

# Calvinism Against Itself

By: David A. Sargent

From the stand point of what the Bible says: where does it say: "God in His sovereignty chooses who gets saved..." The true "Calvinist" would insist that this choice happened before the foundation of the world thus the doctrine of unconditional election of a special group of people that God predestines to go to heaven REGARDLESS of what they do! How is this in line with the other half of your statement: "...and yes, man chooses to trust in Christ on his own free will?"

This ignores the fact that God has allowed by the very definition of GRACE that He will not FORCE anyone to salvation. Thus having allowed men to follow the grace of God through the light given to us by the gospel. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Without this "love letter" given to men, we would NOT have the LIGHT needed to make any kind of CHOICE to receive Christ, because we would NOT KNOW about it! The very effect of the Gospel of Christ on the sinful human heart which is located in the soul is able to make a clear choice for Christ, given that it has been given that seed by a "Christian Witness" Thus, God ALLOWS us the freedom to REJECT or RECEIVE this! God therefore NEVER has chosen us outside of being IN CHRIST! And NO LOST person is IN CHRIST, before or after the foundation of the world!

Because they do not "...argue the 2 sides." And because, "They believe they are 2 parallel tracks leading to the same destination." They are just not seeing the scriptures for what they say and are either too lazy to "Study": 2 Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Or they have an agenda to accomplish: Galatians 1:6-9, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

The will of God is much different than the will of man; however, there is no way to understand the will of man without understanding the tripartite nature of men. Man has a tripartite persona; in the body of the flesh, the spiritual body of the soul, and the spirit inside the soul. 1 Thessalonians 5:23, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." The spirit, soul and body is the direction in which the Lord works in those of us that ARE SAVED! But when the HOLY God wants to come INTO the sinner to give him the new birth; HOW is He to accomplish this without marring His Holiness? The answer that all Calvinist miss is the obvious: IMPUTATION! This ONE doctrine is absent from the Calvinist pentagram points! However, without imputation Calvinism shows itself to be a hoax!

Imputation: Psalms 32:2, "Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile." Romans 4:3-8, "For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and IT WAS COUNTED UNTO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Now to him that worketh is the reward not RECKONED of grace, but of debt. But TO HIM THAT WORKETH NOT, BUT BELIEVETH ON HIM THAT JUSTIFIETH THE UNGODLY, HIS FAITH IS COUNTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of THE MAN, UNTO WHOM GOD IMPUTETH RIGHTEOUSNESS WITHOUT WORKS, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. BLESSED IS THE MAN TO WHOM THE LORD WILL NOT IMPUTE SIN."

Faith THEREFORE is a substance that in effect allows God to impute righteousness to the SINNER, to allow the HOLY GOD to enter into the sinner, and circumcise his flesh from his soul; and give his spirit the NEW BIRTH!

Romans 4:9-12, "Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised."

Colossians 2:11-15, "In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."

Thus the steps inward for the saving of the soul when it was LOST; and the new birth for the spirit which was DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SIN!

This is accomplished by God drawing the sinner through His Gospel, the seed which is the words of God. 2 Timothy 1:10, "But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." It is by this light that men have the ability to choose Christ. This faith in Christ according to the Gospel is NOT a work of righteousness: Titus 3:5, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" Ephesians 2:8-9,

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

There is NO way to reconcile Calvinism with Biblical Christianity. God’s foreknowledge does not dictate that God MAKES people do things like a puppet! Nor does it dictate that God MUST FORCE certain people to believe that are in some special group that was predestined before the foundation of the world!

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Calvinism: PULIT is the pentagram points of Calvinism! This philosophy is NOT a flower! But a leg pulling LIES, five out of five times!

Perseverance of the Saints: where the Saint MUST endure to the end to be saved. The truth is the state and standing of the saved are not always the same. But we do NOT have to persevere because we are already SEALED by the Holy Spirit. 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13; Ephesians 4:30.

