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Calvinism vs. Arminianism
Historical Factors

Calvinism's gospel doctrine history begins at the first church at Jerusalem. Its beliefs are the literal salvation principles, known as the "apostles' tradition".

The Arminian gospel interpretation has a specific historical connection with Pelagius, a British monk, in the third and fourth century, who openly dissented against the conventional gospel beliefs, or the "apostles' tradition", and began to disseminate by "authoritative" pronouncement that salvation requires both divine, and human cooperation.

Of course, this meant that several associated doctrinal principles, i.e., the atonement, election, faith, human depravity, grace, and other factors had too be revised, or "redefined" to accommodate the "new" radically modified gospel premise.

Strange, as it is, and never should have happened, (1) acceptance of the literal gospel theology (the truth) continually declined after approximately the third century, gradually at first, but steadily after the reformation era, and (2) indoctrination with the liberalized, free will form of the gospel (not the truth) correspondingly increased during most of the church's history.

In order for the Arminian gospel interpretation to be theoretically justified, it would imply that the apostles, and early churches did not yet rightly understand significant gospel factors, for the first three centuries. Which, is patently ridiculous to even think that the apostles could be wrong, or not fully knowledgeable about the very doctrine they received from the Lord, and in turn conveyed to the first church, and others.

Where, in the light of those alternative accounts, do you honestly think credibility lies in the controversy? The answer should be obvious, that it is with Calvinism, which aligns with the original church, or the "apostles' tradition".

Today's typical Christian automatically assumes that he identifies with the scriptural gospel, the apostles, and the early churches. When, in fact, his salvation belief system is marked by departure from the established, scripturally true gospel, as a matter of record, in the late third century, when Pelagius introduced his contrary interpretation. This is where "a little leaven that leaveneth the whole lump", was allowed to corrupt the truth.

In addition to Arminius, in the reformation period, a predominant number of dissenters in the Spurgeon era called the Remonstrants, and later John Wesley, and in our time Billy Graham, etc., and nearly all contemporary pastors, evangelists, missionaries, and most rank-and-file believers, are indoctrinated with the same false concept.

So, what can the vast majority of deceived believers say to the Lord at the judgment seat? "But, Lord, that is what we were taught, and that everyone we knew believed"! "No, we didn't study and prove it ourselves, scripturally, because we trusted our pastors that they wouldn't teach

us anything that wasn't true"! Yet, all the excuses in the world won't mitigate the blame for not learning the truth, because while a pastor is responsible for what he teaches, a Christian is responsible for what he learns, or believes!

The negative spiritual quality of Christians, and their churches, raises a serious question of how much collateral damage has resulted from their defection from gospel truth. Which truth, after all, is the doctrinal foundation of our Christian life!

How can we live right for the Lord, if we are guilty of unfaithfulness to His word? Can we walk with the Lord in other ways, if not in the one in question? To the point, man cannot have true, faithful fellowship with God, if he disagrees with, or misinterprets the truth of His word. Neither can he say he is in, or following God's will, when he hasn't proved what he believes, but "assumes" it to be true! Assumption, and presumption are common human traits, but are poor substitutes for true doctrinal learning—which must be done in the Spirit, not the flesh, which has produced the false Arminian gospel concept, that is the predominant salvation theology of today's churches!

What will you say to the Lord, when he tells you how wrong you were, directly, and asks why you didn't learn his revealed gospel truth when you were here?

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