



Understanding and Answering Calvinism

Reversing 1,620 Years of Religious Error

Conclusion: Answering Calvinism



Previously:

- Understanding Calvinism
- Total Hereditary Depravity

Presently:

- Unconditional Election
- Limited Atonement
- Irresistible Grace
- Perseverance of the Saints

Answering Calvinism

- **Unconditional Election (Predestination)**
 - Calvin takes a Bible word and redefines it to fit his doctrine.
- “By the decree of God... some men and angels are predestined or foreordained to eternal life... others being left to act in their sin to their just condemnation. No man can change his fate for God chooses those to whom He bestows His grace and love.” (*The Baptist Manual*)
- What is the state of those whom God created just to destroy?
 - If this is true, then God is responsible for humankind’s sin and condemnation.
 - God has also become a respecter of persons.

Answering Calvinism

- The Calvinistic theory of predestination is un-Biblical.
- First, there are some things that God chose not to know.
 - Abraham's faithfulness in offering Isaac - Gen. 22:12
 - Judah's idolatry with Molech - Jer. 19:5

Answering Calvinism

- Second, there are some matters about which God changed His mind.
 - Nations were rebuked and could repent to prevent God's judgment on them - Jer. 18:7-10, Ez. 2:17-21
 - Nineveh repented at Jonah's preaching and was spared as God changed His plan.
- Third, some of God's decrees were changeable as well.
 - Hezekiah was given 15 extra years of life after God told him that he would die, and he then prayed about it - 2Kings 20:1-6

Answering Calvinism

- Predestination is a Bible word, and a Bible definition will supersede Calvin's warped use of the word.
 - In Ephesians 1:4-11, the word is used twice, but only refers to God's foreknown plan to save the penitent in Christ.
 - Romans 8:29-30 describes the predestined as those called to be conformed to Christ.
 - But we are called by the Gospel and justified by adhering to it by choice, not by the overwhelming will of another (Acts 10:34; 2Thes. 2:13-14).

Answering Calvinism

- Exodus 20:13-16 and Israel's history show that we are capable of choosing right or wrong.
- Matthew 11:28-30 proves we are capable of learning what is right.
- James 1:13-15 put the burden of guilt on us for choosing sin, not on God for foreordaining it.

Answering Calvinism

- **Limited Atonement**

- The limitation of Christ's sacrifice is an ersatz doctrine.
- Calvin teaches that access to the blood of Christ is denied to those whom God chose to torment before ever taking a breath.
- Calvin taught that Jesus did not die for everyone but just for those certain individuals whom God respected and predestined to save.

Answering Calvinism

- Misused passages used to prove that Christ's sacrifice is limited to the Calvinistic elect:
 - 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.
 - Heb. 9:15 - "And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance."
- Remember: NO Bible text will contradict any other Bible text. If a conflict appears to exist, the conflict originated with the reader's understanding of one or both of the texts.
- Calvinism has reversed the scriptural order of these texts.

Answering Calvinism

- The Great Commission was to broadcast the Gospel to every creature in the world, because whoever believes can be saved.
 - John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Answering Calvinism

- Jesus died so that all have access to His sacrifice.
 - 1Tim. 2:3-6 - “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 *who desires all men to be saved* and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom *for all*, to be testified in due time.”
 - Heb. 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*.”
 - 2Peter 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.”

Answering Calvinism

- If Christ did not die to give all people access to salvation, then He and God were disingenuous in Their offer of salvation, and are respecters of persons, arbitrarily selecting certain people to be saved while others are to be tortured forever.

Answering Calvinism

- **Irresistible Grace**
- Calvin teaches that humans are so evil that it takes a miracle to save them. Though the Adversary does not need to use a miracle to enslave us in sin, God must resort to the supernatural to get us back. This makes the lies of the Adversary more powerful than the truths of God.
- Calvin teaches that the Holy Spirit must operate directly on our hearts to make us believe and obey, apart from the word of God.

Answering Calvinism

- However, the Bible says that the Spirit uses the word to convert sinners (Eph. 6:17) and proves it throughout the book of Acts.
- The Spirit works, not by forcibly invading our hearts, but by influencing our souls through the Gospel message inspired by the Spirit.
 - Rom. 1:16-17; 2Thes. 2:13-14; 1Cor. 4:15, 15:1-4; James 1:18, 21; 1Peter 1:14-25
- Calvinists teach that the Holy Spirit cannot be resisted, but Stephen disagreed.
 - Acts 7:51 - “You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.”

Answering Calvinism

- **Perseverance of the Saints (Once Saved, Always Saved)**
- Calvin taught that once a man was saved, he could never sin so as to be lost again.
 - “A child of God can go from the arms of a harlot to the arms of Jesus.” (*Baptist Minister Sam Morris*)
 - “If I killed my wife and mother and debauched a thousand women, I couldn’t go to hell—in fact, I couldn’t go to hell if I wanted to. If on the judgment day, I should find that my loved ones are lost and should lose desire to be saved, and should beg God to send me to hell with them, He couldn’t do it.” (*Bill Foster, The Weekly Worker, March 12, 1959*)

Answering Calvinism

- The New Testament teaches that Christians have eternal life:
- In hope,
 - Titus 1:2 - “In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.”
 - Titus 3:7 - “Having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”
- And in promise.
 - 1John 2:25 - “And this is the promise that He has promised us--eternal life.”

Answering Calvinism

- One can leave the faith and forfeit his hope.
 - 1Tim. 4:1 - “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”
 - 2Tim. 2:17-18 - “...Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, 18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.”
 - 1Tim. 5:12 - “Having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith.”
 - 1Tim. 1:19-20 - “Having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, 20 of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander...”

Answering Calvinism

- Although Romans 8:35-39 teaches that nothing can separate man from Christ's love, it does not prove that nothing can separate man from Christ and salvation. The Bible says that one can fall away from grace.
 - Heb. 12:15 - "Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled."
 - Once cannot fall from grace if he were not in grace in the first place.

Answering Calvinism

- Concerning John 10:27-29, it is true that no one can pluck a sheep from God's hand, but it is equally true that a sheep can wander away.
 - Matt. 18:6, 12 - "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin... 12 What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying?"
 - Once cannot stray from the flock, if he was never in the flock in the first place.

Answering Calvinism

- Paul warned that he could be disqualified if he fell into sin (1Cor. 9:27) and that some had already turned after Satan (1Tim. 5:15).
- Peter rebuked Christians who had gone back to the world, leaving Christ for their old sins (2Peter 2:14-25).
- One cannot leave Christ, if he were not in Christ in the first place. Thus, the saved can so sin as to be lost.

Answering Calvinism

- Eternal security is conditional, as the Bible clearly teaches when it attaches the word “if” to salvation.
- We are disciples of Jesus, if we keep His word.
 - John 8:31 - “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.’”
- We are saved, if we remember the truth.
 - 1Cor. 15:1-2 - “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain.”

Answering Calvinism

- We are reconciled, if we continue in the faith.
 - Col. 1:21-23 - “And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight-- 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard.”

Answering Calvinism

- We are kept from falling, if we obey.
 - 2Peter 1:10 - “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble.”
- We are saved, if we walk in the light.
 - 1John 1:7 - “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Understanding and Answering Calvinism

- Calvinism is false and dangerous. Most professed or nominal Christians in the world have been lulled into false security by its tenets that cast off personal responsibility and make blurred distinctions between right and wrong. Calvinism places all responsibility for sin and condemnation on God.
- Bible truth is salvation by grace through faith reconciled with faith working through love. Therein is true New Testament Christianity.