Unconditional Election: The CONDITION to the elect is being IN CHRIST. The truth is that THIS is the fatalistic part of Calvinism. Where they seem to think that there is an elite group (that they are part of) that God elected before the foundation of the world predestined to go to heaven REGARDLESS OF ANYTHING ELSE! This philosophy is pagan fatalism masquerading as a Christian doctrine! You can not be IN CHRIST until HE is IN YOU! That joining is part of the NEW BIRTH when you become part of the body of Christ. It was JESUS CHRIST that was chosen before the foundation of the world NOT AN ELECT ELITIST GROUP. Ecclesiastes 3:19; Colossians 1:18; 3 John 1:9.

Limited Atonement: The atonement is not limited; it is IMPUTATION that is limited! Without the propitiation of our sins, there would be no atonement! The atonement therefore is only as limitless or limited as the propitiation for our sins: 1 John 2:1-2, “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.” NO LIMIT to the PROPITIATION and therefore NO LIMIT TO THE ATONEMENT! Romans 5:10-18, “For if, WHEN WE WERE ENEMIES, we were RECONCILED TO GOD BY THE DEATH OF HIS SON, much more, BEING RECONCILED, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, BY WHOM WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED THE ATONEMENT. Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and SO DEATH PASSED UPON ALL MEN, for that ALL HAVE SINNED: (For until the law sin was in the world: BUT SIN IS NOT IMPUTED WHEN THERE IS NO LAW. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. BUT NOT AS THE OFFENCE, SO ALSO IS

THE FREE GIFT. For if through the offence of one many be dead, MUCH MORE the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, HATH ABOUNDED UNTO MANY. And not as it was by one that sinned, SO IS THE GIFT: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but THE FREE GIFT IS OF MANY OFFENCES UNTO JUSTIFICATION. For if by one man's offence DEATH REIGNED by one; MUCH MORE they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one JUDGMENT CAME UPON ALL MEN TO CONDEMNATION; EVEN SO BY THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF ONE THE FREE GIFT CAME UPON ALL MEN UNTO JUSTIFICATION OF LIFE.” If the atonement was limited to a group of people, how can you know if it will not be limited and not cover ALL of your dirty rotten sins?

Irresistible Grace: This is an oxymoron; an irresistible Grace would not be GRACE! If Grace is Irresistible it would stand that Grace MUST be graceless; because it would be automatic and therefore a law, just like gravity! But, grace is reckoned where the law did lack, we reiterate: Romans 4:4, “Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.” Romans 4:16, “Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,” Romans 5:2, “By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:20, “Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:” Grace is only limited by the abounding of SIN that GRACE did MUCH MORE ABOUND! If SIN was to all people; then GRACE abounded further!

Total Depravity: denies the tripartite nature of mankind. James 5:20, “Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall SAVE A SOUL from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.” If a soul is saved FROM death; then the soul IS NOT DEAD in trespasses and sins! IT is ONLY LOST! That is why it MUST be SAVED! The spirit of man in the sinner on the other hand is not LOST, it is DEAD! That is why you must be born again! It is the spirit that can not WILL to be born because it is DEAD! However, God has allowed the Gospel of Christ to enter the world so that we might know Jesus Christ and know to RECEIVE HIM. John 1:11-13, “He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 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: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” We can not will the new birth, but we can will to receive Jesus Christ. The depravity in the tripartite nature of mankind shows up different in each of the three parts of mankind. The flesh and the soul were stuck together from the creation of Adam, and in Adam his original spirit was alive when he was innocent. Where there is NO LAW, sin is not imputed! Adam was NOT sinless in that he did not have the incapability TO sin; he was sinless in that he had NOT sinned until he did. We are IN ADAM by the natural physical birth of the flesh. Because our soul is stuck to the flesh; we spiritually retain the state of our father in the flesh. Because of this sinfulness the soul is lost; but sin is not imputed where there is no law. Romans 5:13, “For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.” Thus where someone can not understand the law in the case of a child or

the retarded; thus baptismal regeneration is a hoax as much as all the points of Calvinism. Romans 7:9, “For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.” The death was NOT his flesh, nor was it his soul! The only thing left would be the spirit died once there is a law that we know or have light about. In the same way the gospel light reveals the solution for sin, death and hell. That is found in Receiving Jesus Christ as your personal savior.