

OFFICER TRAINING
Run, Don't Tiptoe Through the TULIP
Lesson 5

Introduction:

The Doctrines of Grace ... "Five Points of Calvinism"

T – Total _____
U – Unconditional _____
L – Limited _____
I – Irresistible _____
P – _____ of the Saints

- Not a new teaching - held since Augustine (400 A.D.)
- Formulated in 5 points by _____ (Holland) in 1619, 55 years after John Calvin's death
- Formulated in response to 5 point doctrinal challenge of followers of _____, a Dutch professor
- Incorporated into the majority of the great creeds
- Believed by: Luther, Knox, J. Edwards, J. Newton, Spurgeon, Schaeffer, Packer, Sproul, etc.

Truths that emphasize that: SALVATION IS _____,
Unmerited favor ... apart from anything we do, including even our believing.

I. Total Depravity ... de - thoroughly pravus - crooked

Not mean

- as sinful as one could possibly be
- as comprehensive as could be
- a complete absence of relative good

Means

- man's nature is corrupt, & sinful throughout
- unable to do anything pleasing to God
- unable to do anything to cause our salvation

Better Names: Radical depravity or _____

Genesis 6:5

Jeremiah 17:9

When man FELL ... how far did he plummet?

Three Views of the Effects of the Fall (Moral Pathology):

1. Man is well ... _____ ... all he needs is spiritual vitamins, exercise, check up once in a year.

Human nature is totally indeterminate ... spontaneous at any moment.
Adam exerts only a bad example on us.

All man needs is to be instructed (Education = savior) & a good example.

In this view, the purpose of the atonement was to give this good example.
Neither the pollution nor the guilt of Adam's sin is transferred to us.

2. Man is sick ... _____ ... he needs a spiritual tonic / medicine ...

Man might even be mortally sick, but with proper drugs, care, miracle of modern spiritual medicine and the will to live who can tell what might happen? What we need is to work hard to cure our spiritual ills.

The pollution of sin is transferred by Adam to us but not the guilt.

3. Man is dead ... _____ ... man needs a total infusion of life ... Human nature is "fixed" unless God changes it.

Ephesians 2:1-6

Illustration: Myasthenia Gravis ¹

If one does not understand this doctrine (depravity) the tendency is to distort all the other doctrines of grace.

Pitched battle on this doctrine in 5th century between

Pelagius said that there is no responsibility without free will (ability to choose the good) ... "If I ought to do something, I can."

- ' • The will is neutral ... free to choose good or evil at any given moment.
Sin is only deliberate and unrelated choices for evil.

The whole concept of original sin (hereditary principle of sin) Pelagius threw out the window which implied:

¹James M. Boice, *Foundations of the Christian Faith*, Downers Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press, revised edition, 1986, p. 203.

1. We're all born like Adam before his fall.
2. We're able to live free from sin if we desire to do so and can do this even without an awareness of Christ and his work and the work of the Holy Spirit.

This of course led to a denial of the absolute need of the unmerited favor of God in salvation. The will of man (not the will of God) is ultimate in salvation.

Augustine (following Paul's concept of "nature") defined the FREEDOM of the will as the power to choose as one wishes but in accordance with one's

ABILITY is the "power of the agent to change his own subjective state, to make himself prefer what he does not prefer and to act in a given case in opposition to the coexistent desires and preferences of the agent's heart. Thus man is as truly free since the fall as before it, because he wills as his evil heart pleases. But he has lost all ability to obey the Law of God, because his evil heart is not subject to that Law, neither can he change it (Rom 8:7-8)." ²

Luke 6:43-45

Psalm 51:5

Therefore, the will, though free in one sense, is bound in another.

Total Inability means *Fallen Man cannot*:

- _____ to the law of God - Rom.8:7,8
- Please God - Rom.8:7,8
- Understand the things of the Spirit of God - I Cor.2:14
- Bear to hear the Word - John 8:43
- Accept the Holy Spirit - John 14:16,17
- Come to Christ unless the Father enables - John 6:44, 65

This bondage applies to one's relationship with God ...
not which make of car or brand of toothpaste I will buy.

Illustration (Boice): Carnivore or Herbivore nature

The Point: We are by nature "sinivores" ... we eat sin because it is consistent with our nature.

SINFUL MAN IS _____
Job 14:4
Jeremiah 13:23

² A. A. Hodge, *Outlines of Theology*, p.289.

No one ever thought _____ who thought _____."

II. Unconditional Election

Definition: That God, before the foundation of the world, chose certain individuals from among the fallen members of Adam's race to be objects of His undeserved favor, while others He passed by; His choice not determined by or conditioned upon anything that man would say, think, or do.

