cause.

Your prayers have all been predestinated.

Human sins do not threaten God or His cause.

He is sovereign even when the whole world is headed for hell in a handbasket.

Human goodness does not replace God's actual system of salvation.

Human goodness does not make us like Jesus.

Good people are sinners too.

Sinners get forgiven only through Christ, and God is also in charge of that.

Sinners go to hell by being what they are.

Saints go to heaven by being what Christ makes them.

Don't call me a Calvinist. Call me a Baptist!

## Point Five - The "P" in my TULIP Persistent Truth

### Earl's 5 Points (TULIP)

1. Total Unconditional Stupidity
2. Unlimited Divine Wisdom
3. Limited Human Freedom
4. Irresistible Divine Sovereignty
5. Persistent Truth

**Deuteronomy 32:4** *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

**John 18:37-38** *Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. 38 Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.*

**John 14:6** *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

**1John 4:6** *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.*

**1John 5:20** *And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.*

The idea of truth is often discussed but few people, even Christians, actually know what it is in any way that honestly makes sense. Like every other concept which God teaches us, this one is really not that difficult, mysterious, or hard to understand. People always complicate the easy and plain teaching of God, and they always do this under the leadership of the ancient deceiver...Satan. Satan always speaks lies in contrast to God's plain and simple statements. His psychological manipulations always end up with men thinking convoluted and confusing ideas about everything God says which is easy and clear. His main

source of attack on men is through their minds, and through getting them to think wrongly about what is right and simple. Human reasoning and logic is always defective because it is the main object of the Satanic attack. As we have seen, men are stupid. The reason is because we listen to Satan instead of God. People have made God's simple idea of "truth" into a nebulous ontological or metaphysical concept that is beyond the grasp of most peoples ability to understand. The seat of sin is in the mind, and whenever people think wrong thoughts about the truth, they become more deceived, more stupid and more sinful.

Pilate obviously did not get it or understand it at all. But He was not an uneducated man. By the worlds standards He was a genius. He was a powerful and well educated military leader. He was certainly capable of understanding simple realities. But. "the truth" was standing right in front of Him, and He could not see it? He did not understand it. He had absolutely zero comprehension. He said, after carefully interrogating Jesus, "What is truth?" Had He known the truth, He would have embraced Christ and been saved. But he was metaphysically challenged. "What is truth?" as though it were some unachievable and unknowable impersonal vapor? Pilate thought exactly what Satan taught Him to think, and of course God sovereignly used His warped mentality to nail Christ on the cross of salvation, but that is another story in itself. For now I just want you to see that Pilate did not have the vaguest idea of what the truth is, and the one who is truth was standing right in front of His eyeballs.

This incident from the life of Christ disproves the doctrine of the Calvinist's that the reprobates are dead, blind and cannot make any decisions whatsoever regarding the truth. They will tell you that God actually "withheld the truth" from Pilate, and that there was no offer of salvation for Him, because He was a reprobate. But if you actually read the account nothing could be further from the truth. It was not as though God was trying to keep the truth from Pilate? The false Calvinistic doctrine of reprobation would say that Pilate did not know the truth because God blinded Him to it. That is clearly false doctrine. God did not hide any truth from Pilate at all. In fact, Jesus was placed right in front of Him., and Pilate was face to face with all the truth that God ever had! How could that ever be construed as God keeping the truth from Pilate? It was actually God giving the truth to Pilate! It was God giving Pilate an opportunity to receive Christ and be blessed with His saving merit. Don't read the Bible with Calvin's goggles on your eyes, or you will miss all of the simple doctrines and truths that it

conveys. Pilate was given a choice. Would he embrace and receive the truth? Or would he throw his hands up and wander in His own metaphysical blindness and say "what is truth?" and never receive Christ? When God puts the truth in front of any man, it is so that he can have an opportunity to respond to it with positive human volition. Pilate had a choice! Yes He made the wrong choice, but he had the choice none the less. Had He chosen Christ, He would have also known what the truth was. He did not choose Christ and the rest is history. He washed His hands of the situation without washing himself in the blood of the Savior. He chose ignorance, error, sin and unbelief when God placed the divine light of truth in front of His eyes. Was it predestinated by the Divine sovereignty? Yes it was. God predestines all men to respond to the truth, either positively or negatively when they are confronted with it. If God puts truth in men's path, or in their hearing, or before their eyes, it is so they can receive it, believe it and be saved by it. It is not God's will that any should perish, not even Pilate! Pilate went to hell, tripping over the cross of Christ, and stumbling at the stumbling stone, because He made the wrong choice. When given the opportunity to know the truth he chose to reject the Savior. Christ was not in front of Pilate and Pilate was not in the presence of the Son of God by accident! It was all predestinated, because Grace is born out of contact with the truth, the same as hardening of heart happens when men are exposed to the truth.

