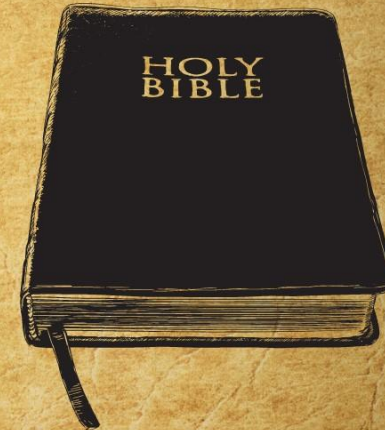


NEO CALVINISM

THE BIBLE



★ VS ★



★ THE FIGHT OF THE AGES ★



Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

Neo-Calvinism vs. The Bible

- I. Calvinism's Mixed Blessing
- II. Why Critique Calvinism?
- III. The Source of Calvin's Theology
- IV. Calvin's Manner of Life
- V. TULIP Through the Grid of Scripture**
- VI. Conclusion





Dr. Robert R. Congdon

Oops! I Thought I Was a Four - Pt Calvinist (Greer, SC: Congdon Ministries International, 2014), 3.

“The theology of Arminianism holds that salvation is conditioned upon one’s continuing in the faith; that is, just as an individual may freely choose to believe and accept the gospel of salvation, he may also continue to turn away in unbelief and ‘fall from grace,’ or lose his salvation. At this point a little history will help clarify the tensions between Calvinism and Arminianism. In 1610 a group of forty-six Arminian ministers met in Gouda, Holland, to protest the teaching of the growing Calvinistic movement. They issued a Remonstrance (protest) declaring what they believed were five biblical teachings. A few years later, a predominately Calvinistic group published a Counter – Remonstrance that was issued by the Synod of Dort (Dordrecht) in 1618. This document established the Calvinistic system, including its five primary doctrines that are represented by the acrostic, ‘TULIP,’ which is formed from the first letter of each of the five prime points.”

V. Running TULIP Through the Grid of Scripture

- A. Total Depravity
- B. Unconditional Election
- C. Limited Atonement
- D. Irresistible Grace
- E. Perseverance of the Saints



T Total Depravity
U Unconditional Election
L Limited Atonement
I Irresistible Grace
P Perseverance of the Saints

John Piper

John Piper, *tulip: The Pursuit of God's Glory in Salvation*
(Minneapolis, MN: Bethlehem Baptist Church, 2000), back cover.



John Piper writes, “The doctrines of grace (Total depravity, Unconditional election, Limited atonement, Irresistible grace, Perseverance of the saints) are the warp and woof of the biblical gospel cherished by so many saints for centuries.”



Steven Lawson

<https://youtu.be/yorGsechzrl>

Interviewer: Reformed theology and Calvinism most certainly are considered a minority viewpoint. Why are so many Christians against, and actively against, these concepts?

Steven Lawson: They don't know the Bible. [laughter and clapping] It's not that they know too much of the Bible that they have come to this position, it's because they know too little of the Bible that they have come to this conclusion, and it's really their lack of knowledge of the full counsel of God as taught in the Scripture, it allows them to continue to rebel against the truth that is presented in the doctrines of Grace. There are no truths that glorify God more than what are succinctly stated in the doctrines of Grace. It's not a secondary issue. It's not a minor point in the Bible. It's literally in the heart of God...He is a saving God. It is the very nature of God to be a saving God. The doctrines of Grace I believe bring into clearest focus and in most vivid detail the purity of sovereign saving grace.

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T Total Depravity
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Colossians 2:8

“See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.”



V. Running TULIP Through the Grid of Scripture

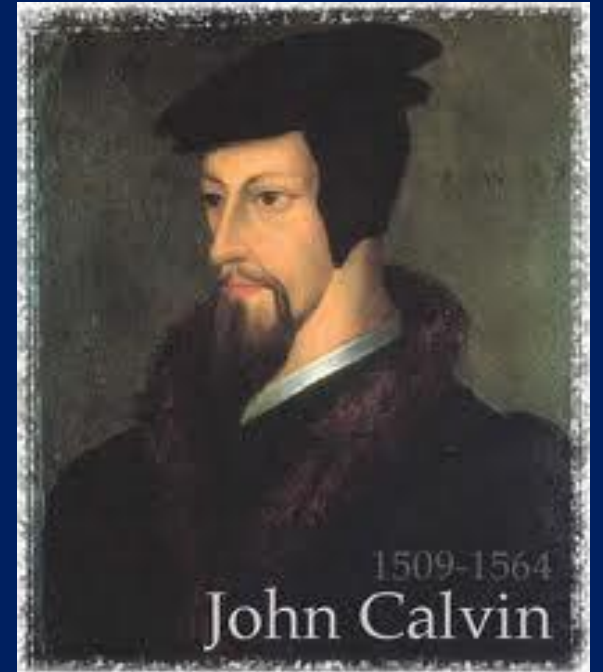
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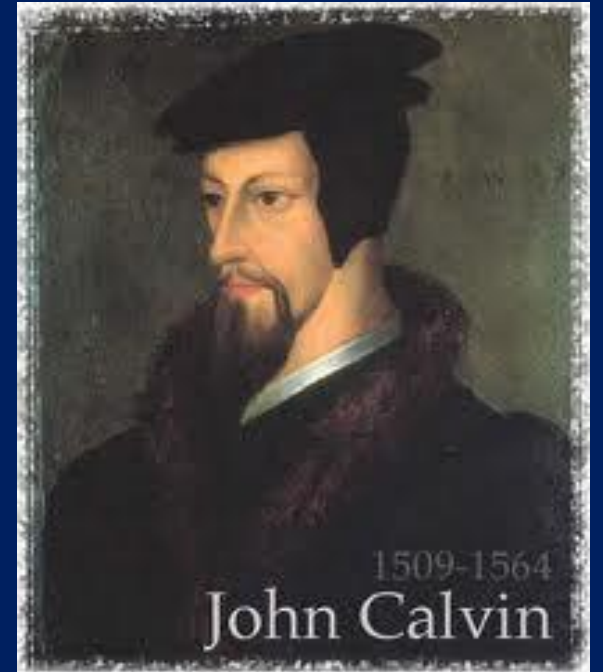
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1. The starting point
2. Total Depravity properly defined
3. Calvinism: Total Depravity = inability
4. Calvinism's overstatement of Total Depravity



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Romans 3:5

“But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? The God who inflicts wrath is not unrighteous, is He? (I am speaking in human terms).”

The Righteousness of God

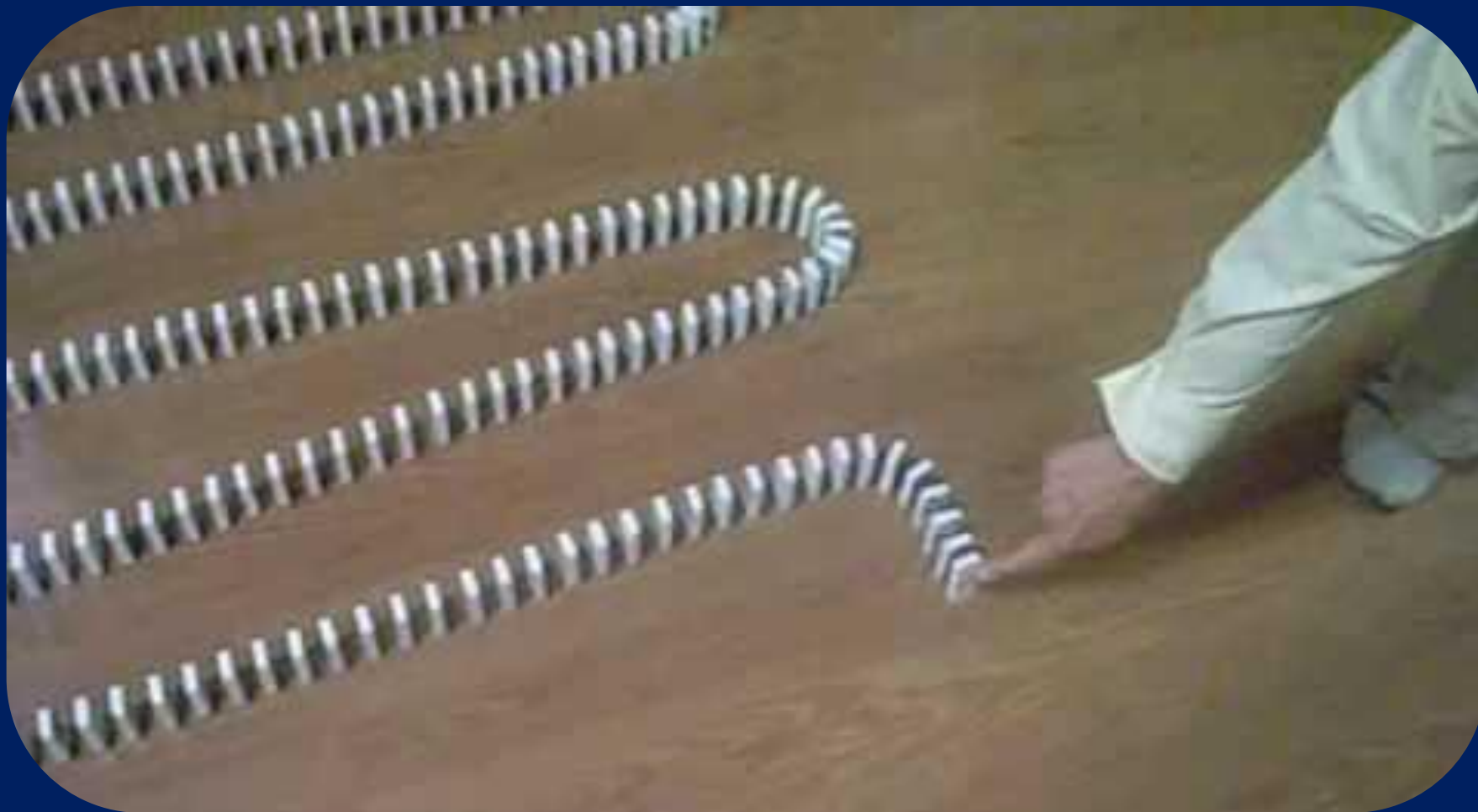


Proverbs 14:12

“There is a way which seems right to a man,
But its end is the way of death.”

