


# A PRELUDE TO *BIBLICAL* EVANGELISM



A large, ancient tree with thick, gnarled roots growing over stone ruins. The tree's roots are massive and spread out, some resting on the ground and others draped over the stone walls of an old building. The stone is weathered and mossy. The background shows more greenery and trees, suggesting a jungle or forest setting. The overall tone is serene and majestic.

THE FRUIT OF  
THE RIGHTEOUS IS A  
TREE OF LIFE,  
AND HE WHO IS WISE  
WINS SOULS.

PROVERBS 11:30 NASB



# PRINCIPLES FOR BIBLICAL *EVANGELISM* FOUND IN JOHN 4, “THE WOMAN AT THE WELL.”

TAKE

- TAKE THE INITIATIVE! JN. 4:6-9

OFFER

- OFFER GOD’S MERCY! JN. 4:10-14

IDENTIFY

- IDENTIFY SPIRITUAL NEEDS! JN. 4:9-10

CONFRONT

- CONFRONT SIN JN! 4:16-18

REJECT

- REJECT FALSE WORSHIP! JN. 4:19-24

REVEAL

- REVEAL CHRIST! JN. 4:25-26

# WHAT IS *CALVINISM*?

- ***CALVINISM IS A SYSTEM OF THEOLOGY*** that seeks to systemize the teachings of Scripture on the subject of *salvation*. ***What is the relationship between the absolute sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man?*** This is the central issue of Calvinism. It takes the name of the Reformer ***JOHN CALVIN***, who was a passionate preacher of Scripture in the Sixteenth Century in Geneva, Switzerland. During the ***PROTESTANT REFORMATION***, the Reformers were seeking to unleash the true gospel from the intense strangle hold of the Roman Catholic Church. It was through this period of time that the Bible was being printed in the common language of the people and was simultaneously being proclaimed ***expositionally***.

# WHAT IS **ARMINIANISM**?

A group of followers of **JACOBUS ARMINIUS** who studied under Theodore Beza (a disciple of **John Calvin**) drafted a document known as the **REMONSTRANCE**. ***It was a detailed refutation of the sovereignty of God in salvation.*** It elevated the free will of man above the sovereign initiative and power of God. These people were known as *Arminians*. Their doctrine would eventually become known as **Arminianism**.

An official meeting, known as the **SYNOD OF DORDT**, was held in **1619** in order to respond to the submission of the **ARMINIANS IN THEIR REMONSTRANCE**. The overall conclusion was that the **Remonstrance was incorrect** and that the **BIBLICAL VIEW OF SALVATION TEACHES THAT GOD IS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF SAVING GRACE**.

- The “***FIVE POINTS***” of **CALVINISM** came as an answer to the ***UNSCRIPTURAL five points*** authored by the **ARMINIANS** in **1610**. The list was eventually organized with an acronym **T.U.L.I.P.** in order to explain the key teachings.
- The system known as Calvinism is really five counter points to Arminianism. Years later, **JOHN WESLEY** adopted the Arminian position and thus the **METHODIST** movement was born. Although there are certain exceptions, historically, **BAPTISTS** and **PRESBYTERIANS** have been more Calvinistic and opposed to the doctrines of Arminianism while the **METHODISTS** and groups such as the **ASSEMBLIES OF GOD** have embraced the doctrines known as Arminianism. Today, Calvinism is sometimes known by titles such as Reformed theology and the doctrines of grace.

# ARMINIANISM

## #1 *FREE WILL* or *HUMAN ABILITY*

- Although human nature was seriously affected by the fall, man has not been left in a state of total spiritual helplessness. God graciously enables every sinner to repent and believe, but He does so in such a manner as not to interfere with man's freedom. Each sinner possesses a free will, and his eternal destiny depends on how he uses it. Man's freedom consists of his ability to choose good over evil in spiritual matters; his will is not enslaved to his sinful nature. The sinner has the power to either cooperate with God's Spirit and be regenerated or resist God's grace and perish. The lost sinner needs the Spirit's assistance, but he does not have to be regenerated by the Spirit before he can believe, for faith is man's act and precedes the new birth. ***FAITH IS THE SINNER'S GIFT TO GOD; IT IS MAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO SALVATION.***

# CALVINISM

## #1 **TOTAL INABILITY** or **TOTAL DEPRAVITY**

- Because of the fall, man is unable of himself to savingly believe the gospel. The sinner is **DEAD, BLIND**, and **DEAF** to the things of God; his heart is deceitful and desperately corrupt. His will is not free, it is in bondage to his evil nature, therefore, he will not-indeed he cannot-choose good over evil **in the spiritual realm**. Consequently, it takes much more than the Spirit's assistance to bring a sinner to Christ-it takes regeneration by which the Spirit makes the sinner alive and gives him a new nature. **FAITH** is not something man contributes to salvation but is itself a part of God's gift of salvation, **IT IS GOD'S GIFT TO THE SINNER, NOT THE SINNER'S GIFT TO GOD.**



# ARMINIANISM

## #5 FALLING FROM GRACE

- ***THOSE WHO BELIEVE AND ARE TRULY SAVED CAN LOSE THEIR SALVATION BY FAILING TO KEEP UP THEIR FAITH.***
- Not all **ARMINIANS** have agreed on this point; some have held that believers are eternally secure in Christ once a sinner is regenerated, he can never be lost.