This incident with Pilate also illustrates the persistence of truth in all ages. God has not left any man in the dark. Even the heavens declare His glory and were given for signs to the eyes of all men including the unbelievers. Truth was not manifested in a closet. It has marched across the entire stage of human history, right before the eyes of the whole watching world. If any man has ever looked at a calendar He has been confronted with Jesus Christ! What does BC and AD mean? The whole world operates on a calendar that points men to Christ as the center of human history! Just as Jesus was before Pilate, so He is before the whole watching world. His birth was announced with angelic spectacle and heavenly choruses. Wise men compassed the globe to see the King whose name was written in the stars. For thousands of years leading up to His advent, a stream of other-worldly prophets foretold of His coming and death. Truth was persistent throughout all of human history, and it did not quit being persistent as it has marched down to the 21st century. Men today have more light than ever before. The New Covenant has turned on the heavenly light-switch, and nobody has been left in the dark.

Don't call me a Calvinist. Call me a Baptist!

This idea of the persistence of truth in the plan of God, is one of the most important concepts in the Bible. It destroys all the false teachings of Calvinism and other groups and cults where wrong views of the truth are held. Why has God been so persistent in presenting his truth before the watching world? if the truth is something that He intends to hide from some men? The Calvinistic concept of double predestination, that “some men are predestined to go to heaven, and the rest are predestined to go to hell”, is simply false. Most Calvinists wriggle and wrangle to deny the implications of their doctrine, but that's exactly what they teach. If one is true(election) then the opposite is equally true (non-election or reprobation). If men are not elected to go to heaven, then God blinds them, and hardens their heart and withholds the truth from them. In the Calvinist camp, there is a never ending debate about whether God makes any actual or “sincere” offers of the gospel to men who are not elect? Historically many who identify as Hyper-Calvinists, refuse to even preach to lost men. They will address believers in church, and they tell you that church is where believers come to get built up and edified. Church is not for preaching to unbelievers, because they cannot hear the gospel, or understand anything anyway. They are spiritually dead. This extreme form of Calvinism is the logical extension of their doctrines. Imagine churches that do not preach to the lost? and actually refuse offer salvation to them?

Who do they think the gospel message was meant for? Christ came “*not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance*” (Matthew 9:13; Mark 2:17; Luke 5:32). The idea that God would make no sincere offer of salvation to sinners, completely contradicts the actual teachings of Christ. Truth is persistent throughout all the ages, expressly because God intends to save sinners by it. It does not persist in order to exclude people from it's life. It exists to bring people into its life, and to unite “whosoever will” with a Christ who is more that willing to save to the uttermost, all that come to God through Him.

**John 6:40** *And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

Pilate saw the Son, but did not believe. Had He believed He would have had everlasting life just like the verse says. Truth persists precisely so nobody is excluded from it's saving message when they are confronted by it. Christ is not in the “exclusion” business. He is in the “inclusion” business. “Whosoever” and

“all” are inclusive terms. And He includes all men in his light, so that all men can make a decision based upon that light.

**John 1:9** *That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*

**John 1:7** *The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.*

**John 12:46** *I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.*

**John 1:4** *In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

**1John 2:8** *Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.*

**John 8:12** *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

The idea that Christ's light shines only on the elect is a notion that cannot be sustained in the light of any verses. The light has dawned upon all men. The light of the whole world is Jesus Christ. He is the light shining upon all men, so that they might walk in the light and not in darkness. I call this the persistence of truth, because it is the reason Christians are commanded to go into all the world and to preach the gospel. The light is not put under a bushel. It is set high on a candlestick. It is placed on the highest hill, so that whoever sees it can move toward it and can find the truth that saves men. It is in this sense that Christ is the Savior of the whole world. And it is in this sense that men are also condemned. They are not condemned because they are predestined to hell. They are condemned because of what they do, or do not do, with the Light of the world. Look. This is absolutely essential and basic gospel knowledge.