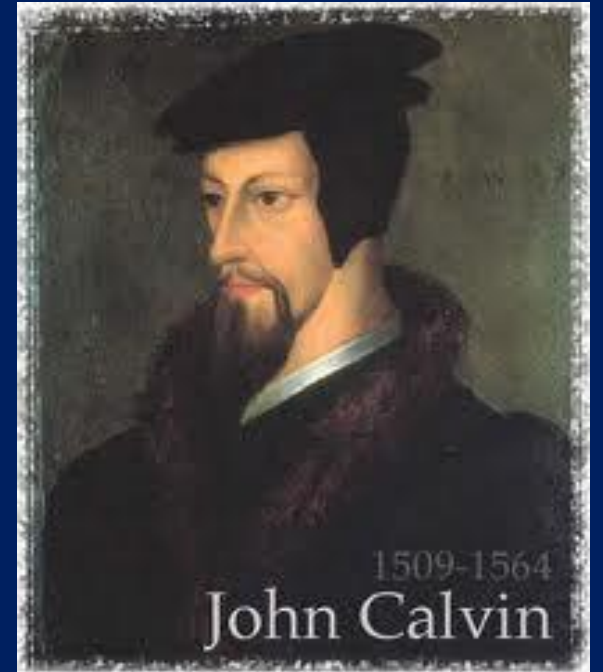


Dominoes in a Row



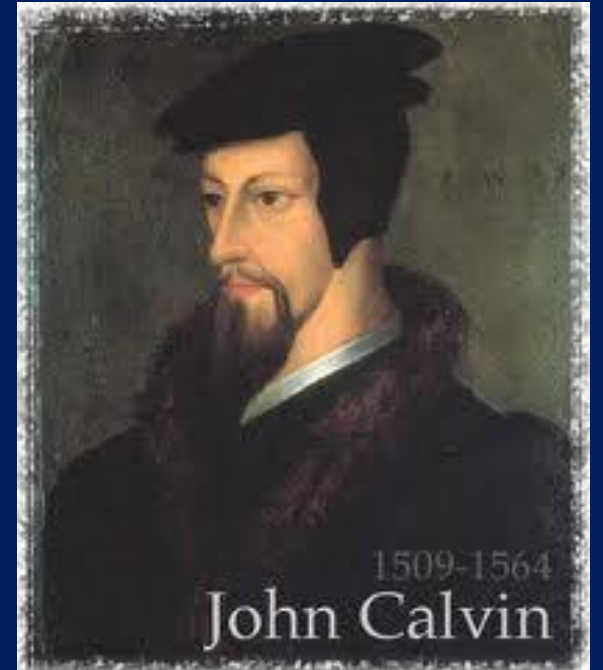
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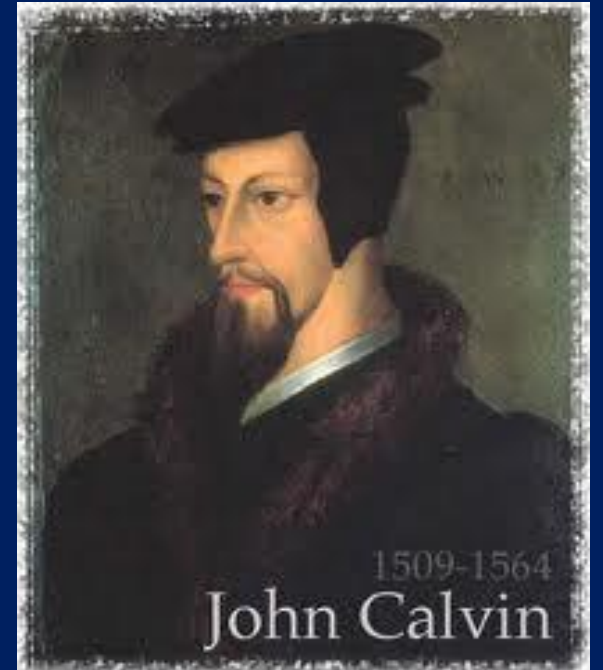
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- What total depravity *is not*:
 - ◆ Man is as evil as he can possibly be & indulges every possible sin
 - ◆ Man is incapable of doing good things
 - ◆ Gen. 3:22
 - ◆ Matt. 7:11
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Acts 10:2

“¹ Now *there was* a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, ² a **devout** man and one who **feared God** with **all his household**, and **gave many alms** to the *Jewish* people and **prayed to God continually**.”



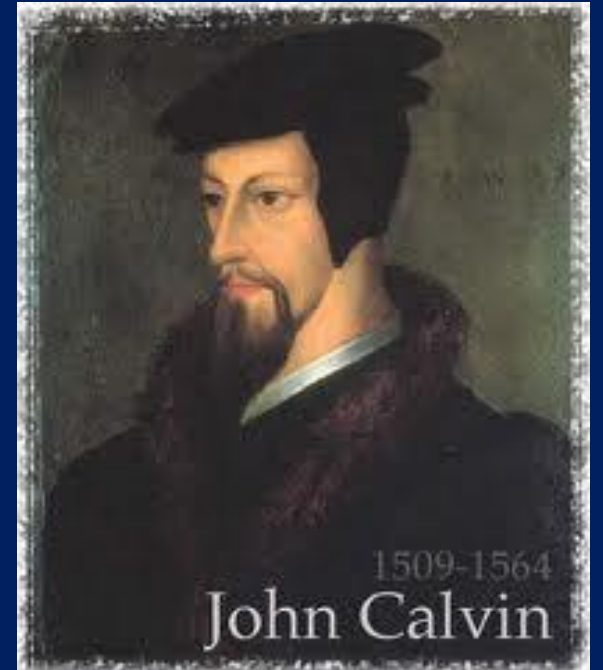
Acts 11:14

“and he will speak words to you by which you
[Cornelius] will be saved, you and all your household.”



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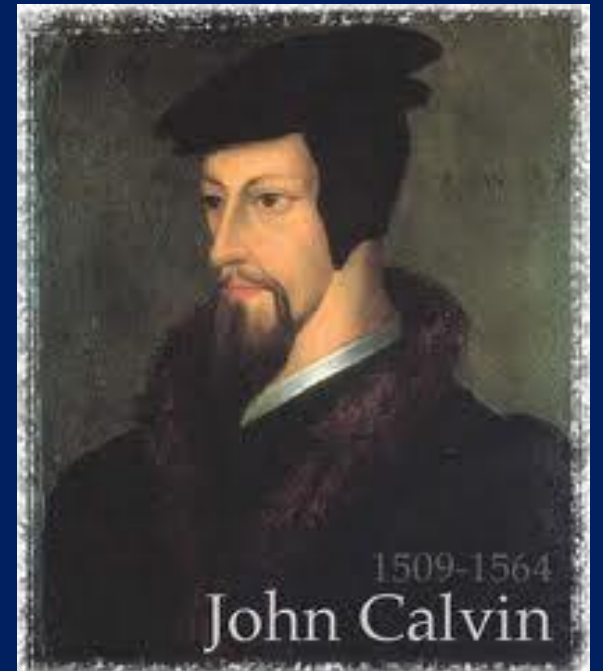
Henry Clarence Thiessen

Henry Clarence Thiessen, *Lectures in Systematic Theology*,
rev. ed. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979), 191.

“The Scriptures speak of human nature as totally depraved. However, the doctrine of ‘total depravity’ is easily misunderstood and misinterpreted. From the negative standpoint, it is important to know both what it does not mean and what it does mean. This does not mean that every sinner is devoid of all qualities pleasing to men; that he commits, or is prone to every form of sin; or that he is bitterly opposed to God as it is possible for him to be. Jesus recognize the existence of pleasing qualities in some individuals (Mark 10:21); He said that the scribes and Pharisees did some things God demanded (Matt. 23:23); Paul asserted that some Gentiles ‘do instinctively the things of the law’ (Rom. 2:14); God told Abraham that the iniquity of the Amorites would grow worse (Gen. 15:16); and Paul says that ‘evil men and imposters will proceed from bad to worse’ (2 Tim. 3:13).”

