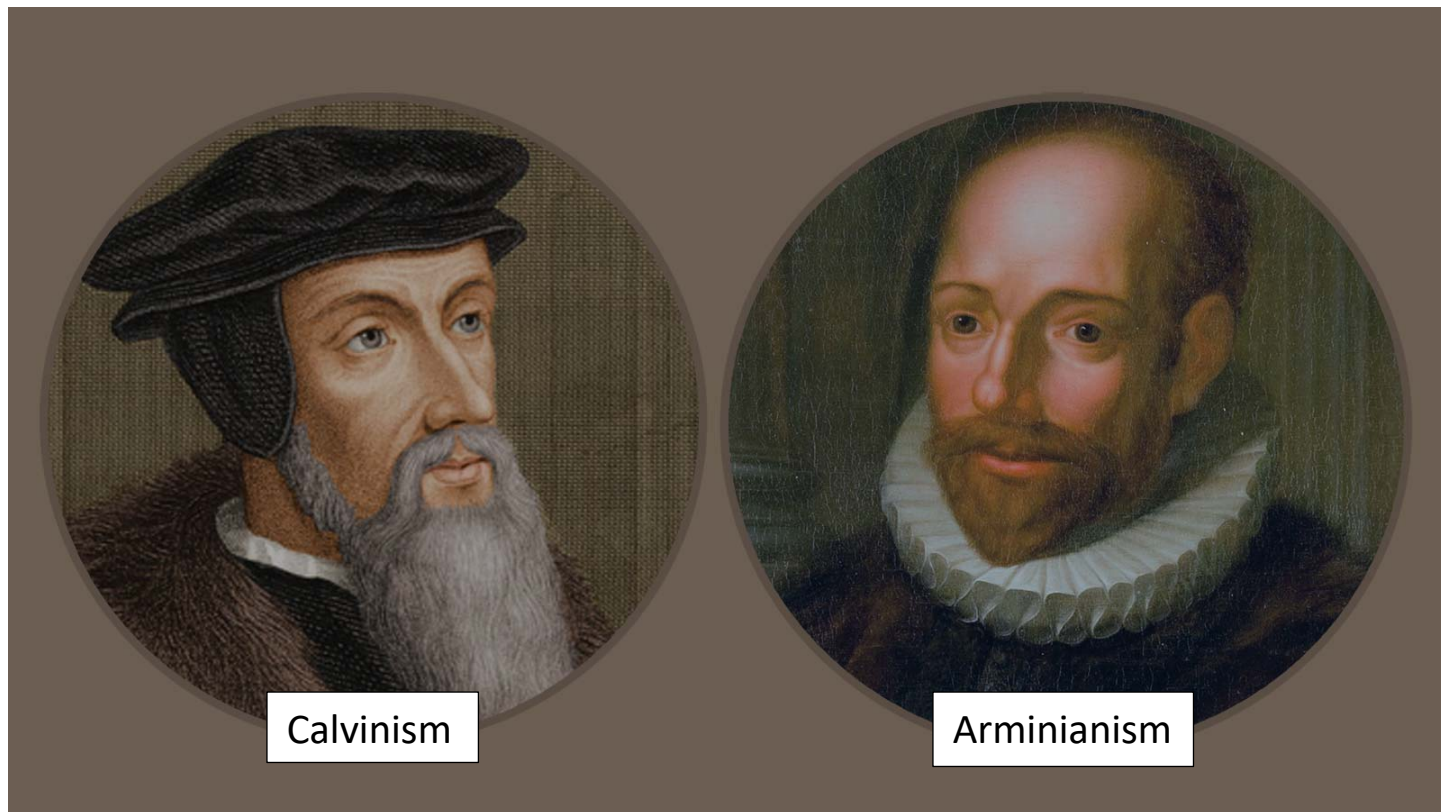


Is Calvinism a Biblical Doctrine?



Brief History

This is to give a timeline of when these events, people and ideologies took place.