**John 3:19** *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

**John 3:18** *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not*

*is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

Only the Calvinist's screw up such simple and glorious truths. Men are condemned by the very same light that saves, not because God purposes to toast them forever in hell, but because they purpose to not believe. They reject the light and choose to go on loving and living in darkness, rather than Christ who is the only light. The truth that persists in light, is the truth that lights the fires of hell when men reject it. God's will is to give all men the opportunity to be saved. The Calvinist's have no option but to explain all this truth away, and to present their horrible doctrine that God wants certain people to fry eternally in the torture chamber of hell, simply because God planned it that way. That denies the clear statements of the Lord Himself, and substitutes a false man-made doctrine. Who are you going to believe?

**John 3:17** *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

**John 3:15-16** *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

This is as basic and clear as it gets. Nobody needs to be a theologian to see God's light shining in the darkness. Nobody needs to be elect to know that Christ loves them and wants them to be saved. If God so loved the world, and opens up that love to "whosoever" who happen to believe rather than to love darkness and not believe, then who are we to say that John Calvin knows more than Christ? Calvin explains away the love of God, the Light of Christ and the persistence of truth in chasing down all men and giving them the opportunity to believe. Calvinist's actually hate these ideas, because they do not fit in with their twisted views of a vengeful sovereign deity who enjoys toasting the non-elect in the fires of divine wrath just because he wants to do so. They would rather believe that Christ hates the world, and loves only the elect. They would prefer to keep the reprobates in darkness where they belong, and save only the special chosen few who are privileged enough to receive the exclusive shining's of a special light-bulb from God, which shines only on chosen hearts by distinguishing and electing grace. Friend's there is no grace in that at all. In fact it is a hateful and godless tribute to the depths of evil thinking that the

human mind is capable of when it starts rejecting the simple and plain words of Scripture. The moment the Calvinist starts disassembling John 3:16 and the other “light of the world” passages, in order to strip them of their obvious and God intended meaning, is the time you should turn your back and flee from them. Satan obviously wants to keep the world in darkness, and Calvinism is a great ally in His cause. Because for 600 years they have constantly denied that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. What gives any man hope? The persistence of this truth! It pursues all men into the darkest corners of the world. Wherever they are, no matter how dark, no matter how lonely, no matter how forsaken. The truth is able to find them and confront them. When the truth of Jesus Christ's saving light catches up to them, even the chiefest of sinners among them have the glorious and free opportunity to believe and receive everlasting life. That is the simple gospel. Calvinists deny it. That's why Calvinism is so horribly wrong and so incredibly dangerous. If you're depending on a Calvinist to bring the light of Christ, to one of your lost loved ones? your loved one may never see one ray of Christ's truth. They may hear a confused and convoluted message. But the simple hope of “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and Thou shalt be saved”, most likely will never be heard. That's sad my friend. I am not saying that all Calvinist's fail to present a salvific message. Some people get saved, in spite of the horribly bad doctrine. But generally speaking their message denies lost sinners of the actual and simplest truths of the gospel. Truths like “Jesus Loves you! Won't you love Him back?” That will never leave the mouth of a Calvinist. It cannot form on a Calvinist tongue and on Calvinistic lips. Trust me I know, I used to try to win souls while confined to their theological straightjackets. Thank God some people got saved in spite of my Calvinistic bungling of the gospel. But since I have left that nonsense behind, many more have found Christ and stepped into His glorious truth. When we teach the persistence of the truth, we teach that God actually pursues men “seeking whom He may save”. God seeks us, we do not seek Him. If “there is none that seeketh after God” (Romans 3:11)? Then how could any be saved, unless God sought them?

**Luke 19:10** *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

Christ seeking the lost! That is what I am talking about with this important doctrine of the persistence of the truth. Christ came to rescue lost men from

their lostness, not elect men from nothing! What Kind of a rescue is it? if you are not really lost? but are guaranteed an automatic salvation simply because of your predetermined election?

