

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Florene Howze—health problems
- ◆ Jim Ward—health problems

Others in Need

- ◆ Janet Andrews—had surgery; now chemotherapy
- ◆ Greg Bryant—evacuated from fires
- ◆ Annette Cates—hip surg. recovery
- ◆ Elise Davis—hip replacement; in rehabilitation
- ◆ Wayne and Marie Johnson—improved, but Wayne back in ICU
- ◆ Jeff Mashburn—stage 2 kidney failure
- ◆ Taylor Mashburn—expecting
- ◆ Brenda Mateer—stage 4 cancer
- ◆ Thad McCall—health problems
- ◆ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ◆ Don Nagle—chemotherapy
- ◆ Gordon Porter—should surgery
- ◆ Patty Ryan—immunotherapy
- ◆ Melvin Sapp—double lung

Continued in next column...

transplant

- ◆ Judy Whitehead—heart issues
- ◆ Brenda Wooten—stage 4 cancer
- ◆ Pray for our nation
- ◆ Pray for others who are sick, mourning, public servants, gov. leaders, military, those traveling, those lost in sin, our enemies, and the church worldwide.

To Our Visitors



We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

Events



October 18-21

*Our Gospel Meeting,
Jason Hilburn preaching
Sunday 10AM, 11AM, 2PM
Mon-Wed. 7PM*

Privileged to Serve



Announcements—Mark Howze
Song Leading—Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Leo Derrick
Serving the Lord's Supper
 Head: Glenn Howze; Helpers: Caleb Howze, Josh Lawson, Johnny Moss
Lord's Supper PM
 Head: Ethan Howze
 Helper: Caleb Howze
Scripture Reading—Glenn Howze

Faithful Worship — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6); **2) Singing** without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); **3) Preaching** God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); **4) Giving** weekly as prospered, cheerfully (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7); **5) The Lord's Supper** on the first day of every week (Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-34; 16:2; Heb. 10:23-31).

THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

October 4, 2020

Meeting Times

Sundays:

10AM Bible Class
 11AM Worship
 6PM Worship

Wednesdays:

7PM Bible Class

Other Information

5761 Hwy. 4
 P.O. Box 285
 Baker, FL 32531 USA
 850-669-9117

Website:

churchofChristatBaker.com

Radio Program:

104.7FM Sundays 8:30AM
 WAAZ1047.com livestream

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Calvin or Christ? (Part 1)

By Jason Patrick Hilburn

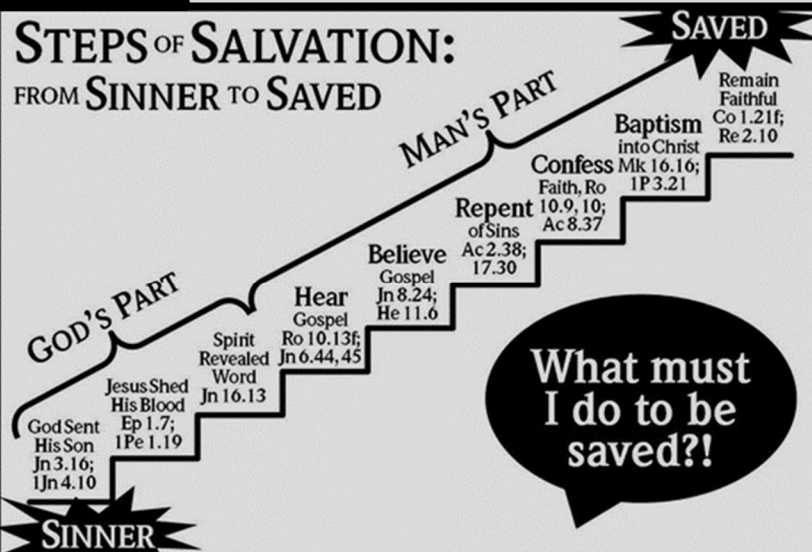
Many have never heard the name John Calvin (A.D. 1509-1564), but it is very likely that they have heard of his doctrines. Widespread teachings such as babies inheriting sin and the impossibility of falling from grace became staples of many types of denominations because of Calvin's influence. He caused people to believe that God "freely and unchangeably ordained whatsoever comes to pass," which implies that man has no free will to make his own choices. The main tenets of Calvinism can be summarized by the acronym T.U.L.I.P. (Total hereditary depravity, Unconditional election, Limited atonement, Irresistible grace, and Perseverance of the saints). Let us briefly examine Calvinism and see if it passes the test of scriptural scrutiny.

Before examining TULIP, what about this idea that man has no free will? If that is the case, why did God say an Israelite could offer sacrifices "of his own voluntary will"? (Leviticus 1:3). Joshua told the Israelites to "choose" whom they would serve (Joshua 24:15), and Moses told them to "choose life" (Deuteronomy 30:19). Some things God foretold did not come to pass, because they were conditioned upon the choices of men. For example, God told Jonah to preach, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown," but that did not happen, because of Nineveh's choice to repent (Jonah 3:2-4, 10; cf. 2 Kings 20:1-7). Some things God has ordained are conditional (each man's salvation), and some are unconditional (Christ will return, regardless of what men choose to do).

