

# A SCRIPTURAL STUDY OF THE FIVE POINTS OF CALVINISM

## Understanding God's Sacrificial Love for His People:

### God's Sovereignty:

Acts 15:16-18- "After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, <sup>17</sup> that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name, says the Lord, who makes these things <sup>18</sup> known from of old.'

Romans 9:10-15- And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, <sup>11</sup> though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— <sup>12</sup> she was told, "The older will serve the younger." <sup>13</sup> As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." <sup>14</sup> What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! <sup>15</sup> For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

Romans 9:20-23- But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" <sup>21</sup> Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? <sup>22</sup> What if God, desiring to show His wrath and to make known His power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, <sup>23</sup> in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which He has prepared beforehand for glory.

I Thess 5:9- For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

I Peter 2:8- and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

Isa 46:9-11- remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, <sup>10</sup> declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all My purpose,' <sup>11</sup> calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of My counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.

Isaiah 55:11- so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Prov. 16:9-The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

## **T: Total Depravity; Humanity's Radical Corruption; Slaves to Satan; Why we need Jesus!**

Eph 2:2-3- in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. -

Gen 6:5- The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Jer. 17:9- The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

Rom. 3:10-11; 3:23- as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;<sup>11</sup> no one understands; no one seeks for God. <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

John 3:19- And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

John 5:40- yet you refuse to come to Me that you may have life.

John 8:47- Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

John 10:26-28- but you do not believe because you are not among My sheep.<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.<sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

I Cor 2:14- The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

Eph 2:4-5;8-9- But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us,<sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,<sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Phil 2:13- for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

### **U: Unconditional Election; God's Sovereign Choice; God loves you unconditionally**

Rom. 8:28-29- And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.<sup>29</sup> For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Romans 9:11- though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of Him who calls—

Titus 3:5- He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

I Cor. 1:26-29- For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.<sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;<sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,<sup>29</sup> so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

II Tim 1:9- who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.

John 15:16- If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

Eph 1:4- even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him...

John 5:21-For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom He will.

John 6:29- Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

John 6:37- All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never cast out.

John 6:44-No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

John 6:65-66- And He said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to Me unless it is granted him by the Father." <sup>66</sup> After this many of His disciples turned back and no longer walked with Him.

Acts 13:48- And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

Luke 4:25-27- But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, <sup>26</sup> and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. <sup>27</sup> And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian."

**L: Particular/Limited Atonement; Christ's Purposeful Atonement; God loves you personally. Dealing with the "All" verses:**

John 3:16- "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

("The passage is not discussing the extent of the atonement, but God's motivation for the atonement. In John, 'the world' refers to those who are sinful and rebellious against God. The term refers to the kind of people Jesus came to save, not to the extent of his saving work.") -Waldron

I John 2:2- He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (John 11:51-52- He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, <sup>52</sup> and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.)

It is a mistake to assume "the whole world" refers to every person that has ever lived. Jn. 11:51-52 says, "Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad." This verse was written by the same author, and it is syntactically parallel to 1Jn. 2:2. But it specifies Jesus died not only for Jews, but also for Gentiles. Therefore, 1 Jn. 2:2 should be interpreted in light of Jn. 11:51-52, and we should understand "the whole world" as a reference to Gentiles as well as Jews.) -W.

I Timothy 2:4- who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

(In vv. 1-3 Paul commands the church to pray for all people, including kings and those in high positions. In v. 4 he gives the reason for this: because God “desires all people to be saved.” So “all people” does not refer to all people who have ever lived, but to people in all social classes.) –W.

Titus 2:11- For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, (In the immediately preceding verses (vv. 1-9), Paul gives instructions for different kinds of people: men and women, old and young, and slaves. Then in v. 11 he gives the reason they should act this way: “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions.” So “all people” does not refer to everyone who has ever lived, but to all kinds of people.) –W.

John 12:19- So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him.” (Clearly the Pharisees don't mean all!)

*With the All Passages considered, we head back into our study.*

Logic in Peter: II Peter 3:9> (Audience) II Peter 1:1> (Context) II Peter 3:4> (Answer) II Peter 1:1> (Define: Us) II Peter 3:4 (Us refers to those promised in Christ) -Spencer

II Cor. 5:21- For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Rom 5:8- but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 8:31-33- What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Eph 1:4- even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him...

Gal 1:3-5- Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup>who gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, <sup>5</sup>to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

John 10:14-15- I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

John 10:27-29- My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

I Peter 2:9- But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Matt 1:21- She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

## **I: Irresistible Grace, The Spirit's Effective Call; God loves you irresistibly**

II Tim 1:9- who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.

John 6:37- All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never cast out.

John 6:44- No one can come to me unless the Father who sent Me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

Eph 2:4-5- But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.

Acts 16:14- One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

Romans 8:14- For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. -

Romans 8:30- And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified.

Ezekiel 36:26-27- And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes and be careful to obey My rules.

Jude 1- Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:

## **P: Perseverance of the Saints; God's Preservation of Saints; God loves you unbreakably;**

Phil 1:6- And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:20-21- But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself.

John 6:39- And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that I should lose nothing of all that He has given Me, but raise it up on the last day.

John 10:28- I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

I Peter 1:4-5- to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

II Tim 1:12- which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.

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I Thess. 5:23-24- Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

II Thess. 2:13-14- But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. <sup>14</sup> To this He called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Eph 1:11- In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.

Rom 11:7- What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened.

Jude 1- Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:

Jude 24-25- Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, <sup>25</sup> to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

## **Resources –**

*Killing Calvinism: How to Destroy a Perfectly Good Theology from the Inside-* Greg Dutcher

*The Imputation of Adam's Sin-* John Murray

*For Whom did Christ Die-* R.B. Kuiper

*Salvation Belongs to The Lord-* John Frame

*Why I am not a Calvinist-* Walls and Dongell

*What is Reformed Theology?-* R.C. Sproul

***TULIP: The Five Points of Calvinism in Light of Scripture-*** Duane Spencer

***The Five Points of Calvinism: Defined, Defended and Documented-*** Steele, Thomas and Quinn

*Welcome to a Reformed Church-* Daniel Hyde

*The Sovereignty of God-* A.W. Pink

*The Attributes of God-* A.W. Pink

***The Joy of Calvinism-*** Greg Forster

*Ten Myths about Calvinism-* Kenneth Stewart

*The Westminster Confession of Faith*

*The Westminster Larger Catechism*

*The Westminster Shorter Catechism*

*The Heidelberg Catechism*

*The Belgic Confession*

*The Canons of Dordt*

*Institutes of Christian Religion*