John Calvin was born in 1509-1564AD died peacefully at home at age 54.

Martin Luther was born in 1483-1546AD he was 62.

An important figure to know about the opposition to Calvinism is:

Arminius - Jacobus Arminius 1560–1609AD was a Dutch pastor and theologian. His theology is best known for its counter-arguments against the theology of John Calvin.

Arminius believed in Pelagianism which is the belief that man in his natural state is able to freely choose good over evil and live a sinless life, without help from God. It denies the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, and it denies original sin.

A very important figure to know on the Calvinistic side was, **Augustine**-354-430AD, he was the founding father of the sovereignty of God. Many modern Reformed theologians still look to him as a key source for their own writings. Much of Reformed doctrine, especially in relation to predestination, original sin, the bondage of the will, and efficacious grace, has been attributed to the work of Augustine.

The two theologies, Calvinism and Arminianism, were at the heart of the Dutch Remonstrant movement and opposition. The famous Synod of Dort (1618) and subsequent Canons of Dort were motivated by Arminians (followers of Jacobus Arminius) and Calvinists (the followers of John Calvin) attempting to come to a conclusion about which theology was more biblically correct. Obviously, John Calvin was not involved directly in this synod, because by 1618 he had been dead for fifty some years. Since there was no separation between church and state at that time in Holland, this theological crisis had severe repercussions nationally as well as for the church. The Synod of Dort came down decisively on the side of Calvinism. Ever since that time, the theology of Jacobus Arminius has been polarized against Calvinist theology.

The Synod of Dordt (1618-1619), held in order to settle controversy in the Dutch churches initiated by the rise of Arminianism, met in the city of Dordrecht as a national assembly of the Dutch Reformed Church. It was not merely a meeting of select peoples of a single nation, but a convention of the Calvinistic world, to bear testimony against a rising error, so they thought; to settle a question. This synod convened on November 13, 1618 consisting of 39 pastors and 18 ruling Elders from the Belgic churches, 5 professors from the universities of Holland, 19 delegates from the Reformed churches in Germany and Switzerland, and 5 professors and bishops from Great Britain. France was also invited but did not attend. The Synod was thus constituted of 86 voting members in all. There were 154 formal sessions and many side conferences held during the six months that the Synod met to consider these matters. The last session of the Synod was held on May 9, 1619.

Result

“The Synod gave a very close examination to the ‘five points’ of Arminianism, which had been advanced by the Remonstrants, and compared the teaching in them with the testimony of Scripture. They unanimously rejected them. They felt however, that a mere rejection was not sufficient. It remained for them to put the true Calvinistic teaching in relationship to those matters which had been called into question. This they proceeded to do, embodying the Calvinistic position in five chapters which have ever since been known as the “Five Points of Calvinism.”

Which still stands today—

There are Calvinists, Neo-Calvinists, New-Calvinists, Hyper-Calvinists, Total Hyper-Calvinists, Partial Hyper-Calvinist, there is something like 9 types of Calvinists and there is even a 4-point Calvinist so to speak. But, for commonality I will just give the basic concepts, that are found in those five chapters from the conclusion of the synod. The word “TULIP” is an acronym to describe the five points of Calvinism.

T.U.L.I.P

- Total Depravity—
- Unconditional Election—
- Limited Atonement—
- Irresistible Grace—
- Perseverance of the Saints—

My purpose is not to give you an exhaustive explanation of what they believe but rather a brief explanation and show you how the bible refutes their doctrine.



Total Depravity of Man

As a result of Adam’s fall, the entire human race is affected; all humanity is dead in trespasses and sins, which I agree. But they say man is unable to save himself, because he is dead, he cannot respond to God at all, dead men don’t do or say anything. We are depraved, I agree:

Genesis 6:5, “Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

Jeremiah 17:9, “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?”