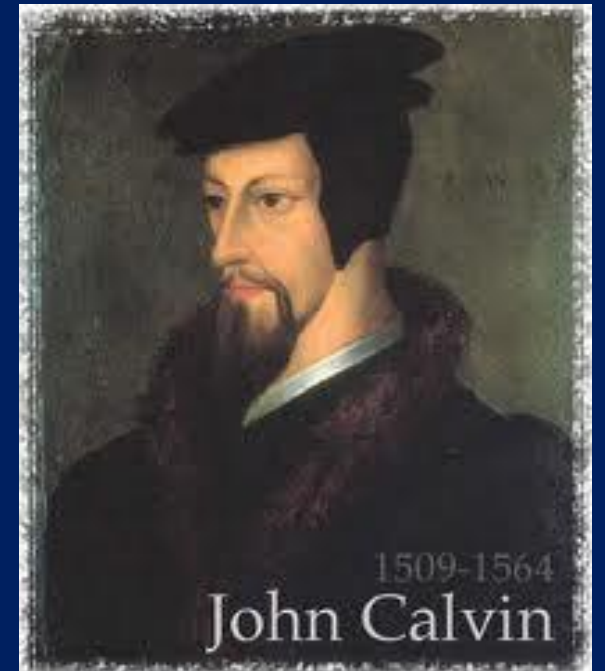
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 - ◆ Conscience (1 Tim 4:2)
 - ◆ Will (Rom 1:28; 3:11b)
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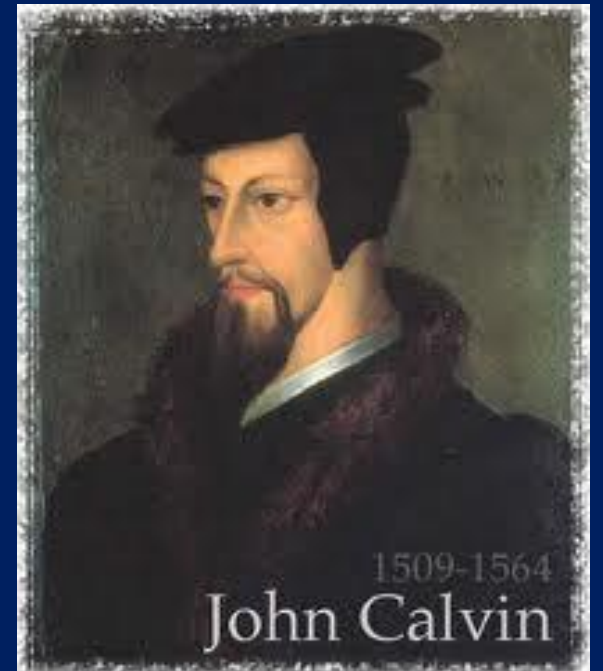
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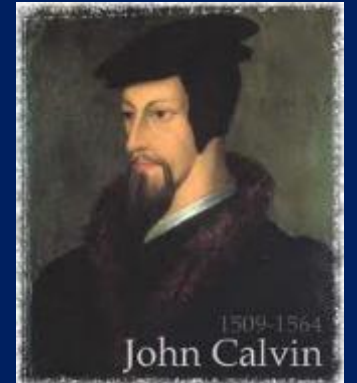
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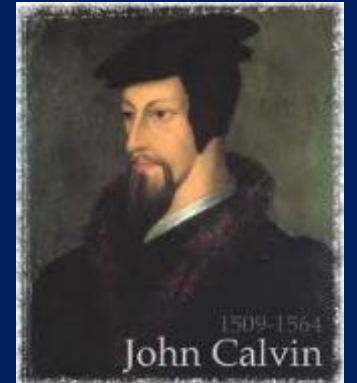
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 - ◆ Heart (Mark 7:21; Eph 4:18)
 - ◆ Body (Gen 3:19; Rom. 8:23)
 - ◆ Total being (Rom 1:18–3:20)
 - ◆ Man is incapable of earning merit favor from God (Isa 64:6; Eph. 2:8-9)



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Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?”



Genesis 8:21

The Lord smelled the soothing aroma; and the Lord said to Himself, “I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.[emphasis mine].



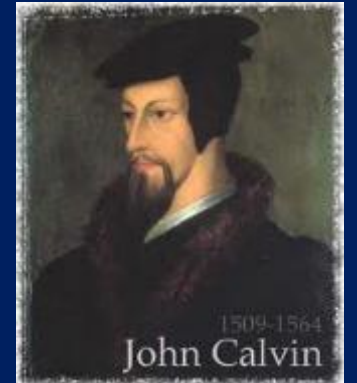
Mark 7:20–23

²⁰ And He was saying, “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. ²¹ “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, ²² deeds of coveting *and* wickedness, *as well as* deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride *and* foolishness. ²³ “All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.”



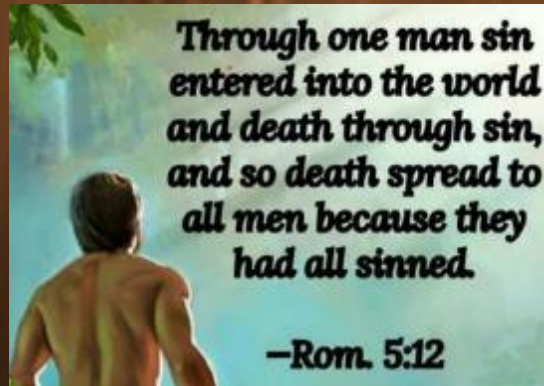
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Genesis 3:19

“By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”



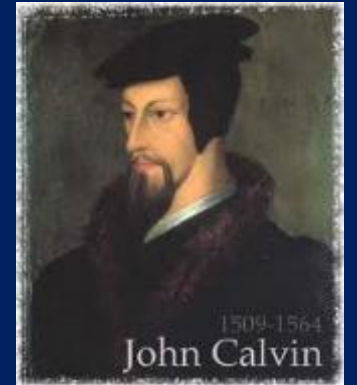
2 Cor. 4:16

Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.



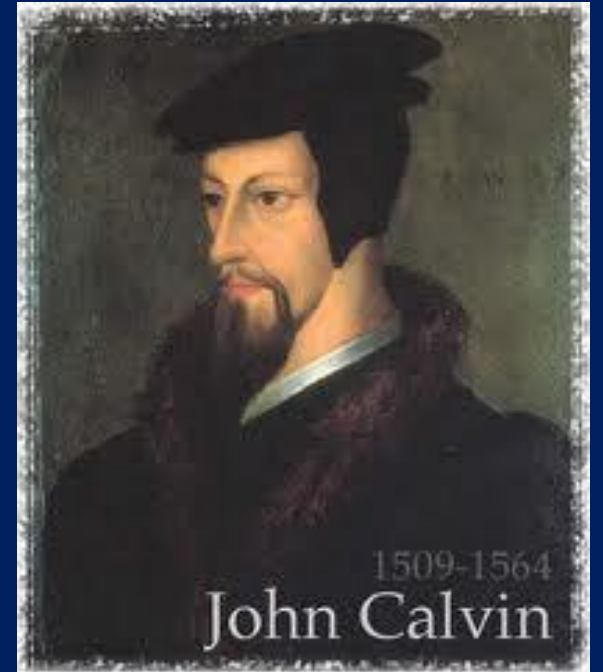
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Total Depravity = Inability

“T” stands for “Total Depravity.” Man is completely and wholly depraved and has no ability whatsoever to respond (repent or believe) to God until he is first “regenerated” by God.

Bob Kirkland, *Calvinism: None Dare Call It Heresy; Spotlight on the Life and Teachings of John Calvin* (Eureka, MT: Lighthouse Trails, 2018), 34.

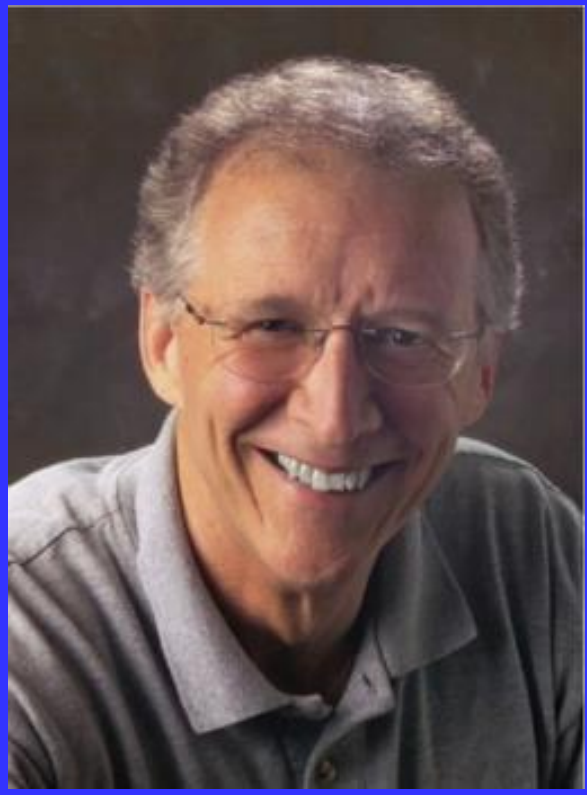
Ephesians 2:1-5

¹ “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)”



John Piper

John Piper and Pastoral Staff, TULIP: What We Believe About the Five Points of Calvinism: Position Paper of the Pastoral Staff” (Minneapolis, MN: Desiring God Ministries, 1997), Desiring God website, March 1, 1998.



John Piper defines spiritual death as the state of being “incapable of any life with God [before salvation]. Our hearts were like a stone toward God (Ephesians 4:18; Ezekiel 36:26).”

Westminster Confession 10:1

Westminster Confession 10:1. All those whom God hath predestinated unto life, and those only, He is pleased in His appointed and accepted time effectually to call, by His Word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death, in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God, **taking away their heart of stone**, and giving unto them a heart of flesh; renewing their wills, and, by His almighty power determining them to that which is good, and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ: yet so, as they come most freely, being made willing by His grace.

John H. Gerstner

Gerstner argues that if John 3: 16 “is supposed to teach that God so loved everyone in the world that He gave His only Son to provide them an opportunity to be saved by faith... such love on God’s part... would be a refinement of cruelty.... Offering a gift of life to a spiritual corpse, a brilliant sunset to a blind man, and a reward to a legless cripple if only he will come and get it, are horrible mockeries.”

John H. Gerstner, *Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth: A Critique of Dispensationalism*
(Brentwood, TN: Wolgemuth and Hyatt, Publishers, Inc., 1991), 124.



Loraine Boettner

“In the Epistle to the Ephesians Paul declares that Prior to the quickening of the Spirit of God each individual soul lies dead in trespasses and sins. Now it will surely be admitted that to be dead, and to be dead in sin, is clear and positive evidence that there is neither aptitude nor power remaining for the performance of any spiritual action. If a man were dead, in a natural and physical sense, it would at once be readily granted that there is no further possibility of that man being able to perform any physical actions. A corpse cannot act in any way whatsoever, and that man would be reckoned to have taken leave of his senses who asserted that it could. If a man is dead spiritually, therefore, it is surely equally as evident that he is unable to perform any spiritual actions, and thus the doctrine of man's moral inability rests upon strong Scriptural evidence.”