Ephesians 1:4-6

1 Corinthians 1:27-31

Many evangelicals are disturbed by idea of God choosing who is to be saved.

Why? To paraphrase Michael Horton:

TO _____ TO ELECTION, ONE MUST FIRST -
_____ ON HIMSELF IN THE MATTER OF
SALVATION.

Biblical Relationship Between: _____ & *Man's Believing*

Acts 13:48 "... as many as had been appointed to eternal life *believed*."

John 10:26 "*But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep.*"

It is _____ and _____ fairness ... It's _____ and _____
If God were ONLY just - all would be in hell.

Injustice can only be charged when one has a claim on another.

If He owed salvation and failed to give it - that's injustice.

But He owes no one - all have rebelled against Him.

J. I. Packer "God owes sinners no mercy of any kind, only condemnation; thus it is no injustice if He does not resolve to bless them, but it is a wonder of free grace when He does."

Praise His Name: He is not only just, but He is also *merciful & gracious to save some, none of whom deserve it.*

Salvation is a **GIFT** from God, not a duty of God ...

PREDESTINATION - TWO-SIDED

1. His choosing unto life - _____

Showing Mercy - Rom.9:16

God actively intervening in hearts of sinners, the elect (spiritually dead).

2. His condemning unto death - _____

Hardening - Rom.9:16

God's passively giving sinners over to their sin, being already hardened against God (removing the restraints on their sin)

Condemned - not because passed by but because of their sin ...

Our sinfulness is seen in our struggling regarding election with the question:

"Why not all saved?"

We should be asking: ***"Why any, Lord?"*** (none deserve it)

Or taking it a step further: ***"Why me?"***

Questioning should be replaced with ***Wonder***.

Unconditional Election: Application

1. Causes _____ - 2 Pet.1:10 How know? Character qualities v.5f
2. Leads to _____ - "I am what I am by grace of God." - not my doing.
3. Leads to _____ - Paul > doxology of praise - Eph.1:3f
4. Prompts our _____ - 1 John 4:19
5. Encourages / motivates us in _____ - hope of success >
God saves sinners - 2 Tim.2:10
6. Encourages _____ - Rom.9-11; 12:1,2

*** GRATITUDE !!! ***

III. Limited Atonement

Many Christians struggle with this point.

The Issue: *For whom did Christ die?*

The Key: *What did the atonement accomplish?* (nature of the atonement)

All Christians "limit" the atonement in some way or they would believe in universalism (all are saved).

But the Bible teaches the reality of hell.

Question: ***How is the atonement limited?*** Either in:

1. Its _____ to actually save / its effectiveness, as some are not saved.
2. Its _____ ... who it was for? Its intent or design ... save the elect

Arminian View of the Atonement:

Christ died for all men, yet salvation is contingent on:

The will of man, whether he will accept or reject Christ's atoning work.

Christ, on cross, made salvation POSSIBLE for all but CERTAIN for none. ³

This is “**Provisional Atonement**” – limited in its actual effectiveness

Problem: If the death of Christ only makes salvation possible ...
Who / what makes it actual?

But the Scripture says:

Rom.9:15, 16

John 1:12,13

Summary: both Calvinists and Arminians hold to a “limited atonement”

-
- ❖ Limited in purpose (for the elect),
 - ❖ Unlimited in accomplishment (actually saves)
-
- ❖ Unlimited in purpose (all people),
 - ❖ Limited in accomplishment (makes salvation possible)

Scripture on for whom Christ died?

- ◆ The Elect – John 6:37-39 - those given by Father
- ◆ His People – Matt.1:21
- ◆ His Friends – John 15:13
- ◆ The Church – Eph.5:25-27
- ◆ Many – Mt.20:28
- ◆ His Sheep – John 10:11

What about passages that speak of Christ dying for the world or all men?

“All” is often used to convey ...

Gospel was not just for the Jews but for Gentiles as well.

“... for Thou didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.” Revelation 5:9 (*from* – not every person)

1 John 2:1, 2

PROPITIATION = to appease God’s wrath and satisfy divine justice.

Has God’s wrath been turned away / justice satisfied for everyone? **No!**

Ephesians 5:6

Possible reason why he used – the whole world ...

Scope of His propitiation is broader than just for the Jews.

³ Did Christ’s death make man “redeemable” or did he “actually redeem” those for whom He died?

“**All**” – can have different meanings ...

