

# Enslaved by Satan

September 1, 2019 ~ Five Points of Calvinism ~ 2 Timothy 2.24-26

## Roots of the Controversy

- This 5-week series is entitled the “**Five Points of Calvinism**”
- 1603 – Jacob Arminius professor of theology at University of Leyden
  - Studied under Theodore Beza (*Calvin’s successor in Geneva*)
  - Criticized Belgic Confession & Heidelberg Catechism c/soteriology
    - Election / Reprobation / Atonement / Redemption / Conversion
  - Government and DRC officials worked to resolve it quietly
  - Dutch Republic gained independence from Spain (*1581*)
  - Arminius died in 1609 before responding
- 1610 – 46 ministers in Holland signed a Remonstrance (5 Articles)
  - They called themselves Arminians – followers of Jacob Arminius
  - Synod of Dort (*100 men met 150 times*) from Nov 1618 to May 1619
    - Synod issued Canons of Dort – 59 affirmations / 34 denials
    - “**3 Forms of Unity**” – Confession, Catechism, Canons
    - CRC and RCA retain in Confessions (*Westminster CA great article*)

## 5 Points of Calvinism and TULIP

- Five Points of Calvinism derive from doctrinal headings of Canons of Dort
- TULIP devised as way of sharing 5 Points (*first ref in 1913*)
- **Q:** “**The Joy of Calvinism**” by Greg Forster - “**The five points that we now use didn’t even exist until the twentieth century .. but today, these five vague phrases .. have come to be completely identified with Calvinism. .. This has happened even though many Calvinist writers seem to agree that the five points are a lousy way to describe Calvinism. .. Calvinists first invoke the five points, then apologize for invoking the five points, and then explain how the five points don’t really mean what they seem to mean and aren’t really saying what they seem to be saying. This can’t possibly be the best way to introduce people to what we believe.**” (*pg 16*)
- Some issues with “**five vague phrases**”
  - **T**otal Depravity – What does Total mean? Does Depravity mean behavior?
  - **U**nconditional Election – Is condition from God or man’s perspective?
  - **L**imited Atonement – How dare we say Christ’s sacrifice is limited!
  - **I**rresistible Grace – God’s just a bully if He forces Himself on people!
  - **P**erseverance of the Saints – Does our salvation depend on us after all?
- **///:** Ligonier article ~ recommends Radical Corruption – Sovereign Election – Definite Atonement – Effectual Grace – Preservation of the Saints

**Xition:** Some alternative acrostics to TULIP have been suggested . . .

## A TULIP by Any Other Name – ROSES Perhaps?

- ROSES – Radical Depravity – Overcoming Grace – Sovereign Election – Eternal Life – Singular Redemption (TIUPL - *Timothy George*)
- WUPSI – Wholly Defiled – Unconditional Choice – Personal Salvation – Supernatural Transformation – In Faith, Perseverance (*Greg Forster*)

## How I Mapped Messages to TULIP

- **T** ≈ “Enslaved by Satan”
- **U** ≈ “Chosen by Father”
- **L** ≈ “Saved by Son”
- **I** ≈ “Regenerated by Spirit”
- **P** ≈ “Preserved by God”

## Warning of Expectations

- This message series won't convince Arminian friends to change views
  - Their definitions of God, sin, human freedom, and fairness won't allow it
- **III**: Arminian Authors: Chuck Swindoll (**Jer 13.23**), Max Lucado, Ray Comfort
- **Q**: Jl Packer Intro in “*Death of Death in the Death of Christ*” by *John Owen*
  - “Arminianism .. represents a characteristic perversion of biblical teaching by the fallen mind of man, who even in salvation cannot bear to renounce the delusion of being master of his fate and captain of his soul. .. As long as the fallen human mind is what it is, the Arminian way of thinking will continue.” (1959 - pg 9)
- **Q**: Jl Packer “*Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*” (1961 - pg 11,17)
  - “I do not intend to spend any time at all proving to you the general truth that God is sovereign in His world. There is no need; for I know that if you are a Christian, you believe this already. How do I know that? Because I know that, if you are a Christian, you pray; and the recognition of God's sovereignty is the basis of your prayers. .. On our feet we may have arguments about it, but on our knees we are all agreed.”
- Saving grace ~ “All Christians are Calvinists when on their knees”

## Selecting Title for Today's Message

- Debated on title: “Dead in Sin” / “Dead to God” / “Man's Moral Inability”
- Note “by” in every title – Action -> Prepositional Phrase (*man is acted upon*)
- **Q**: Augustine c/man's will – “Somewhere Augustine compares man's will to a horse awaiting its rider's command, and God and the devil to its riders.” (p309 *Calvin's Inst*)
- “Man is in bondage to Satan from birth”
- “Man is in bondage to God from rebirth”
- “Man has a free will, but man's will is not free.”

