

## THE EXPLORATION OF CALVINISM WITHIN REFORMED THEOLOGY

### Selected Passages

#### I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. The theological conflict through the ages over free will and predestination
  - 1. Augustine vs. Pelagius:
  - 2. Luther vs. Erasmus:
  - 3. Calvin vs. Arminias:
  - 4. Whitefield vs. Wesley:
  
- B. The synod of Dort in 1618: establishing of the five points of Calvinism

#### II. A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF "TULIP" AND THE FIVE MAIN POINTS OF CALVINISM:

- A. **Total depravity:** Man is helpless to accomplish his own salvation. Man is dead within his trespasses and sin.
- B. **Unconditional election:** God does not choose you based on any conditions. God would elect some for eternal life, and condemn others to eternal death.
- C. **Limited Atonement:** Jesus only died for those whom He knew were chosen by God the Father.
- D. **Irresistible grace:** If God wants to save someone, that person will not be able to "resist" or "reject" the grace of God. They will be saved no matter what.
- E. **Perseverance of the saints:** If you're truly born again, you will persevere and not permanently turn away from the faith. You cannot lose your salvation.

#### III. THE ACHILLES HEEL OF CALVINISM IS THEIR BELIEF THAT FAITH IS A WORK:

- A. The understanding of Monergism (sole active party) & Synergism (working together with two or more parties)
- B. The Bible's response to this: (*Rom. 4:1-6; 13-16; Gal. 2:16, 3:2-6*)

#### IV. APPLICATIONS:

- A. The importance of this topic is crucial because the enemy uses it to halt evangelism and assurance of salvation.
  
- B. The danger of placing adherence on man's teaching over the teaching of the Word will always make individuals vulnerable to warped theology.