Loraine Boettner, *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination* (Philipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1932), 65-66; quoting Warburton, *Calvinism*, p. 48.



John MacArthur

Faith Works, p. 64-65

“Because we were dead to God, we were dead to truth, righteousness, peace, happiness, and every other good thing, no more capable to respond to God than a cadaver” and are “spiritual zombies, death-walkers, unable even to understand the gravity of their situation. They are lifeless.”

Samuel H. Turner

Samuel H. Turner says being spiritually dead is “a state of insensibility to the impressions of true religion, so that the party denoted thereby is uninfluenced by its sanctions and representations. . . . It expresses also the inability to raise oneself from the condition denoted by the word.”

Samuel H. Turner, *The Epistle to the Ephesians in Greek and English: With an Analysis and Exegetical Commentary* [New York: Dana, 1856], 43– 44.

James White

“Unregenerate men who are enemies of God most assuredly respond to God: in a universally negative fashion.”

James R. White, *The Potter's Freedom* (Amityville, NY: Calvary Press Publishing, 2000), 98.

Arthur Custance

“A corpse does not cry out for help.”

Arthur Custance, *The Sovereignty of Grace* (P & R Press; First Edition, 1979), p. 18.

Gordon H. Clark

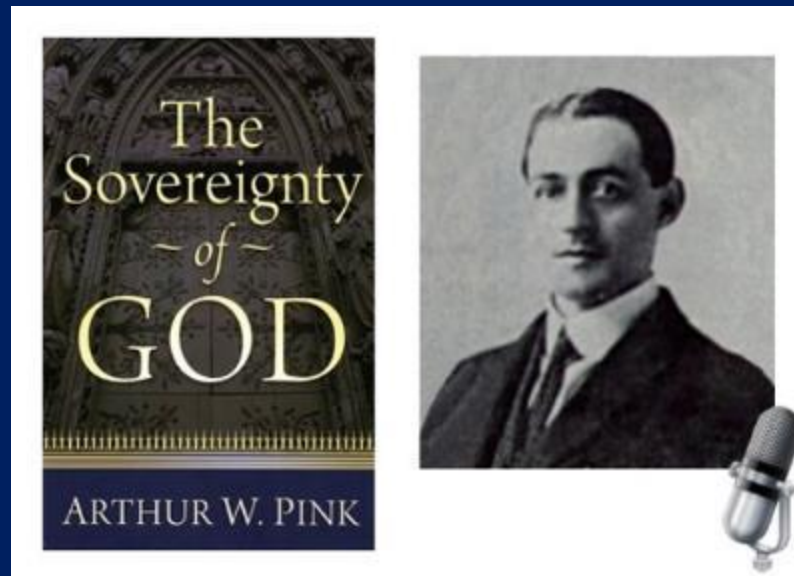
“A [spiritually] dead man ... cannot exercise faith in Jesus Christ.”

Gordon H. Clark, *Predestination* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1987), p. 102.

A. W. Pink

Sovereignty of God, p. 57.

“Faith is a spiritual grace, the fruit of the spiritual nature, and because the unregenerate are spiritually dead – ‘dead in trespasses and sins’ – then it follows that faith from them is impossible, for a dead man cannot believe anything.”



Herman Hoeksema

“[T]he sinner is of himself neither capable nor willing to receive that salvation.”

Herman Hoeksema, *Whosoever Will* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdman's Publishing Company, First Edition 1945, reprinted 1973), p. 14.

David N. Steele & Curtis C. Thomas

“Because of the fall, man is an 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 He 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.”

John 16:7-11

“⁷ But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; ¹¹ and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”



Gordon H. Clark

“A dead man cannot...exercise faith in Jesus Christ. Faith is an activity of spiritual life, and without the life there can be no activity. Furthermore, faith... does not come by any independent decision. The Scripture is explicit, plain, and unmistakable: ‘for by grace are you saved through faith, and that is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God’ (Ephesians 2:8). Look at the words again, ‘it is the gift of God.’ If God does not give a man faith no amount of willpower and decision can manufacture it for him.”

James White

White argues that because the Bible says Christ saves sinners, we can't change it to say that he "saves synergistically with the assistance of the sinner himself."

James R. White, *The Potter's Freedom* (Amityville, NY: Calvary Press Publishing, 2000), 247.

James White

White writes, “The Reformed assertion is that man cannot understand and embrace the gospel nor respond in faith and repentance toward Christ without God first freeing him from sin and giving him spiritual life (regeneration).”

Lorraine Boettner

“The elect of God are chosen by Him to be His children, **in order that they might be made to believe**, not because He foresaw that they would believe.”

Lorraine Boettner, *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1932, 14th printing), page 101, citing Augustine.

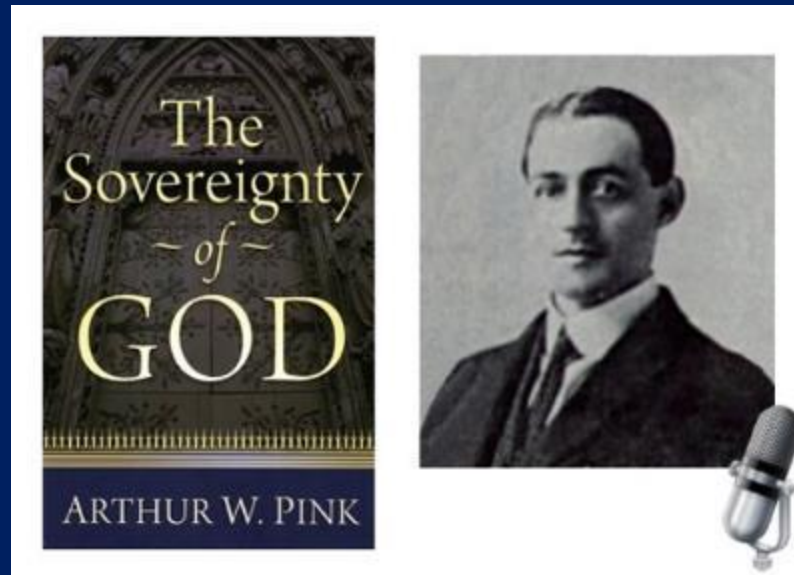
Tom Wells

Wells compares spiritual deadness to “an old dry [Christmas] tree with —no fruit or ornaments of his own [his faith]. Then God comes along and hangs the bright jewel of faith on him. . . . There is no real connection between what he is and this gift of faith from God.”

A. W. Pink

Sovereignty of God, p. 57.

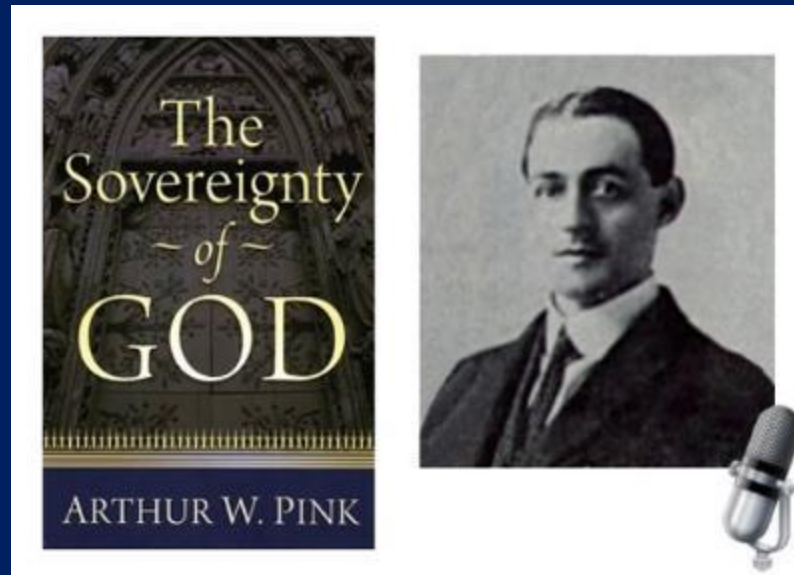
“Faith is not the cause of the new birth, but the consequence of it.” This ought not to need arguing. Faith (in God) is an exotic, something that is not native to the human heart.”



A. W. Pink

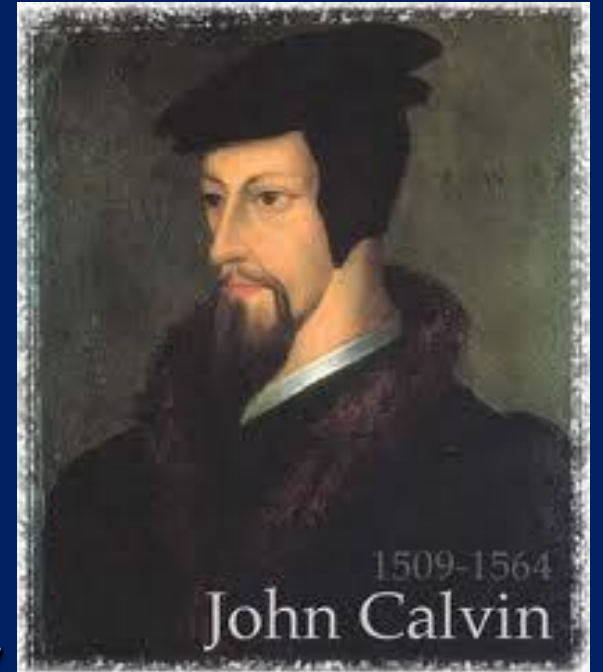
Sovereignty of God, p. 57, 113, 120.

“Personally, we have no more to do with our spiritual birth than we had with our natural birth...[Man is] utterly incapable of willing anything...the sinner, of himself, cannot repent and believe.”