**Luke 5:31-32** *And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*

That seems pretty plain and easy to understand, Christ came to call poor lost sinners to repentance. That excludes all those who do not need a physician. By the definition of Calvinism's doctrine of unconditional election, if you are elect you are automatically and inevitably guaranteed to be saved. There is no actual lostness, and there is no actual spiritual sickness for the elect. The reprobates are the ones who are lost according to their doctrine. And in direct contradiction to Christ's words, the Calvinist will then tell you that they can never be saved. There is no possibility for the truly "lost" and the truly sick to ever be saved in their doctrinally twisted version of soteriology. The elect are one caste. The reprobate are another caste. And reprobates cannot ever change castes! Their stuck in perpetual lostness because they are non-elect. They are doomed simply because they are the "non-elect". How horrible is that doctrine? which so blatantly contradicts the simple teachings of the Lord Himself?

## Lost sheep?

**Luke 15:4-7** *What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.*

This wonderful parable is completely consistent with everything we have said about the persistence of truth in rooting out and finding sinners in the holes and hiding places of darkness where they like to dwell. It is all about Christ seeking the lost. But the Calvinist make it all about election and predestination. The only word they see in this story is the word "sheep". See they tell you this is

talking about “sheep” and not goats. This is talking about Christ seeking only the elect. But read it without the Calvin magnifying glasses on and you might see something far different? “The elect” are not mentioned here. The Calvinist is “reading into” and is flipping the verse so that it means exactly the opposite of what it actually means. Look. It's not “the elect sheep” whom Christ is seeking. It is “The lost sheep”! Well who are they? They are lost people, who would perish if Christ did not find them. These are not people who are already guaranteed a place in heaven. No, these are people who are called “sinners who repent”. They are people who when they repent, cause great rejoicing in heaven among the presence of the angels! Why would there be such a celebration of joy in heaven? if the sheep were not really lost in the first place? if they were elect and were predetermined to be saved anyways? If their glorification was already secured by an atonement that actually saves, made exclusively for them, of which there was not even the slightest possibility that they would ever be lost?

The entire parable loses its meaning and purpose under the Calvinistic scheme. The sheep are not really lost. The Savior does not need to seek anything, because He already has all the elect. The Savior does not really find anything that is truly lost. The angels have a joy that is completely unnecessary. Nothing was actually found. And the whole parable is reduced to meaninglessness. If on the other hand, you let this parable and the others attached to it in the immediate context simply say what they say and means what they say, then you have a beautiful description of how Christ actually seeks sinners and reaches out through the persistence of truth to find the lost wherever they may be. The difference in these two interpretations is huge. One turns the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, the lost pearl, into meaningless nonsense, and the other shows just how much God really cares about all men, and how he gives men the opportunities to believe the moment that Christ comes into their presence because He is seeking them. Calvinism botches these parables just like they botch almost all the simple truths of the Bible. They cannot read anything without their predestination and election colored sunglasses on. Even the most beautiful and most easy to understand doctrines become a tangled web of exegetical nightmares when the Calvinist is through twisting them and cutting and pasting the predestination motif throughout the entire Bible. It's just warped. There is no light at all, when people who claim to be theologians and scholars mutilate John 3:16; and basically remove all the other simple passages of hope for the dark, sin sick, and lost world. Such teachings are

disgusting. I am ashamed I was ever a part of it.

**Romans 5:6-8** *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Thank God that the truth is so persistent that it found me. That my friend is the definition of Grace...lost men, dying men, perishing men, hopeless men, being sought and found by a love that does not end and that is not limited in the least. That is sovereign grace. It is grace that actually conquers the hearts and captures the lives of errant rebels. It is grace that shines in a darkness so thick that the darkness comprehends it not. It is a love so broad that any man might come to a Savior when he knows that he has need of one. It is a grace that pursues men to the ends of the world and ultimately turns the lost into the found, the blind into the seeing and the dead into the living. It reaches all sorts of men, not just some in a favored class. If your name is "sinner" there can be rejoicing in heaven the moment you repent. That is the persistence of God's truth and the power of infinite love. Don't let anybody strip that out of your Bible. That is the essence of the gospel. It is the purity and meaning in the word "Hope". Persistent truth is the hope of the hopeless. If you're imagining that an election without believing faith can save you? then you have no hope, because your salvation is a delusion. But if you trust in Jesus who seeks out sinners, and you know that you are one! Then your hope is real and your salvation is secured by His infinite love and unbounded mercy. Come to Jesus and you have come to the fountain of all saving grace. Don't trust in an imagined election to save you. Trust in Christ, for He is the only way. Doctrines do not save anyone! Salvation is in a person. He's called the Savior. Election saves no one. Christ alone seeks and saves that which is lost. When we find Him, we find our election in Him.