Romans 3:10-18, “As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” “Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit”; “The poison of asps is under their lips”; “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.” “Their feet are swift to shed blood; Destruction and misery are in their ways; And the way of peace they have not known.” “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Basically, man cannot choose God, he cannot accept God, he is totally unable, or totally depraved. They (Calvinist) say man is in the morgue, he's not sick he is dead. According to their view, they say nothing can change that, and use verses like this to show that,

Jeremiah 13:23, “Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.”

John 6:44, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him...”

John 15:16, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you...”

Romans 8:7-9, “Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

Ephesians 2:3b, “...and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”

He cannot hear the word of Christ and God,

John 8:43,47, 43 “Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. 47 “He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore, you do not hear, because you are not of God.”

Just as people cannot change the color of their skin, those who are accustomed to doing evil cannot do good (**Jeremiah 13:23**). Every intention of the thoughts of man's heart are only evil continually (**Genesis 6:5**). The intention of man's heart is evil from his youth (**Genesis 8:21**), in sin we were conceived (**Psalms 51:5**)!

So the question is, if man is totally depraved, how can he respond to God?

A Calvinist would say God forces you too, the bible says it is your choice!!!!

Paul said in **Acts 17:30-31**, “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands **all men everywhere** to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

1 Timothy 2:4, “who desires **all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

How can everyone or all men repent or be saved if you have no ability to come to God?

Everything that follows in Calvinism is based on what you believe about the depravity of man, everything comes out of this first point or the “T” in TULIP.

Here is what the Bible says:

John 1:12, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name”

Jesus cried over Israel because they had rejected/didn’t choose Him,
Matthew 23:37, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!”

God even told Cain to choose, sin is ready to rule over you but don’t let it, make a choice, choose to do what is right!!!,

Genesis 4:6-7, “So the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”

Moses told the people, which if you remember when they left Egypt they weren’t all of Israel, there was a mixed multitude, Exodus 12:38, “A mixed multitude went up with them also...” Some saved some unsaved, but Moses told them to choose,

Deuteronomy 31:11-12, “when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who is within your gates, that they may hear and that they may learn to fear the LORD your God and carefully observe all the words of this law”

Deuteronomy 30:19, “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;”

Joshua told the people to choose,

Joshua 24:15, “And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

You remember, John 6:44, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him...” People say God chooses we cannot, but Jesus said this also, John 12:32, “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.” God draws people through Jesus Christ but Jesus draws everybody to Himself.

John 15:16, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you...” Some even use verses like this to say Jesus chose. The only choice here is Jesus choosing 12 Apostles, which yes He chose them but not in a salvation sense. Not one verse in the Bible says God chose for salvation.

As Ezekiel 33:11 says, “Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord God, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’” Remember what Paul said, in **Acts 17:30-31**, “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands **all men** everywhere to repent...”

Isaiah 55:6-7, “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

2 Peter 3:9, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

Man is totally depraved, yes, we all agree, but what you believe about his ability to accept or reject God is going to be your bias for everything that follows.

Unconditional Election

A Calvinist believes, because man is dead in sin, he is unable to initiate a response to God, he can't call upon the name of God he is dead, dead men say and do nothing. Because of that, in eternity past God elected certain people to salvation. Election and predestination are very similar concepts to the point that the terms can sometimes be used interchangeably. Election and predestination are unconditional; they are not based on man's response, because man is unable to respond, nor does he want to.

Romans 8:29-30, “For whom He foreknew, **He also predestined...** Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”

Romans 9:11, “(for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the **purpose of God according to election** might stand, not of works but of Him who calls),”

Ephesians 1:4-6, “just as He chose us... having predestined us... according to the good pleasure of His will... He made us accepted...”

Ephesians 1:11, “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,”

In Reformed theology, election refers to God's choosing of individuals unto salvation.

2 Thessalonians 2:13, “But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation...”

Reformed theology upholds that no one deserves salvation, which I agree, and that God displays incredible mercy and grace in saving those He chooses. He doesn't have to save anyone but by His grace and mercy he saved whoever He elected.

Romans 9:14-16, “What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.” So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.”

Some are elected into salvation, others are not,

Romans 9:21, “Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?”