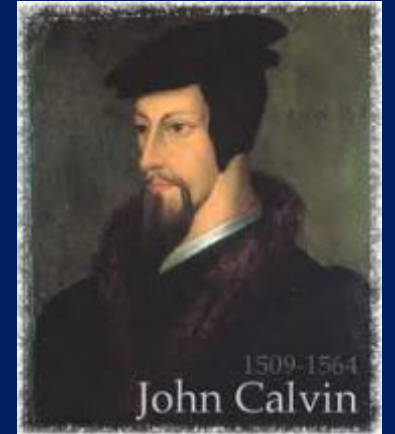
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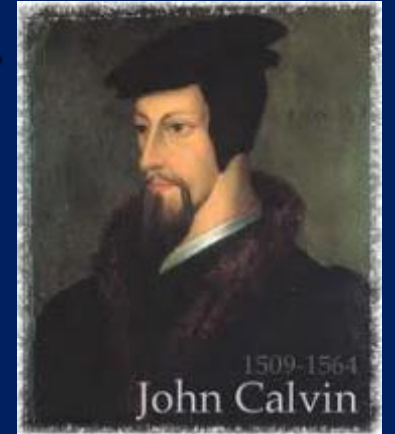
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- b) Operates contrary to man's design
- c) Mis-defines "death" (Eph. 2:1) as non-existence rather than separation
- d) Underestimates what lost man can do



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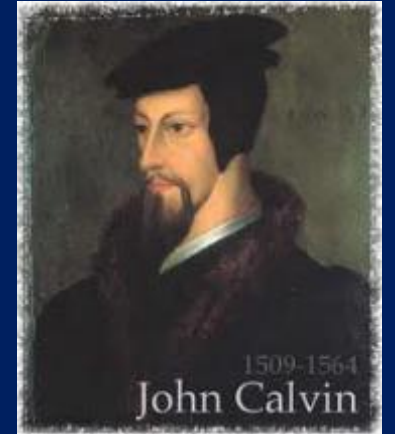
Henry Clarence Thiessen

“The Scriptures speak of human nature as totally depraved. However, the doctrine of ‘total depravity’ is easily misunderstood and misinterpreted. From the negative standpoint, it is important to know both what it does not mean and what it does mean. This does not mean that every sinner is devoid of all qualities pleasing to men; that he commits or is prone to every form of sin; or that he is bitterly opposed to God as it is possible for him to be. Jesus recognize the existence of pleasing qualities in some individuals (Mark 10:21); He said that the scribes and Pharisees did some things God demanded (Matt. 23:23); Paul asserted that some Gentiles ‘do instinctively the things of the law’ (Rom. 2:14); God told Abraham that the iniquity of the Amorites would grow worse (Gen. 15:16); and Paul says that ‘evil men and imposters will proceed from bad to worse’ (2 Tim. 3:13).”

Henry Clarence Thiessen, *Lectures in Systematic Theology*,
rev. ed. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979), 191.

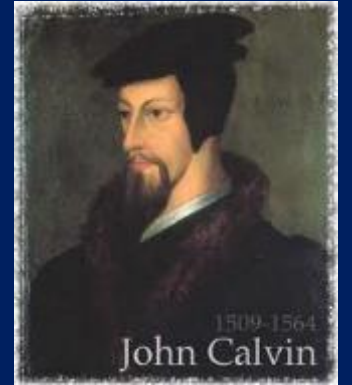
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- a) Confusion over intensity vs. extent (Gen. 3:22; Matt. 7:7-11; Rom. 2:14-15)
- b) Operates contrary to man's design
- c) Mis-defines "death" (Eph. 2:1) as non-existence rather than separation
- d) Underestimates what lost man can do



b) Operates contrary to man's design

- 1) Man as an image bearer of God (Gen. 1:26-28)
- 2) Omnipotence vs. omni-causality
- 3) The Fall (Gen. 3) merely effaced rather than erased man's status as a divine image bearer (Gen. 5:1; 9:6; Jas. 3:9; 1 Cor. 11:7)

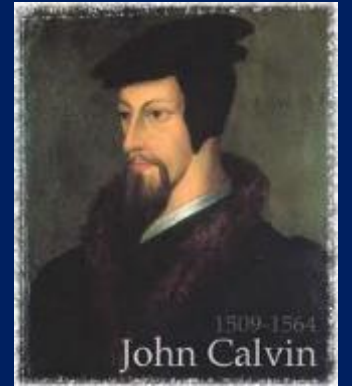


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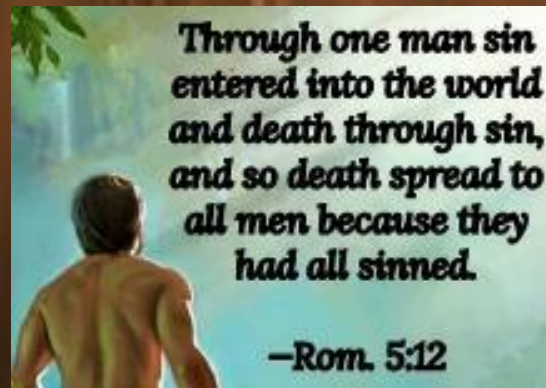
Genesis 1:26-28

“²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”



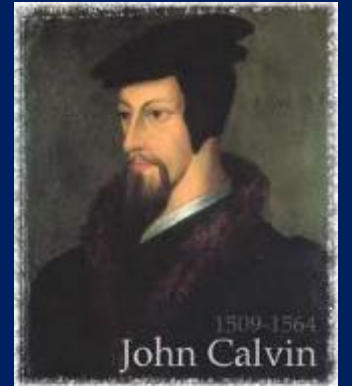
Genesis 2:16-17

“¹⁶ The Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die (*muwth*).’”



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John Calvin

John Calvin, *Calvin's Calvinism: God's Eternal Predestination and Secret Providence* (Reformed Free Publishing Association, Kindle edition from the 2009 2nd edition), Kindle location 3796; idem, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, op., cit., Kindle location 17793.

Calvin said: “The Fall of Adam was not by accident, nor by chance, but was ordained by the secret counsel of God.” He also said that, “The first man fell because the Lord deemed it meet that he should.”

Edwin Palmer

In Edwin Palmer's book, *The Five Points of Calvinism*, he states: "God is in back of everything. He decides and causes all things to happen that do happen ... even sin. ... God ordained sin and unbelief."

Edwin H. Palmer, *The Five Points of Calvinism* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, Enlarged Edition, 1980, 24th printing, 2005), pp. 25, 102.

R. C. Sproul Jr.

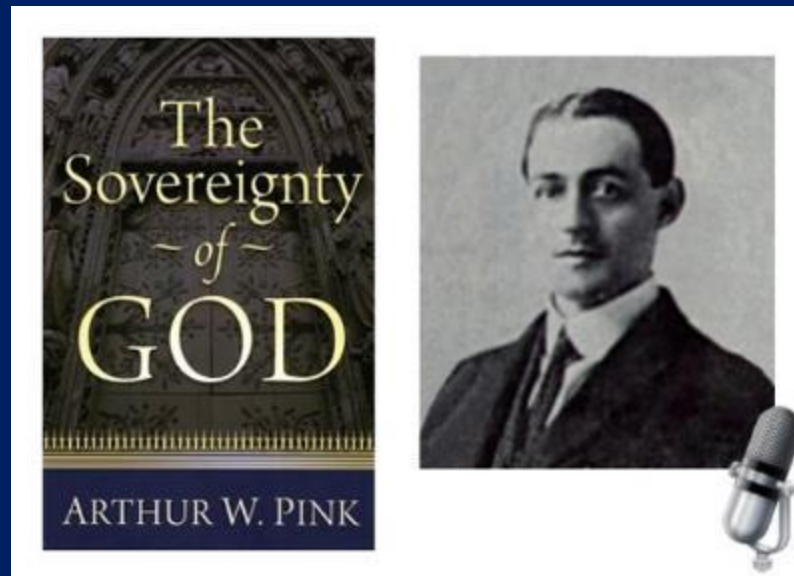
R. C. Sproul Jr. (R. C. Sproul's Calvinist son) said that God "desired that man would fall into sin ... [God] created sin."

R.C. Sproul Jr., *Almighty Over All* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1999, Second printing, July 1999), pp. 53-54.

A. W. Pink

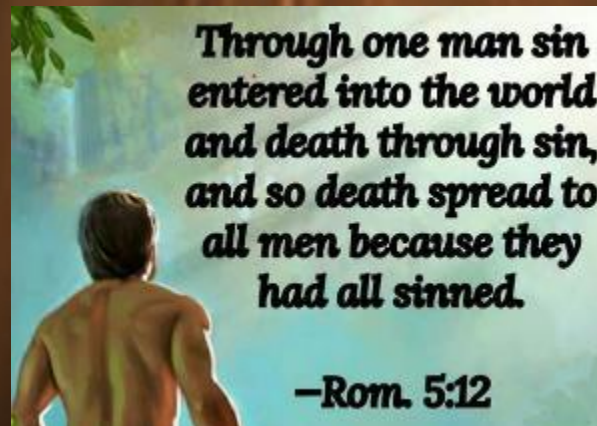
Sovereignty of God, p. 201.

“That God decreed sin should enter this world through the disobedience of our first parents was a secret hid in His own breast.”



Romans 5:12

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—.”