# CALVINISM

## #5 *PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS*

- ***ALL*** who were ***CHOSEN BY GOD, REDEEMED BY CHRIST,*** and ***GIVEN FAITH BY THE HOLY SPIRIT*** are ***ETERNALLY SAVED.***  
They are kept in faith by the power of Almighty God and thus persevere to the end.

## ACCORDING TO **ARMINIANISM** AND THEIR 5 POINTS

- **SALVATION** is accomplished through the combined efforts of God (who takes the initiative) and man (who must respond)-man's response being the determining factor. God has provided salvation for everyone, but His provision becomes effective only for those who, of their own free will, "choose" to cooperate with Him and accept His offer of grace. **AT THE CRUCIAL POINT, MAN'S WILL PLAYS A DECISIVE ROLE; *THUS MAN, NOT GOD, DETERMINES WHO WILL BE THE RECIPIENTS OF THE GIFT OF SALVATION.***

## ACCORDING TO CALVINISM AND THEIR 5 POINTS

- **SALVATION** is accomplished by the almighty power of the **TRIUNE GOD**. **THE FATHER CHOSE A PEOPLE, THE SON DIED FOR THEM, THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES CHRIST' DEATH EFFECTIVE** by bringing the elect to **faith** and **repentance**, thereby causing them to willingly obey the gospel. The entire process (**ELECTION, REDEMPTION, REGENERATION**) is the work of God and is by grace alone. **THUS GOD, NOT MAN, DETERMINES WHO WILL BE THE RECIPIENTS OF THE GIFT OF SALVATION.**



# WHAT IS ***HYPER***-CALVINISM?

- ***HYPER***-CALVINISM is not a term used for those who are overly passionate about Calvinism. That's actually what some refer to as "***cage stage Calvinism.***" When understood properly, ***hyper-Calvinism*** is a technical term for an extreme and unbiblical view that rejects any need for Christians to engage in ***MISSIONS*** and ***EVANGELISM***. Simply put, ***hyper-Calvinists*** forbid the preaching of the gospel and the offer of salvation to the non-elect. Such people believe that God has chosen people in Christ in eternity past and will bring about His results without the help of His people. ***HYPER-CALVINISM IS HERESY AND MUST BE REJECTED.***

TO ILLUSTRATE THE VIEWS OF **HYPER-CALVINISM**, consider what happened during a pastors' meeting years ago. A man named **WILLIAM CAREY** wanted to organize an effort to get the gospel to what he called *heathen nations*.

**CAREY** stood up and addressed the crowd by requesting that they discuss *“the duty of Christians to attempt to spread the gospel among the heathen nations.”* **MR. RYLAND**, an older minister, exclaimed loudly, *“Sit down, young man! When God pleases to convert the heathen, He will do it without your aid or mine.”* **CAREY DID NOT STOP**. His allegiance was to **CHRIST** – not **MR. RYLAND**. **CAREY** went to **INDIA** and proclaimed the good news of Christ.

- **CAREY** would write a book titled – ***AN ENQUIRY INTO THE OBLIGATIONS OF CHRISTIANS, TO USE MEANS FOR THE CONVERSION OF HEATHENS.*** He would argue his case that we should use means to reach heathens – contrary to what **MR. RYLAND** – the elder minister said in his meeting as he scolded the young **CAREY** for bringing up the subject.

- Although **WILLIAM CAREY** had only a grammar school education – he would shake the world with the gospel. **CAREY** once preached a sermon where he stated – ***“Expect Great Things From God – Attempt Great Things For God.”***

That’s exactly what he did as he proclaimed the true gospel of King Jesus. **INDIA** would never be the same. The world would never be the same. The way the church viewed **missions** would never be the same – because of this Christ-exalting Calvinist that has become known to us as the,  
***“FATHER OF MODERN MISSIONS.”***

## SO, WHAT'S THE **DIFFERENCE**?

- The difference between **Calvinism** and **hyper-Calvinism** is the distance between heaven and hell. **CALVINISM IS FULL OF LIFE AND PASSION FOR GOD AND DESIRES TO MAKE GOD'S GLORY SHINE AMONG THE NATIONS.**
- **HYPER-CALVINISM IS LIFELESS HERESY THAT DAMNS PEOPLE TO HELL, KILLS EVANGELISM, AND RUINS CHURCHES.** Take a good look at the missionary movement of church history and you will see **Calvinists** leading the charge. Men like **WILLIAM CAREY, ADONIRAM JUDSON, JOHN KNOX,** and **CHARLES SPURGEON** were all Calvinists. Many people overlook the missionary heart of **JOHN CALVIN** himself. He trained and sent out many missionaries who passionately preached the truth. AND, **MANY OF THESE MEN WERE MARTYRED FOR THEIR FAITH.**