Predestination-4 times= Romans 8:29-30, Ephesians 1:5, 11.

Election- 27 times= Isaiah 42:1, 45:4, 65:9, 22, Matthew Mark and Luke, Romans 8:33, 9:11, 11:5, 7, 28, Col. 3:12, 1 Thessalonians, Timothy, Titus, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 2 John.

Chose/Chosen-215 times= Ephesians 1:4

The problem for a Calvinist is that nowhere in scripture does it say we are predestined to salvation. **NOWHERE!!!!!!!!!!**

As mentioned before in,

Romans 8:29, “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

A careful look at the text, DOES NOT SAY, we are predestined to salvation, only that we should look like Jesus. Look at the context, “predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son”, God created us in His image (Genesis 1:26-27, “Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the

sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over [a]all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”) and knew before the world began man would sin and mar that image. So, God chose that salvation would be the way to bring man back into the image of God. Nowhere does the Bible say that God chooses in salvation.

1 Timothy 4:9-10, “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who **is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.**”

Who did He save? “**ALL MEN.**”

Who actually will be saved? “**THOSE THAT BELIEVE.**”

Not only New Testament but Old as Well,

Isaiah 45:22, “Look to Me, and be saved, **All you ends of the earth!** For I am God, and there is no other.”

Who is God exhorting to be saved? “**ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH**”. It goes back to depravity; God says choose me all the earth.

2 Thessalonians 2:13, “But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,”

J. Vernon McGee says, “That looks back to the past. All I know is what it says, and I believe it. Do you mean to tell me that God chose us before we even got here? Spurgeon used to put it something like this: “I am glad God chose me before I got here, because if He had waited until I got here He never would have chosen me.” It simply means that **you do not surprise God when you trust Christ.**” **Walvoord and Zuck** suggest, “Paul consistently taught that the initiative in salvation comes from God(**here is Jesus drawing all men to Himself, John 12:32**), not man. The means God uses to effect salvation is the work of His Holy Spirit(**Jesus said when He was to depart He would send the Holy Spirit who would convict the world of their sin, John 16:8**) who sets apart believers for lives of holiness and separation from sin (cf. **John 16:7–11**). The Holy Spirit regenerates, indwells, and baptizes Christians into the body of Christ, this is called being born again, **John 3:3**. The human aspect of salvation is you have to believe in the truth of the gospel(**Ephesians 1:13, “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation...”**). After this the Holy Spirit then uses the Word of God to purify the believer’s life (**John 17:17**).”

2 Thessalonians 2:13, is not speaking of God choosing it merely mentions the aspects of salvation, and that God knew from before the foundation of the world who would call on Him and who would not.

Ephesians 1:4-5, “just 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 adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,”

Once again God chose before the world began that we should look like His Son Jesus, but sin messed it up so God chose that “whosoever will”, believe in His Son will be adopted back into God’s family and be like His Son once again. Now we don’t look like Him now but we will one day, **1 John 3:2**, “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

Now, some verses can be confusing to someone who may not know what scripture actually means from the context of the original language.

Hebrews 9:28, “so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of **many**.”

Matthew 20:28, “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for **many**.”

Sure, would suggest a Calvinistic doctrine,

But listen to this verse,

Romans 5:19, “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners...”

Wait, once Adam sinned weren’t all men sinners, **Romans 3:23**, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” but why does it say that only many were made sinners?

This is why is vitally important to study your Bible and do word studies.

“**Many**” is used in the inclusive sense of “**all**”

Mark 1:32-34, “At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.”

Jesus healed **all** of the sick and **all** of the demon possessed. But the whole city was there so He didn’t heal all of the city, just the **many** who were sick and the **many** who were demon possessed. Same principle His death would take the place of many deaths, for only His death could truly atone for sin.

Isa. 53:10–12, says that Jesus would bear the sins of many, same use of the word as well.

It emphasizes how a large number gets redemptive benefit from the single sacrifice of the One Redeemer, **Rom. 5:15, 18–19**.