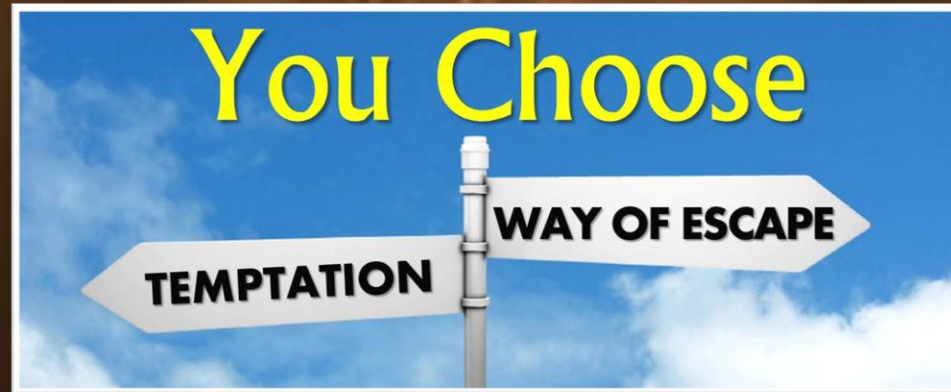
Romans 8:19-22

¹⁹ For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.



James 1:13

"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone."



1 Timothy 6:16

who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.



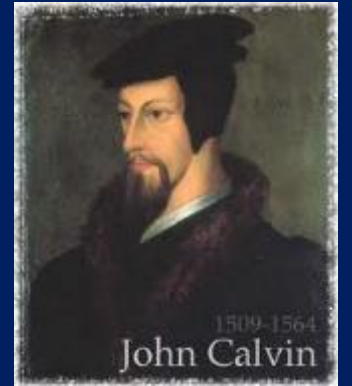
1 John 1:5

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.



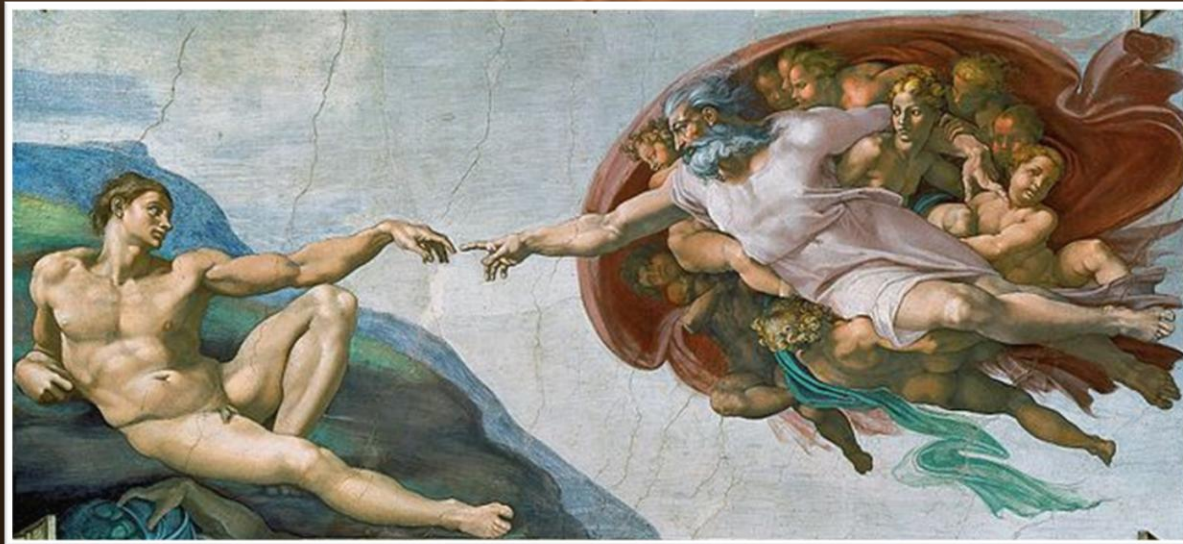
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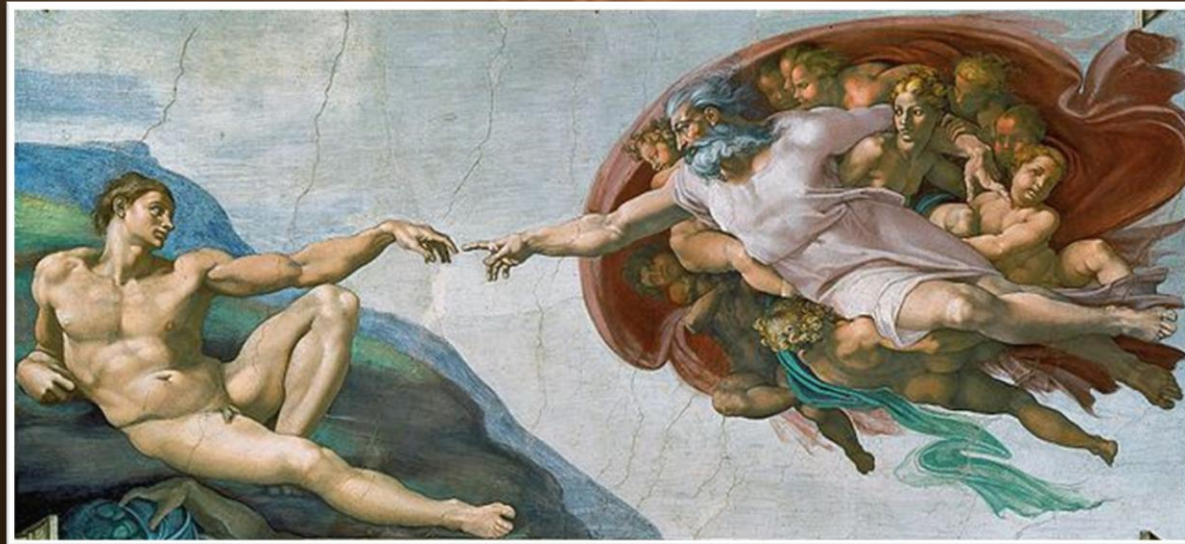
Genesis 9:6

Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.



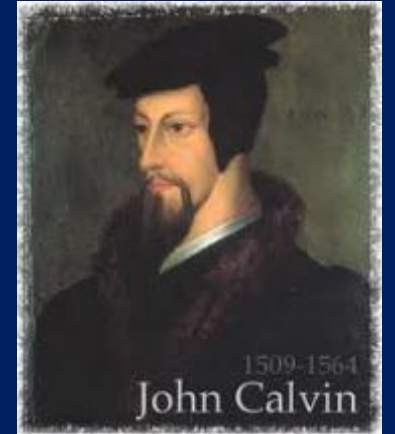
James 3:9

With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God.

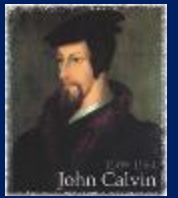


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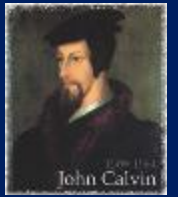


c) Calvinism's Misunderstanding of Death



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- 3) Lexical definition: separation
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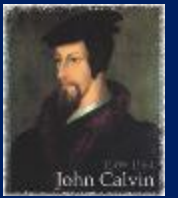
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Ephesians 2:1-5

¹ “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)”



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Loraine Boettner

“In the Epistle to the Ephesians Paul declares that Prior to the quickening of the Spirit of God each individual soul lies dead in trespasses and sins. Now it will surely be admitted that to be dead, and to be dead in sin, is clear and positive evidence that there is neither aptitude nor Power remaining for the performance of any spiritual action. If a man were dead, in a natural and physical sense, it would at once be readily granted that there is no further possibility of that man being able to perform any physical actions. A corpse cannot act in any way whatever, and that man would be reckoned to have taken leave of his senses who asserted that it could. If a man is dead spiritually, therefore, it is surely equally as evident that he is unable to perform any spiritual actions, and thus the doctrine of man's moral inability rests upon strong Scriptural evidence.”

Loraine Boettner, *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination* (Philipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1932), 65-66; quoting Warburton, *Calvinism*, p. 48.

Arthur Custance

“A corpse does not cry out for help.”

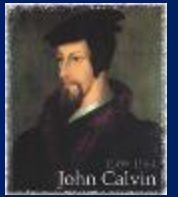
Arthur Custance, *The Sovereignty of Grace* (P & R Press; First Edition, 1979), p. 18.

Using a Foolish Analogy to Support Calvinism

“Calvinists say, ‘Since he is dead, it is impossible for him to believe.’ This is a foolish analogy!...A person who is physically dead cannot receive Christ as his Savior, but neither can he speak, breathe, laugh, walk, live a righteous life, or sin.”

Bob Kirkland, *Calvinism: None Dare Call It Heresy; Spotlight on the Life and Teachings of John Calvin* (Eureka, MT: Lighthouse Trails, 2018), 35.

c) Calvinism's Misunderstanding of Death



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“Death” in the Old Testament

māwet: “Death is the consequences and the punishment of sin. It originated with sin. A grand theme of the Old Testament is God’s holiness, which separates Him from all that is in harmony with His character. Death, then, in the Old Testament means ultimate separation from God due to sin.”

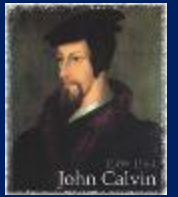
Elmer B. Smick, “*māwet*,” in *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, ed. R. Laird Harris and Gleason L. Archer and Bruce K. Waltke (Chicago: Moody, 1980), 1:1169.

“Death” in the New Testament

thanatos: “that separation (whether natural or violent) of the soul from the body by which the life on earth is ended.”

Joseph Henry Thayer, *Death - Thanatos*, Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Being Grimm's Wilke's Clavis Novi Testamenti (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1977), 282.

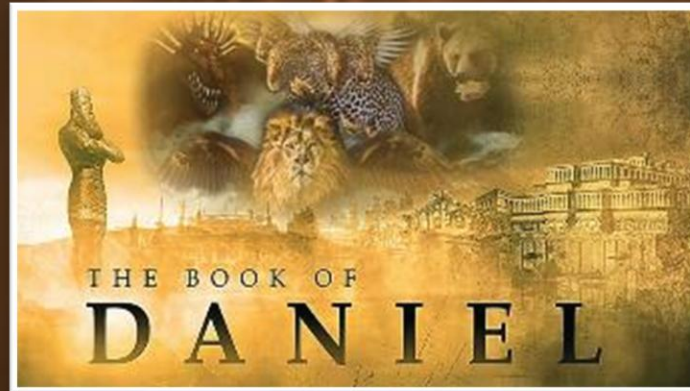
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Daniel 12:2

“Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting (olam) life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting (olam) contempt.”