STEPS OF SALVATION:

FROM SINNER TO SAVED

"...ye were the servants of sin..." (Romans 6:17).



What must I do to be saved?!

"...but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17b-18).

What are the implications if God causes every event, and man has no control over anything he does? First, that would mean that every temptation is caused by God, but God said He does not tempt men to sin (James 1:12-15). Also, if God caused every event, even evil events, this would impugn God's holiness and justice. If every action of man is caused by God, this would mean that a man who molests a child did so because God made him, and if that man then goes to prison for life and Hell for eternity, it is all God's fault, who allegedly made the man molest the child! Calvinism turns God into an evil monster who punishes men for things over which they had no control. Friends, God is love, and the greatest command He gave to man is to love, but true love is impossible without free will (Matthew 22:36-40; 1 John 4:8). If love must be forced, it is not true love. God did not create robots with no free will, but spiritual beings made in the image of the Great Spirit Himself (Genesis 1:26, 27). God will therefore bless those who choose love and obedience, and punish those who choose hatred and sin (Deuteronomy 30:19, 20; Romans 2:6-11). God is holy, compassionate, impartial, and, as will be shown, He is not the "God" of Calvinism. Let us examine the main tenets of Calvinism, T.U.L.I.P.

Total hereditary depravity is the belief that babies inherit sin from their ancestors, all the way back to Adam. If so, why does God say the following? *"The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him"* (Ezekiel 18:20). Why did God say, *"Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee"*? (Ezekiel 28:15). The idea that babies are born in sin is why infant sprinkling has become so widespread, but there is no example of a baby being sprinkled in the Bible. First of all, Biblical baptism is immersion (Colossians 2:12), but babies do not need baptism for the remission of sins, because they are sinless, they cannot understand the Gospel, and they cannot repent (Matthew 18:3; 19:14; Mark 16:15, 16; Acts 2:38-40). David knew he could go to Paradise/Heaven to be with his infant who had died, because babies have no sins to condemn them (2 Samuel 12:23; cf. Deuteronomy 1:39; Isaiah 7:16). Contrary to what Calvinism implies, there will be no babies in Hell!

Many use Ephesians 2:8, 9 to try to defend the idea that man is so totally depraved that he can do nothing to be saved, and that God must do everything. It does say, *"not of yourselves,"* but it means nobody can earn salvation. That, however, does not mean men do not have to obey God's commands to obtain salvation (Matthew 7:21; Acts 10:34, 35; Romans 6:16-18; 1 Peter 1:22; Hebrews 5:9; James 2:14-26). Many

miss the point Paul is making regarding those who tried to earn salvation through works of the Law of Moses, as is shown when one keeps reading past verse nine, and when comparing Ephesians 2 to other writings of Paul (Romans; Galatians, etc.; cf. Hebrews). People trying to keep the Law of Moses while living under the Law of Christ was a major problem in the early church, and many New Testament Scriptures were written to refute it. One's interpretation of Ephesians 2 must harmonize with verses like Acts 2:40, in which Peter said, *"Save yourselves"* after he had told them to *"...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."* (Acts 2:38). If one's interpretation of Ephesians 2 does not harmonize with passages such as Acts 2 or James 2 (*"by works a man is justified, and not by faith only"*), his interpretation is wrong. Though man cannot "save himself" without God, man is commanded to save himself, purify himself, and spiritually cleanse himself by obeying God and accessing Christ's blood (Acts 2:38, 40; 2 Corinthians 7:1; James 4:8; 1 John 1:7-9; Jude 21, etc.).

Unconditional election is the belief that in eternal past God unchangeably and unconditionally foreordained who would be saved and who would be lost. God will allegedly save certain people whom He chooses, without any conditions to be met on their part. Some apparently believe this because God knows who will be saved and who will be lost, but there is a difference between God knowing what will happen and causing what will happen. A person could see two trains approaching another at full speed on the same track. As they get too close to be able to stop, the observer knows what is about to happen, but that does not mean he caused it to happen. Knowing and causing are two different things, and God can know what man will choose without forcing man to choose. God has given conditions that must be met to get to Heaven, and if man chooses to believe in God and submit to His conditions, man will be saved. The elect are the ones God has chosen to be saved, but phrases such as "unconditionally elected" are not in the Bible. God wants all men to be saved, but only chooses those who choose Him (Matthew 11:28-30; 1 Timothy 2:3, 4; 2 Peter 3:9). Listen to the Lord: *"...As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die...?"* (Ezekiel 33:11). The Holy Spirit surely meant what He said when He said, *"whosoever:" "...whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely"* (Revelation 22:17). Calvinism attempts to turn God into a capricious respecter of persons, but God repeatedly assures man that He will judge man by the choices man makes, and that He is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34, 35; Romans 2:6-11; Galatians 6:7-9; 1 Peter 1:17).

To be continued next week, Lord willing...

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