Jesus' death as a ransom extended beyond His own people, to all peoples

1 Timothy 2:5–6, “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, **who gave Himself a ransom for all**, to be testified in due time,”

1 Timothy 4:9-10, “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, **who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.**”

Man is depraved, but he can choose to accept God's grace, God does not choose or elect people to salvation, nowhere is that found in the Bible.

Limited Atonement

Because God determined that certain ones should be saved as a result of God's unconditional election, He determined that Christ should die for the elect alone, or Jesus blood was only good enough for the ones God chose to save, meaning His blood was limited to only those that were predestined.

They use scriptures like this:

Isaiah 53:12, “Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.”

– prophecy Jesus would die for **many not all**.

Matthew 26:28, “For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”

-Lord's Supper **for many**.

**John 10:11, 15, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”
Verse 15, “As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.”**

- the sheep not the goats.

John 10:26, “But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.”

John 17:9, “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.”

- prayer for those God gave not the entire World.

Acts 20:28, “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

- He purchased the Church with His blood not the world.

Ephesians 5:25-27, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

-He gave Himself for the church only.

Matthew 1:21, “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

-Save only His people.

Now we have refuted this verse in the last session, but let me reiterate,

**Speaking of Jesus only dying for many,
“Many” is used in the inclusive sense of “all”**

Mark 1:32–34, “At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.”

It emphasizes how a large number gets redemptive benefit from the single sacrifice of the One Redeemer.

Here are more verses that refute this doctrine, of limited atonement.

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 honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.”

Ephesians 5:25, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.”

So, he died for the church **ONLY** not old testament saints, not biblical.

Isaiah 53:6, “All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, everyone, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

John 1:29, “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

2 Corinthians 5:18-19, “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

2 Peter 3:9, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

1 Timothy 4:10, “For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.”

Though Jesus’ sacrifice, His shed blood, was sufficient for all/ every person, but it was not applied to all. Jesus blood only covers those who believe.

1 Timothy 2:1-6, “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,”

Here is the best verse, to refute limited atonement!!!!

2 Peter 2:1, “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.”

These are the same people Jesus is talking about in **Matthew 7:21**, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven...”

Walvoord and Zuck says this, about **2 Peter 2:1**, They were “redeemed” in the sense that Christ paid the redemptive price for their salvation, but they did not apply it to themselves and so were not saved. Christ’s death is “sufficient” for all (**1 Tim. 2:6; Heb. 2:9; 1 John 2:2**, “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”), but is “efficient” only for those who believe. This is a strong argument for **unlimited atonement** (the view that Christ died for everyone) and against **limited atonement** (the view that Christ died only for those whom He would later save).

Irresistible Grace

Those whom God elected He draws to Himself through irresistible grace. God makes man willing to come to Him. When God calls, man responds.

John Piper says this, “Those who obtain the new birth do so, not because they wanted to obtain it, but because of the sovereign discriminating grace of God. That is, men are overcome by grace.”

I would say, most not all, of them believe that God saves a man first, after God makes him a new creature in Christ then the saved person can’t help but to come to Jesus and accept Him, it’s so irresistible. At this point he is just going through the motions. He’s already saved.

John 6:37, “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”

Verse 44, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 10:16, “And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.”

Acts 16:13-14, “And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of

Thyatira, who worshiped God. **The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.**”

Acts 13:48, “Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And **as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.**”

1 Corinthians 1:23-24, “but we preach Christ crucified, to the **Jews a stumbling block** and to the **Greeks foolishness**, but to **those who are called**, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

Instead of taking the Bible out of context let’s see what it says and means.

Matthew 23:37, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, **but you were not willing!**”

Here is the problem if Jesus wanted to see them saved, but they weren’t willing then you can resist God’s grace. Otherwise, Jesus would have just forced them.

Acts 7:51, “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! **You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.**”

No explanation needed it is possible to resist.