Matthew 25:46

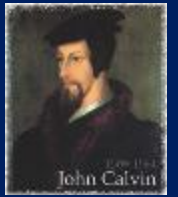
“These will go away into eternal (*aiōnios*) punishment,
but the righteous into eternal (*aiōnios*) life.”

αἰώνιος

aiōnios / eternal



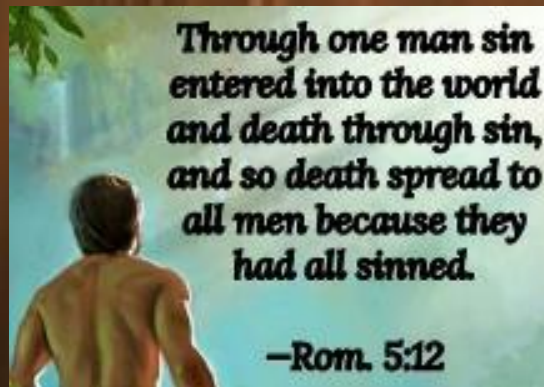
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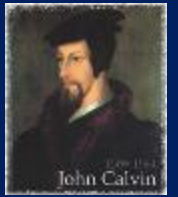
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“¹⁶ The Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die (*muwth*).’”



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John 16:7-11

“⁷ But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; ¹¹ and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”





Dr. Robert R. Congdon

Oops! I Thought I Was a Four - Pt Calvinist (Greer, SC: Congdon Ministries International, 2014), 48.

“While I do agree that salvation comes through the workings of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, I disagree with the idea that God must first predispose some to believe and receive it, for the Word of God and the Holy Spirit are sufficient in and of themselves in bringing about the new birth. Instead of forcing individuals to be saved through the irresistible prompting of the Holy Spirit, God uses His Word and the convicting work of the Holy Spirit to confirm its truth in order to bring individuals to the point of decision. It is certainly God’s grace that offers it, but at this point they are free to accept or reject salvation.”



Dr. Robert R. Congdon

Oops! I Thought I Was a Four - Pt Calvinist (Greer, SC: Congdon Ministries International, 2014), 69-70.

“...their [Calvinism’s] definition of total depravity negates the sufficiency of the power of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to give life...”

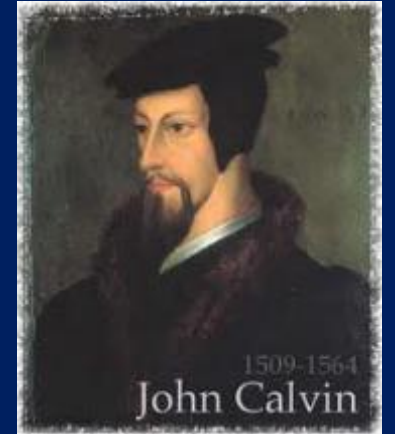
Death: Calvinism vs Biblicism

	CALVINISM	BIBLICISM
Spiritual death:	Corpse, cadaver	Separated
Consciousness:	Cessation, lifeless	Aware
Results:	Inability	Can hear and believe
Spiritual response:	Regeneration first	God's Word, Spirit's conviction, Gospel's power
Regeneration:	Before faith	Result of faith

Adapted from Robert R. Congdon, *Oops! I Thought I Was a Four - Pt Calvinist* (Greer, SC: Congdon Ministries International, 2014), 22.

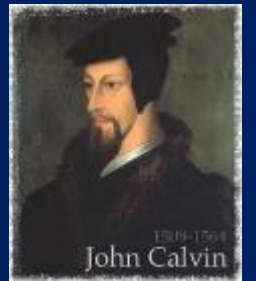
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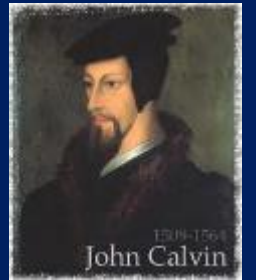
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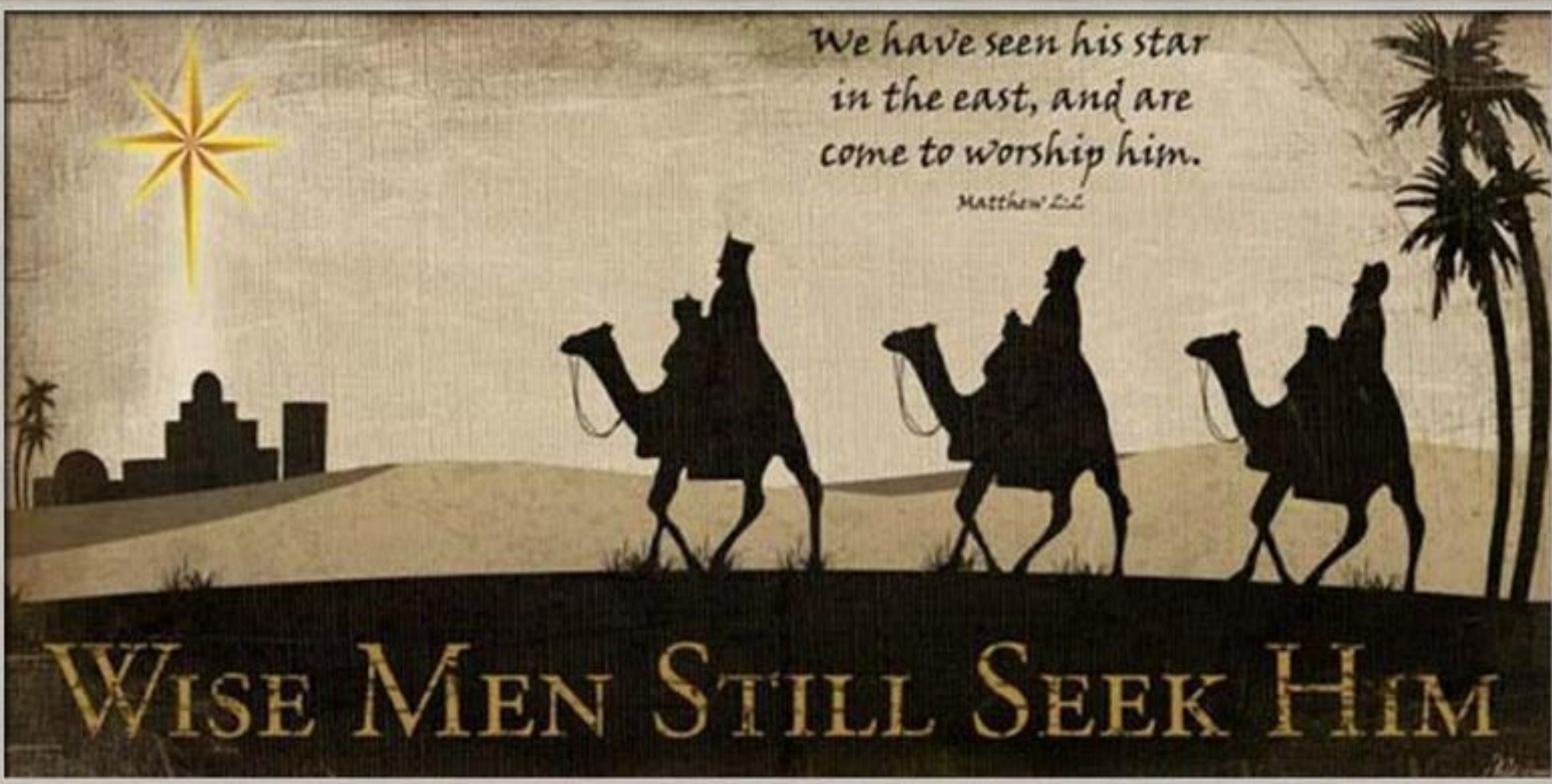
- 1) Lost man can seek God (John 16:7-11; Acts 10–11)
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- 3) Lost man can reason (Matt. 21:23-27)
- 4) Lost man can believe (exercise faith) in God (John 3:18)