**John 12:44-50** *Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me. And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me. I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I*

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*should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.*

Don't call me a Calvinist. Call me a Baptist!

## Conclusion

Hopefully I have planted some seeds of thought in your mind and heart which will either help deliver you from Calvinism's darkness, or will keep you from ever visiting it's gloomy shores. There is little or no hope in its judgmental and Pharisaical legalistic grace false system. It is all propped up and supported by endless reasoning, footnotes, expert opinions and supposed research that directly contradicts the Bible. You will notice that the only expert opinion that I ever quoted in this book, is the Scriptures themselves. Nobody can speak truth clearer or better than God. If you want to find out something, you do not go to the horses rear end, you go to the horses mouth. These people are expert at being experts, but when you ask them to stick to the Bible, they don't know anything. They perfectly illustrate our Lord's example of "the Blind leading the Blind" and both plopping headlong into the ditch. That's the way Calvinism leads men along. They present finely crafted and detailed arguments that seem to make sense to the unsuspecting, and all the while they are twisting, misrepresenting, reading-into, cutting and pasting, and flipping the meaning of the Scriptures turning everything into a mangled mess of worthless man made doctrines. The Bible is not that complicated. The truth is not that illusive. You do not have to be a PHD in order to know the truth. Jesus promised it to the simple. Even babes can understand salvation's simple plan. Gd made it simple to understand, so that poor ignorant sinners could find Christ. Calvinism's convoluted and complex gospel is no gospel at all.

What I have given you here is not a step by step refutation. Their whole system falls apart when you read and understand John 3:15-19 and 1Timothy 2: 3-6. You need no other refutation than these two passages. No Calvinist can allow these passage to say what they mean and mean what they say. And all Calvinists are forced to dismantle and disassemble them in order, maintain consistency in their man made system. As soon as someone starts telling you that John 3:16 really does not mean that "God so loved the world", you need to put earplugs in your ears and flee to another country, because they are in the process of mutilating your precious Bible. Get out of there and tell them "Get thee behind me Satan" because God never mutilates the truth or turns it around so that it no longer means what it says. Get out of there. Flee. You are not safe! It's for your own protection that you should shut off the noise of human reasoning and ignore doctrines of Devils. God is never the author of Confusion. And you do not know what confusion is, until you meet a Calvinist who is bent

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on reinterpreting and redefining the whole Bible for you. He will twist you into a doctrinal pretzel and your head will be spinning like in the exorcist movie. Get out of there. It's really simple.

In the meantime, I think my five points are sufficient to show any Calvinist that there is more in the Bible than their Five points. John Calvin's five legged hobby horse does have some limited truth in it. But if that's all you see in the Bible, you are robbing yourself and you mind of an infinite ocean. God is so great that his truths are not five or ten, or ten thousand or ten million. They are as boundless as He is. So don't for one second think that I only believe these five things. I pointed these out, only to contrast with the five points of Calvinism. They are meant to suggest to you that now you go on and discover the additional millions of truths that await you when you study the Bible with an open heart and mind. It informs us from its inexhaustible resources. We do not inform it of anything. It teaches us everything God wants us to know, and everything He has revealed through divine God-breathed inspiration. We do not teach God anything. We do not question the Bible. We do not interpret it. We do not slice and dice it to conform to our pre-made up minds. We receive it. We believe it. We live by it, and we even die for it if need be. Biblicism is the earmark of the Baptists. It has been since John the first Baptist quoted from the Old Testament with the sole purpose of pointing lost men to "the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). The true Baptists have been doing that same thing, and using that same methodology since the first century. There is no need to change anything. It still works, and it is still far superior to any humanly devised or contrived messages. "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" That is the true Baptist message! That is why I never want you to call me a Calvinist. Please always call me a Baptist.