Genesis 4:5-7, “but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So, the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”

Cain had a choice and he chose poorly.

Proverbs 1:24-25, “Because **I have called and you refused**, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke,”

Proverbs 29:1, “He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.”

John 5:39-40, “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. **But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.**”

For the one who says God has to draw men to Himself I agree, but

John 12:32, “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”

It doesn’t mean he will save everybody, but that everybody had the same opportunity to be saved, because He is drawing all men to be saved, look and live, the story Moses and

the brazen serpent. When Moses made a bronze serpent and put it on a pole, anyone who merely looked at it would be saved from the death sting of the fiery serpents. Yet many died, **Numbers 21:4-8.**

Titus 2:11, “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,”

1 Timothy 2:4, “who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

2 Peter 3:9, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

Romans 1:16, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

Very important to note here, some believe that accepting what God did is some kind of work like we work with God to save ourselves. That is not the case, God did all the work and He alone gets all the credit. Nevertheless, some would say faith is a work if we are the ones that have to have it, but the bible says faith is not a work, so we know that is not the case. Calvinists believe that God saves a person, they are redeemed, sealed with the Holy Spirit, and then because they are alive then they accept God. But faith precedes salvation, and is not a work, not the following verses:

Romans 10:17, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
Faith comes from God’s word, when it is taught, spoken or preached.

A Calvinist of reformed theology, says that God saves first then gives you faith to believe in Him,

Ephesians 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,”

It is our faith that saves us, not God saves us then He gives us faith, otherwise chapter **1:13**, would be wrong,

Ephesians 1:13, “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,”

Right there is the progression, 1) you hear God’s word, 2) you believe by faith 3) then you receive the Holy Spirit.

Romans 3:27, “Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the

deeds of the law. Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.”

Even though it is our faith that saves, we have nothing to boast about, God still gets all the glory. Faith is not a work, but yes it is our faith, and no we cannot boast because faith isn't a work.

Romans 4:1-5, “What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.”

Romans 4:14-16, “For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,”

Your faith in Christ establishes God's grace, that is Paul's point!!!!

Listen to what Paul wrote in,

Galatians 3:1-9, NLT “Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ's death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross. Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ. How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? Have you experienced so much for nothing? Surely it was not in vain, was it? I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ. In the same way, “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God. What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would make the Gentiles right in his sight because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, “All nations will be blessed through you.” So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.”

Perseverance of the Saints

Perseverance of the saints is those who are truly saved will persevere to the end and cannot lose their salvation. It doesn't mean that a person who is truly saved will never lose faith or backslide at any time. But that they will ultimately persevere in faith (in spite of failures) such as not to lose their salvation. Basically, once saved always saved. However, they say that if you live in a sinful life you were not saved because you have not repented gotten right with God, and how can you do this, if you say that you are saved?

Reformed scholar and pastor **John Piper** tells the story of a woman who heard a message he delivered on the perseverance of the saints (which says a born again Christian can never lose their salvation, but will persevere to the end). She came to him and stated that she was in an adulterous affair, but because she was saved, she intended to continue in her affair without any worry about losing her salvation.

Piper's reply to her was direct and not very sugar-coated, or in a seeker-friendly church environment tone: "**God will damn you to Hell if you continue in your sin.**"

Now the only thing we have in this life to go by is fruit, remember what Jesus taught, **Matthew 12:33**, "**Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.**"

Now here are some of the verses calvinists use for perseverance of the saints,

1 Corinthians 6:9-10, "**Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.**"

Galatians 5:19-21, "**...adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**"

Ephesians 5:5, "**For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.**"

Hebrews 12:14, "**Pursue** peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord"

Unless you're doing what, God wants you to do, then ya, you're not going to heaven.

Acts 14:22, “strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

Here is a big one,

Ezekiel 36:26-27, “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

1 John 2:3-4 "By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;"

Ouch here is a big one,

1 John 3:8-10, “He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.”

2 Peter 1:4-11, “by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

We could go on and on, but if you accept Jesus Christ, the question is, will you always follow Him?