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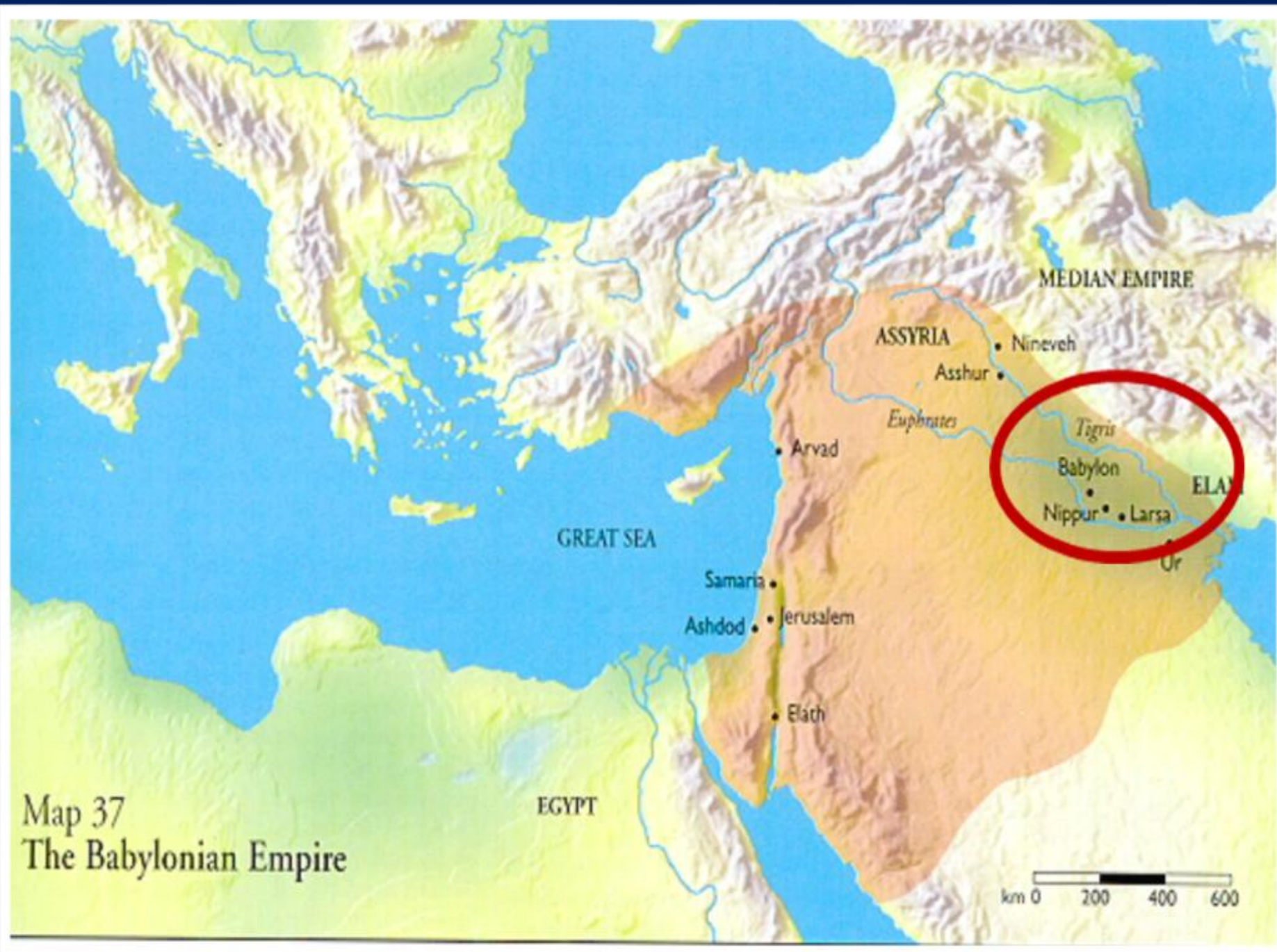




*We have seen his star
in the east, and are
come to worship him.*

Matthew 2:2

WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM



Acts 10:2

“¹ Now *there was* a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, ² a **devout** man and one who **feared God** with **all his household**, and **gave many alms** to the *Jewish* people and **prayed to God continually**.”



Acts 11:14

“and he will speak words to you by which you
[Cornelius] will be saved, you and all your household.”



Acts 17:26-27

²⁶ and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, ²⁷ that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us (Italics added)



Romans 3:11

“THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,
THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD.”



John 12:32

“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.”



John 16:7-11

“⁷ But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; ¹¹ and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”



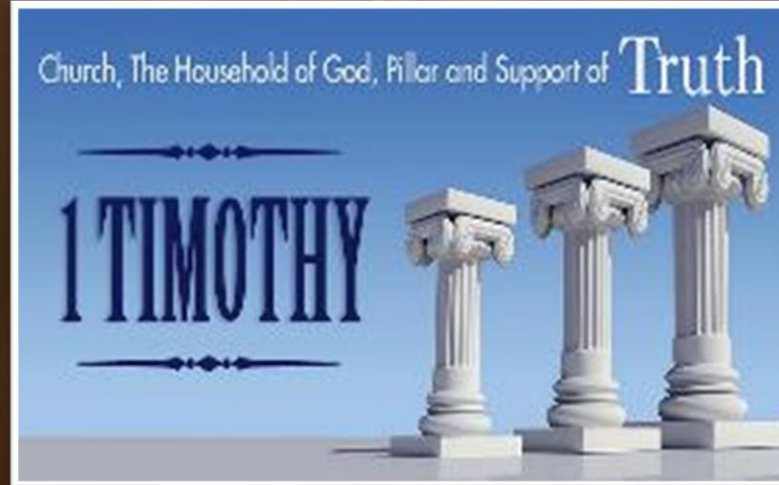
Isaiah 55:10-11

¹⁰ “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
And do not return there without watering the earth And
making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the
sower and bread to the eater; ¹¹ So will My word be which
goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire, And without
succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.”



2 Timothy 3:15

“and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”



2 Timothy 3:16-17

“All Scripture is inspired by God [*theopneustos*] and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”



Romans 1:16

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Not Ashamed



Romans 1:18-20

“¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”



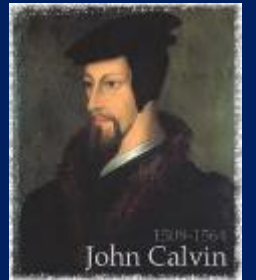
Psalm 19:1-4

“¹ The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. ² Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. ³ There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard. ⁴ Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun.”



d) Calvinism Underestimates What Lost Man Can Do

- 1) Lost man can seek God (John 16:7-11; Acts 10–11)
- 2) **Lost man can hear from God (Acts 10:30-32, 44-48; 11:14)**
- 3) Lost man can reason (Matt. 21:23-27)
- 4) Lost man can believe (exercise faith) in God (John 3:18)



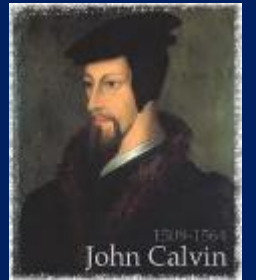
Acts 11:14

“and he will speak words to you by which you
[Cornelius] will be saved, you and all your household.”



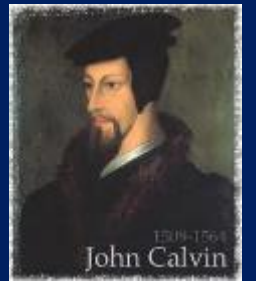
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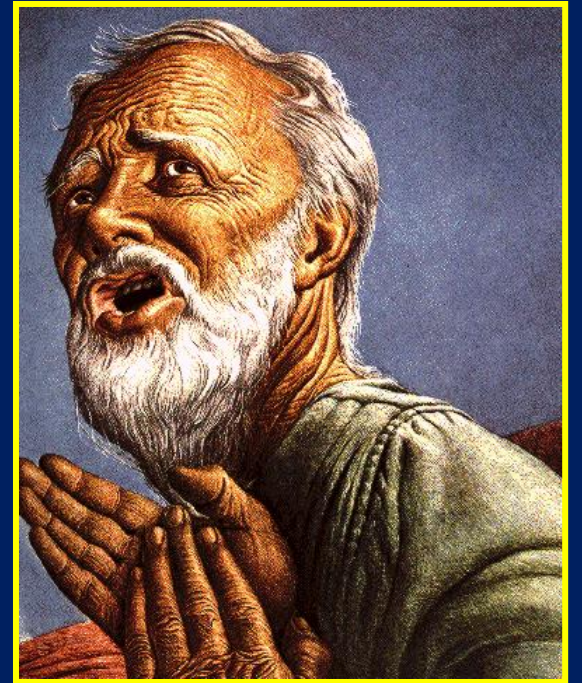
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Passage Conditioning Salvation on Faith Alone (*Sola Fide*)

- Genesis 15:6
- John 3:16; 5:24; 6:28-29, 47; 16:8-9; 20:30-31
- Acts 16:30-31
- Romans 1:16; Ephesians 2:8-9
- Hebrews 11:6



Belief – God's One Condition for Justification

Gen 15:6

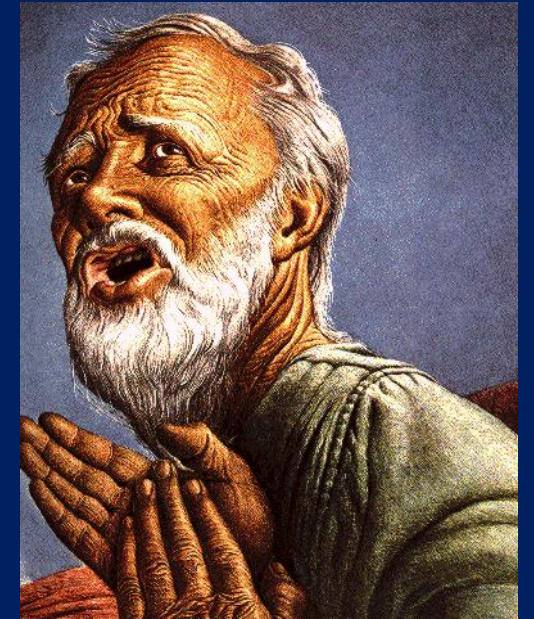
Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Acts 16:30-31

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."



John 20:30-31

“Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”



Belief-God's One Condition for Justification



“...because upwards of 150 passages of Scripture condition salvation upon believing only (cf. John 3:16; Acts 16:31).”

Lewis Sperry Chafer, vol. 7, *Systematic Theology*
(Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 265-66.



Dr. Robert R. Congdon

Oops! I Thought I Was a Four - Pt Calvinist (Greer, SC: Congdon Ministries International, 2014), 51.

“Furthermore, why would God admonish and warn unbelievers for being spiritually blind and deaf if it were not in their power to respond?...Is this not a mockery? It would be like chiding a legless man for being unable to walk.”

V. Running TULIP Through the Grid of Scripture

- A. Total Depravity
- B. Unconditional Election
- C. Limited Atonement
- D. Irresistible Grace
- E. Perseverance of the Saints



T Total Depravity
U Unconditional Election
L Limited Atonement
I Irresistible Grace
P Perseverance of the Saints

A. Total Depravity

1. The starting point
2. Total Depravity properly defined
3. Calvinism: Total Depravity = inability
4. Calvinism's overstatement of Total Depravity

