

Appendix A

The Five Points of Calvinism (T.U.L.I.P.)

“Challenges to the Doctrines of Grace are usually predicated by the attempt to label them as ‘Calvinism,’ although Calvin AND Arminius were dead and gone by the time this Remonstrance was published. What the enemies of Grace term as Calvinism or now the even more hated expletive Hyper-Calvinism was actually just the True Gospel response to the Jesuitical Remonstrance of 1610!”¹

“In 1611, the true preachers of the Gospel answered with the Contra-Remonstrance of 1611, where the Protestant adherents to the true Gospel defended the truth against the lies of the Remonstrants.” Continuing, Robert Godfrey writes, ‘It is surely ironic that through the centuries there has been so much talk of the five points of Calvinism when in fact Calvinists did not originate a discussion of five points. Indeed Calvinism has never been summarized in five points. Calvinism has only offered five responses to the five errors of Arminianism...’²

Total Depravity

Man has inherited the sin of Adam. Man is incapable of a relationship with God apart from the Father’s grace provided to man through his Son, Jesus Christ

¹ Bunker, Michael, *Swarms of Locusts—The Jesuit Attack on the Faith*, Refugio Publishers, Smyer, Texas, Copyright © 2002, p. 57 of pdf book

² *ibid*, p. 58 of pdf book

(Jeremiah 17:9).³ Man is dead in his trespasses and sins. **Man cannot know God!**

Unconditional Election

God chooses man, or predestines those individuals before the foundation of the world. This results from God's kind intentions. Unconditional election is not achieved by personal choice, merit (good behavior, works), or church membership (Ephesians 1:4, 5).⁴ Unconditional means no strings attached!

Limited Atonement

Only those whom God predestines will enter heaven's rest and the presence of Christ. While Inclusive Theology says that all men are saved, limited atonement declares only those whom the Father has predestined will be saved. Jacob (James) Arminius, 1560-1609, taught universal salvation through his misguided notions of 'selective systematic theology.'

Selective systematic theology (a selection of Bible verses that supported his view) is nothing more than an oxymoron. You must study and bring to bear all the verses that deal with a particular subject and then strive for harmony with the goal of rightly dividing the word of truth. His penchant (strong liking) for ignoring the whole counsel of God led him into many fanciful and subjective doctrinal corruptions.

Care should be exercised on various websites that choose to use corrupt 'bible' versions in support of

³ **Jeremiah 17:9**--The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

⁴ **Ephesians 1:4, 5**--According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

this point. A case in point is the scriptural passage cited from I Timothy 2:4 from the New King James Version. This passage reads, “who **desires** all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” This is as different as night is to day where it says in the K.J.V. “Who **will** have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”⁵ Not only are the words irreconcilable in their meanings from each other, but the use of the comma in the K.J.V. indicates a separate thought AND distinct process that occurs in redemption. In short, the knowledge of the truth cannot occur until the Holy Spirit’s action and influence upon the individual transforms the thoughts within the sinner turned saint. God will save those whom He chooses. I John 4:19 says, “We love him, because he first loved us.” The Bible plainly declares God chose us because of His good pleasure.

Irresistible Grace

God saves men. Man is incapable of this transformational process. I prefer the phrase the drawing by the Holy Spirit. To ‘accept,’ or ‘decide to follow’ Christ, or even ‘get saved,’ reflects an Arminian attitude of self, or the idea of personal choice when it comes to the salvation process. Salvation is not obtained by personal choice. According to John 1:12, 13, “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.”

⁵ The emphasis here is on God’s will, not his desire. Men desire, God does not! Desires are expectations unrealized. Everything God does, he does so by his will, not desire. In the King James passage this verse is not saying all men are saved. If this were true then why aren’t all men redeemed? What this verse is teaching is God will save all whom he has chosen.

It is neither by birth, human effort, nor by ecclesiastical pronouncements (sainthood) that one is born into the family of God. It is through faith in the blood of Christ that secures an individual's spiritual position before the Father.