1 John 2:19, “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.”

The Bible shows many people who have walked away from God and still are called saved people, or righteous. Let's refute this last principle with the truth of the Bible.

First of all, we are allowed to judge and make a call based on what we see,

What I mean by that is this, remember the fruit and the tree?

Matthew 12:33, "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit."

But Jesus says this in John 7:24, "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

Yes we are called to judge but to judge righteously, all you can do is look at the evidence, However, with that said,

What about Lot he was considered a saved man, but his soul was so grieved by tormenting it daily, yet Peter says,

2 Peter 2:7-8, "and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)"

No evidence of salvation, hung out with homosexuals, even wanted to give his daughter over for sexual immorality, but still considered to be a righteous man.

What about polygamy, is ok to have more than one wife, so someone who practices polygamy probably wouldn't be saved right?

But in,

1 Kings 11:3, "And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines;"

You know what a biblical concubine is, a woman not given equal rights as a wife, usually enslaved, for the only purpose of having sex with them.

So not only did Solomon break the one man one woman, by being a polygamist, but he was also sexually immoral, by having sex with someone who wasn't his wife.

Abraham, Jacob, King David, you name it same thing.

Based on their fruit you would think they were unsaved, but we know they were saved.

**Here is an opposite example,
Judas Iscariot,**

Luke 9:1-6, “Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. And He said to them, “Take nothing for the journey, neither staffs nor bag nor bread nor money; and do not have two tunics apiece. “Whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And whoever will not receive you, when you go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet as a testimony against them.” So, they departed and went through the towns, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.”

He did all kinds of stuff, for Jesus, might have even believed, but not for salvation, though outwardly he did some good things for Jesus, but never accepted Him for salvation.

Yet on the other hand, Peter, who we know to have believed on Jesus, denied Him 3 times, yet was saved,

Now what about

1 John 5:16, “If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.”

This is from gotquestions.com, however this website is Calvinistic in its doctrine it still has good information,

The “**sin unto death**” is willful, continuous, unrepentant sin. God has called His children to holiness (**1 Peter 1:16**), and God corrects them when they sin. We are not “**punished**” for our sin in the sense of losing salvation or being eternally separated from God, yet we are disciplined. “**The Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son**” (**Hebrews 12:6**).

1 John 5:16 says there comes a point when God can no longer allow a believer to continue in unrepentant sin. When that point is reached, God may decide to take the life of the sinful believer. The “**death**” is physical death. God at times purifies His church by removing those who deliberately disobey Him. The apostle John makes a distinction between the “**sin that leads to death**” and the “**sin that does not lead to death.**” Not all sin in the church is dealt with the same way because not all sin rises to the level of the “**sin that leads to death.**”

In **Acts 5:1–10**, we see the sin unto death with Ananias and Sapphira, they lied to God. In **1 Corinthians 11:28–32**, we see God judges those who took the communion in an unworthily manner and death came upon them. God dealt with intentional, calculated sin in the church by taking the physical life of the sinner, that is God’s choice and yes the potter can do whatever He wants to the clay.

The bottom line is we can only base our opinion on fruit that we see, but that's not the final result only God knows the heart of man, that is why we must continue to love believers who turn away and try to redirect them out of love,

James 5:19-20, "Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins."

How we need to turn people back to God, so they can redirect their lives to giving Him glory. Or turn them to God to begin with.

Turn them back to God so when they have tested themselves, they would know they are not disqualified,

2 Corinthians 13:5, NLT "Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith."

Or turn them to God from serving idols,

1 Thessalonians 1:9, "For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,"

At the end of the day, if anyone has believed in God for salvation, they are a brother or sister in Christ, whether Jew or Greek, Male or Female, slave or free, or Calvinist or not.

Though the Bible doesn't promote or teach the doctrines of Calvinism, God commands that we strive to maintain the unity that is in His body, that the Holy Spirit has already brought us all together with,

Ephesians 4:3-6, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."