1. _____ – all sorts of prophets speak of Me (Luke 24:25)
2. _____ – all Adam represents or all Christ represents
(1 Cor.15:22)
3. _____ – pray for all men, including kings and those in authority
(1Tim.2:1,2)

Most often, the thrust is:

All men, _____ (Jew or Gentile)

Not all men, _____ (every individual)

“By learning why Christ died, we will also learn for whom He died.”

Doug Wilson

_____:

1. Sacrifice - a substitute to pay for one's sin > Jesus actually bore our sins
(2 Cor.5:21; 1 Pet.3:18)
2. Propitiation - appeasing God's wrath & satisfying His justice > He bore
God's wrath on cross (Heb.2:17)
3. Redemption - deliver by means of a ransom paid > He gave His life a
ransom for many (Mk.10:45; Rev.1:5,6)
4. Reconciliation - turn from enmity to friendship > we are reconciled through
His death (Rom.5:10)

The Point: *He accomplished the work* for those to whom the Father sent Him
(John 17:4,6,9; Heb.9:11,12)

Christ's death _____ the salvation of those for whom He died:

- He was crushed for our iniquities (Is.53:5)
- God made Him to be sin for us (2 Cor.5:21)
- He became a curse for us (Gal.3:13)
- Our certificate of debt against us was cancelled, having been nailed to the cross (Col.2:13, 14)

Christ didn't just make redemption possible; Christ redeemed us.

Far from limiting redemptive love of Christ ... speaks of its efficacious power.
Heb.9:11,12

Don't think this limits the number who will be saved (a multitude no one can count - Rev.7:9); it guarantees that they will indeed be saved.

IV. Irresistible Grace

SAVING FAITH

For the Arminian - *Faith is ... man's gift to God.*

For the Calvinist - *Faith is ... God's gift to man.*

Philippians 1:29 – “For to you it has been granted ... to believe in Him ...”
Acts 18:27 -- “... those who believed through grace.”

CAN'T PEOPLE RESIST THE GOSPEL?

Yes ... Many want nothing to do with Jesus (Eph.2:1-3)

Yes, even the elect, to a point - Saul (Paul) - persecuted Jesus (Acts 9:5, 6)

Perhaps some of you struggled with the Gospel ...

but ultimately - “...*whom He called, these He also justified* ...” Rom.8:30

How: Not by overpowering our wills, but by _____, so we who once resisted Christianity ***NOW FIND JESUS IRRESISTIBLE!!***

V. Perseverance of the Saints

The “_____” is not broken (Rom.8:29, 30):

Whom He ...

Foreknew >

Predestined >

Called >

Justified >

GLORIFIED!

God finishes what He starts!

Why can't this golden chain be broken?

1. The Father's immutable will – all He gave to Christ, Christ will not lose (John 6:37,39)
2. The finished nature of Christ's redemption – by one offering having perfected them (Heb.10:14)
3. The effectiveness of Christ's intercession – they are saved forever, as He lives to intercede for them (Heb.7:25)
4. The sealing work of the Holy Spirit – they are kept by the power of God (Eph.1:13,14; I Peter 1:4,5)

The Issue is **NOT** – ***Can a Christian lose his salvation?***

We are “*people of God's own possession*.” 1 Peter 2:9

The Real Question – ***Can God lose a Christian?*** No way!!! ...
He **PRESERVES** us.

John 10:28, 29 - no one can snatch us ...

Rom.8:31f - Nothing separate us ...

Better Name: “_____ ***of the Saints***”

We persevere because ... He preserves us ...

“He caused us to be born again ... to obtain an inheritance reserved in heaven for us ... protected by the power of God through faith ...” 1 Peter 1:3-5

What about those who once professed faith but turned away?

1. _____ (David, Peter, etc.)

How? - attractions of world (World)
- indwelling sin (Flesh)
- temptations of Satan (Devil)
- Also by neglecting the means of grace

2. Not all “_____” are “_____” of Christ

- Mt.7:21-23; 2Tim.3:5
- 1 John 2:18-19; 2 Tim.2:18-19

Perseverance of the Saints: Application

1) Causes us to examine ourselves – possessors of faith persevere in faith

2) When we struggle ... confidence in the sufficiency of our preserving God

Two sides to perseverance:

To the _____ > need to persevere

To those _____ > preserving grace of God

3) Provides great assurance – We are secure in Him / He will never let us go

John 3:36 - has eternal life

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.”

John 5:24 - passed from death to life

“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”

John 10:27-29 - never perish; no one can snatch us out of His hand

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.”

4) Motivates us for holy living

Don’t want to live in sin - Rom.6:1, 2

Approving the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere & blameless

Philippians 1:6, 9, 10