**Xition**: We're now ready to dig into our main point . . .

## The State of Man After the Fall

- **Def: Total depravity** ~ “Our sinful corruption is so deep and so strong as to make us slaves of sin and morally unable to overcome our own rebellion and blindness. This inability to save ourselves is total. We are utterly dependent on God’s grace to overcome our rebellion, give us eyes to see, and effectively draw us to the Savior.” “*What we believe about Calvinism*” –Piper (Desiring God site)
- **Premise:** “Man is unable to come to God unless God works a change in Him.”
  - That man is enslaved to Satan is only 1 of the 4 reasons I’ll give
- The 4 truths, supported by many Scriptures, are these – Fallen man is:
  1. Fallen man is Enslaved to Satan
  2. Fallen man is Dead in sin
  3. Fallen man is Only evil continually
  4. Fallen man is Unable to come to God

### 1. Fallen Man is Enslaved to Satan (6)

- **2 Tim 2.25b-26** ~ “.. if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will”
  - Repentance leads to truth which leads to awareness which leads to escape
- **Eph 2.1-2** ~ “you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.”
  - Spirit of prince of power of the air works in disobedient
- **John 8.44a** ~ “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.”
  - Unbelievers, unbeknownst to themselves, serve the devil
- **1 John 5.19** ~ “the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one”
  - The devil has great power on the earth
- **John 12.31** ~ “now the ruler of this world will be cast out”
  - Jesus referred to Satan as ruler of the world
- **2 Cor 4.3-4** ~ “even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing <sup>4</sup>whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”
  - The devil has power to blind the perishing to the gospel
- **2 Tim 2** teaches that fallen man is enslaved by Satan to do his will
- **2 Cor 4** says the minds of the perishing are blinded by Satan lest they believe
- Satan would not willingly allow his slaves minds to be opened
- Jesus, when casting out demons, told stronger man parable / He is that Man

**Xition:** Our next truth is that Fallen man is Dead in sin

## 2. Fallen Man is Dead in Sin (5)

- **Col 2.13** ~ “And you, being dead in your trespasses .. He has made alive”
  - Unbelievers were dead in trespasses before Jesus gave them new life
- **Eph 2.1** ~ “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins”
  - God made believers alive who were dead in sin
- **Eph 2.5** ~ “even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive”
  - Again Paul emphasizes they were dead – made alive by the grace of God
- Dead people can’t make decisions to follow Jesus
- They must be granted spiritual life first – then they can see to choose the good
- **III: Valley of Dry Bones – Read Eze 37.5-10**
- This vision is preceded by **Eze 36.26-27** ~ “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”
  - A heart of stone was a heart of unbelief
- In **John 3** Jesus rebukes Nicodemus for not understanding this concept
  - **Verse 8** says “The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”
  - “The wind blows where it wishes” – Not where fallen man wishes

## 3. Fallen Man is Only Evil Continually (9)

- **Gen 6.5** ~ “every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”
  - “Were the people in Noah’s day 10x more evil than in ours?”
  - **Ps 10.4** ~ “The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.”
  - **Rom 14.23** says “whatever is not from faith, is sin.” (*and thus evil*)
- **Gen 8.21** ~ “the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth”
- **Job 14.4** ~ “Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one!”
  - Examples of clean things would be faith, belief, repentance – they don’t originate in sinful, fallen man... They cannot
- **Jer 13.23** ~ “Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.”
- **Jer 17.9** ~ “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked”
- **Rom 1.21** ~ “.. although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, .. but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened”
- **Eph 2.3** ~ “.. we .. were by nature children of wrath, just as the others”

**Xition:** The last truth is that Fallen man is Unable and Unwilling to Come to God

#### 4. Fallen Man is Unable to Come to God (8)

- Note the comprehensive words used – “cannot”, “no one”, “not able”
- **Mat 7.18** ~ “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit”
- **John 5.40** ~ “no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father”
- **John 8.43** ~ “you are not able to listen to My word”
- **John 8.47** ~ “you do not hear, because you are not of God”
  - So you must be “of God” before you’re able to “hear” God
- **John 10.26** ~ “you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep”
  - Sheep will believe – they come to faith because they’re sheep (“elect”)
- **1 Cor 2.14** ~ “the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God .. nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned”
- **Rom 8.7,8** ~ “the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be .. those who are in the flesh cannot please God”
  - **Arminians insist that a decision for Jesus must come from a mind – from a will – that is still fallen – Anything other this is anathema to them**
- Let’s dig into **John 6** more deeply – where Jesus is so blunt with followers
- **John 6.44** ~ “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him”
  - Note that it’s the Father Who initiates the saving relationship
- **Read John 6.61-65** ~ “When Jesus knew .. granted to him by My Father.”
- **v66** ~ “From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.”
  - Jesus drove many people away at this time

**The natural man does not receive – and cannot know – the things of God (1 Cor 2.14)  
The natural man cannot come to Jesus unless the Father draws him (John 6.44)**

**God reveals His sovereignty repeatedly in Scripture – Yet we can be blind to it  
Our sinful pride & twisted perceptions of God & ourselves hinders understanding**

**But don’t allow yourself to become proud because you know and accept this  
Calvinists (*of all people*) ought to take seriously Paul’s warning in 1 Cor 4 concerning  
our responsibility as “stewards of the mysteries of God”**

**We must exercise gentleness, patience, and humility with our Arminian brethren**

**Jude 24-25 ~ "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and  
to present *you* faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy;  
To God our Savior, Who alone is wise,  
be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen."**