It must also be added it is neither by an inner personal chastening or discipline (flagellation and other acts of self sacrifice or mutilation), nor by the outward effort of the flesh to keep the law and impress men that count with God. In Romans 9:16 Paul stated, "So then *it is* not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy." It is only through the regenerating activity of the Spirit of Christ that a man's mind can be transformed.

Finally, Romans 11:29 reveals, "For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance." This verse says God does not make mistakes. His gifts are irrevocable and without mental reservation. His predestined choice is unmistakable.⁶

Perseverance of the Saints

The Holy Spirit draws, convicts, and baptizes the convert into the kingdom of heaven. Salvation of the human soul is of God.

The initial realization in the mind of the individual that they are sinners separated from God is a work of the Holy Spirit. This is called conviction. It is a

⁶**Acts 7:51**--"Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always **resist** the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do ye*." In Stephen's declaration to the Jewish, religious leaders, God stated these spiritual mentors were simply confirming their depravity, stubbornness and lost condition. As a matter of fact from Acts 6:10 the Bible tells us these hard-hearted religionists "were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which (Stephen) he spake." The conclusion is they acted this way because they were lost! ("uncircumcised in heart"). The conclusion is given further weight. It says the self-righteous were condemned by the fact, "ye do always resist the Holy Ghost."

spiritual awakening, illumination, or epiphany that their sin has alienated their affections from God.

This spiritual awareness of one's depravity before God leads the individual to the spiritual reality that solely through Jesus Christ, God's only redemptive plan can the chasm between sinful men and holy God be spanned. When this fact is comprehended, the process of repentance can be pursued.

Repentance produces a godly, genuine conversion—contrition of spirit for past deeds committed in the flesh and the mind. Personal invitation, which is a surrendering of an individual's will to God, produces acceptance, entrance, and baptism into the Kingdom of heaven—better known as conversion. The conversion of a sinner to a saint is an event that happens **once** and is **instantaneous**. The Bible defines this phenomenon as justification.

The ongoing work of separating the saint from the world and the continual renewing of one's mind; dual operations that are accomplished by the Holy Spirit in conjunction with the word of God, are lifelong processes. This progression in man's spiritual development is known in biblical parlance (language) as sanctification.

Even though there may be a submission, or yielding of one's will to the Spirit's ministry of sanctification, credit for anything worthy in one's life is directed toward God. It is the Spirit of Christ who wills and accomplishes his purposes in us.

Finally, a teachable spirit is also evident in the life of a believer. Someone who gets defensive when they are confronted with the truths of the Bible demonstrates a lack of this essential component of the Christian life.

Eternal security is the belief that once an individual is saved they can never be lost. Those elected, understand that it is Christ in them that produces fruit worthy to return to the Master. The truth we have been plucked from the fires of eternal hell fire because God chose us is overwhelmingly humbling. This humility in

turn, produces sincere gratitude and respect for his will in my life.

A belief in no eternal security, or that once someone is saved they can lose their salvation, are both beliefs that spring from the idea that I can save myself--the cooperative relations between men and God.

Whether one calls it *prevenient grace* or not, this type of 'faith' produces the shallowest, most disingenuous type of 'Christianity' conceivable. This faith of appearance does not lead to godly conviction, repentance or conversion. The fleshly mindset that is produced is contrived, forced, and insincere. It is artificially manufactured. It is all appearance, no substance.

At this point I understand there are Bible verses that utilize the conditional word, "if" in scripture. I do not exclude those verses. What I would like to emphasize is, who is keeping the terms or requirements of those conditions? Is it God the Holy Spirit, or man? If we declare it is man, then salvation becomes something I do. Salvation becomes a choice for man, not an act of God.

Remember, it is the Holy Spirit that sanctifies (II Thessalonians 2:13).⁷ The sanctification process commences at conversion. If there is no desire to be sanctified (set apart), no conversion has transpired! Finally, perseverance of the saints means the Spirit in us wills God's good pleasure thereby preserving and persevering Christ's will in us.

⁷ **II Thessalonians 2:13**--But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: