

In Defense of Biblical Christianity

Article 6

Calvin's False Gospel, The T.U.L.I.P. Heresy

A Paper

By `

Bill Seney/Break Free Apologetics

This apologetic paper is the sixth of a series of articles I am writing called 'In Defense of Biblical Christianity.' I will be challenging false doctrines that have infiltrated, subverted, and perverted the truth of Biblical Christianity.

Apologetic Preface

There is no greater truth than the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and there is only one gospel, yet a review of the Christian landscape would expose numerous gospels.

The modern-day church is riddled with heresies, just like the Corinthian church in Paul's day. Paul laboured to bring the true gospel to the Corinthian church only to have the church infiltrated, subverted and perverted by heretics.

Evidence of this comes from his 2nd letter to them in chapter **11:4-6** that says *4For if someone comes and proclaims **another Jesus** than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a **different spirit** from the one you received, or if you accept a **different gospel** from the one you accepted, **you put up with it readily enough**. 5Indeed, I consider that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles. 6Even if I am **unskilled in speaking**, I am not so in **knowledge**; indeed, in every way we have made **this plain to you** in all things.*

Paul identifies three lies the Corinthians received readily.

1. The proclamation of another Jesus.
2. The receiving of another spirit.
3. A different gospel than the one they received.

This text is frightening when you consider that Paul was an apostle who taught the Corinthians himself, and yet they were easily moved away from the truth with apparent ease. The question becomes, why?

Paul gives us some insight into why the heretics were successful. Notice the phrase "Even if I am unskilled in speaking." The text clearly shows the Corinthians were unimpressed by Paul's oratory skills. It is, therefore, logical to assume that the heretics had strong oratory skills.

Paul's challenge to the Corinthians and the heretical teachers is that his strength lies in the knowledge of the truth, not his oratory skills. It appears the Corinthians rejected the truth in favour of a highly effective presentation of deception.

Nothing is different today; the same three lies plague the organized church worldwide, with great orators making heretical presentations and deceiving the masses.

As we read a little further in chapter 11, we discover that Paul was preaching free of charge and not boasting about his work. The heretics were making money and making great boasts of their work. This is why Paul defends himself, explaining his suffering for the gospel in verses 16-33.

Before his defence, Paul calls them out in verses 13-15. *For such men are **false apostles**, **deceitful** workmen, **disguising** themselves as apostles of Christ. 14And no wonder, for even*

*Satan disguises himself as an **angel of light**. 15So it is no surprise if his servants, also, **disguise themselves as servants of righteousness**. Their end will correspond to **their deeds**.*

We should heed Paul's words; those with excellent oratory skills, boasting of their work and making big money are false apostles, deceitful workmen and, like Satan, pretending to be a servant of righteousness.

There is a long list of heretics and heresies that I could target, and perhaps I will in future papers, but the main subject of this paper is Calvin's gospel of predestination to election.

I believe this is the greatest heresy ever to infiltrate, subvert and pervert the Christian church.

This heresy preaches another Jesus with a different spirit and a false gospel.

I intend to prove this from the scriptures.

Calvin's gospel is rooted in their theology, TULIP. T.U.L.I.P. is an acronym that stands for total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace and the perseverance of the saint. I will address each of these points as the argument advances.

Here is Calvin's TULIP theology explained.

1. **Total Depravity**- You have no say in your salvation because you are too depraved to choose God, so God had to choose you.
2. **Unconditional Election**- God hand-picked some for heaven, and the rest he decided should spend eternity in hell.
3. **Limited Atonement** -The saved were chosen before the foundation of the world, so Christ's death on the cross is only for the chosen.
4. **Irresistible Grace** - The chosen are saved by God's decision only, so it is impossible to refuse his grace.
5. **Perseverance of the Saints** -Since you can't refuse God's grace, you will be preserved because everything was up to God and determined before the world began.

I intend to prove that these tenets present a false Jesus, another spirit, and a false gospel. (**2 Cor 11:13-15**)

Calvin's TULIP gospel has God predestinating the elect and non-elect before the foundation of the earth.

1. God chose the elect to be saved by Jesus and to live forever with him in heaven.
2. God chose the non-elect to reject Jesus and spend eternity in hellfire.
3. Their key theological point is that salvation is not by faith but by election.

In this theology, faith is an instrument used to save the elect. This sounds more like pagan fatalism than “Good News.” Good news for who?

Calvin’s fatalism or predeterminism insults the very character of God, as evidenced by the statement by Calvinist preacher John Piper in this Desiring God video.¹

“God... brings about all things in accordance with his will. In other words. It isn’t just that God manages to turn evil aspects of our world to good for those who love him; it rather that He Himself brings about these evil aspects for his glory and his people’s good. This includes-as incredible and as unacceptable as it may seem-God having even brought about the Nazis’ brutality at Birkenau and Auschwitz as well as the terrible killings of Denis Rader and even the sexual abuse of a young child”

Piper’s view of God has God orchestrating a defenceless child being raped. Do not be surprised; his conclusions are consistent with the T.U.L.I.P theology.

Does this not make Calvin’s & Piper’s God diabolically evil not good?

If God determines everything, then God has the power to save everyone, yet he decides the vast majority of humanity should burn in hell.

It appears that you and I have higher morals than Calvin’s God; I believe the following illustration will prove this.

One thousand people are on the lowland side of a massive damn, and you are aware that the damn is going to break. You have at your disposal 20 buses with a seating capacity of 50 people. What will you do? Will you send 20 buses, or will you send less than 20 buses?

If you would send 20 buses, you have higher morals than Calvin’s God. Let me explain: the decision of life and death was in your hands, and you chose to grant life. In Calvin’s theology, God decided to send less than 20 buses; it was in his power to save everyone, and he chose to save a few.

It should be apparent that Calvin’s gospel is no gospel at all. By removing human free will from the equation, God becomes a diabolical monster who arbitrarily decides the masses should spend eternity in hell.

¹ Desiring God Video, All the good that is ours in Christ: Seeing God’s gracious hand in the hurt others do to us”

I am deeply offended by Calvin's assault on the character of God; I hope you are as well.

Calvin's gospel meets the parameters of a false gospel, as defined above in **2 Cor 11:3-4** and **Gal 1:6-8**.

Calvin's gospel has **another Jesus**; the Bible says in **1 Tim 2:3**, "*This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who **desires all people to be saved** and to come to the **knowledge of the truth.***"

Calvin's gospel has **another spirit**; the spirit of the gospel is a call to everyone- **Rom 1:16-17** *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. 17For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "**The righteous shall live by faith.**"*

Calvin's gospel is **another gospel**- **John 3:35-36** says *The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. 36Whoever **believes** in the Son has **eternal life**; whoever **does not obey** the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

The above three passages reveal that God wants everyone to be saved by personal volition. If a person believes and obeys the gospel, they will be saved.

Now, let's apply the Christian gospel to the dam scenario.

In the Christian gospel, all the people are warned that the dam is going to break, and the buses are sent to pick up the people. Some people get on the buses, and some don't; the warning and the means of deliverance are provided, yet the decision is left to the individual.

Which scenario sounds like how our God should act?

From a philosophical perspective, Calvin's gospel is morally bankrupt and assaults the character of God.

Please read **John 3:16-21** below and then tell me which dam scenario seems more applicable.

16"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that **whoever believes** in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18**Whoever believes** in him is not condemned, but whoever **does not believe** is condemned already, because he has **not believed** in the name of the only Son of God. 19And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20For everyone **who does wicked things** hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his **works should be exposed**. 21But whoever does **what is true** comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

A Few Questions:

1. Does the call of Jesus in **John 3:16-21** appear to be a call to a limited group hand chosen by God in eternity past?
2. Does the text call for a personal response to believing and being saved?
3. What kind of God would tell people to believe and be saved when he knows they cannot believe and be saved?

Introduction

The truth of the gospel must be defended. Calvinists and their various tenets assault the gospel. Anyone who holds to the core tenants has deserted Christ! This is not my opinion.

Paul said in **Gal 1:6-9** *I am astonished that you are so **quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.***

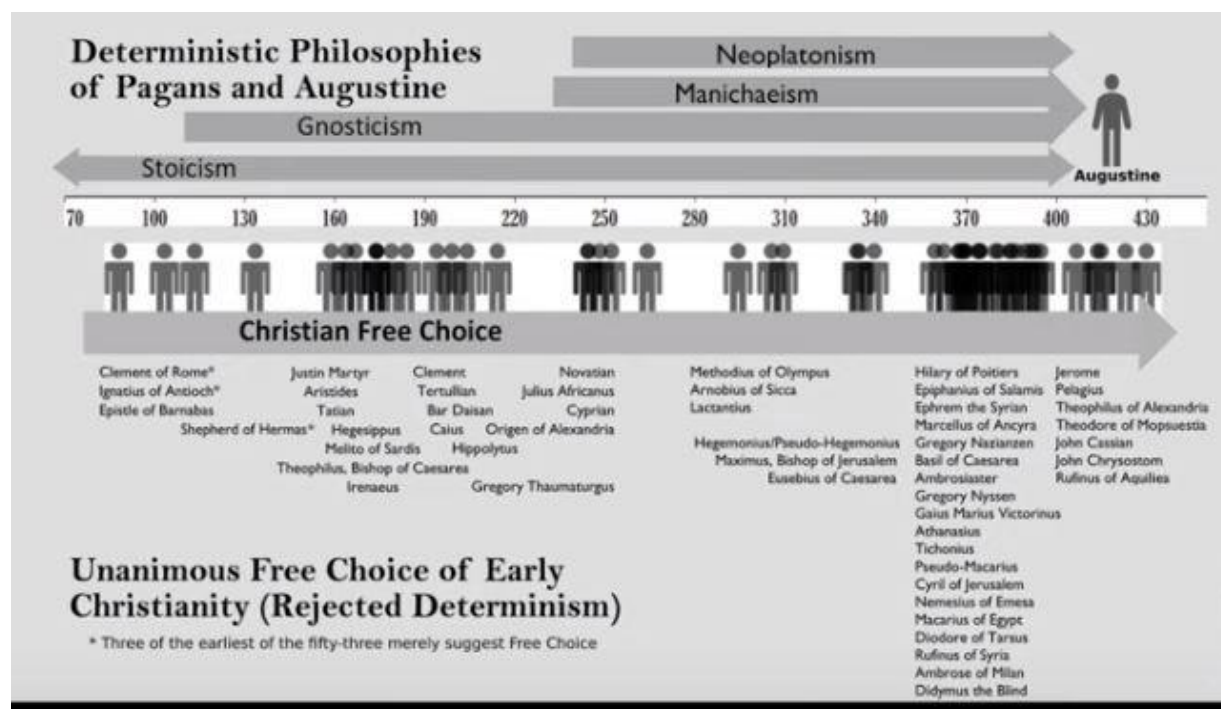
Here Observe:

1. Accepting a false gospel means you have deserted him who called you.
2. There is only one gospel.
3. Any variation of the gospel is a distortion.
4. Those who preach a false gospel will be accursed.

I have provided a listing of all the standard Calvinistic proof texts used to validate their theology in Appendix 1. I reject every text and with just cause. They are reading into the text what they want to believe.

I will not be challenging every verse, only their most vital verses, as put forth by Augustine, the first church leader to bring predeterminism into the church in 412 A.D.

Before challenging their proof text, let me draw your attention to the graphic below. This graphic illustrates what our early church fathers believed regarding determinism and Christian free choice. Dr. Ken Wilson did the research; it was his doctoral thesis at the University of Oxford. The thesis was published by Mohr Siebeck in 2018 as “Augustine’s Conversion from Traditional Free Choice to Non-free Free Will: A Comprehensive Methodology.



A summary of this thesis, *The Foundation of Augustinian-Calvinism*, has been published.²

Please notice that every church father, for the first 400 years, believed in free choice. The chart shows that 50 of 53 universally believed in Christian free choice. The other three suggest free choice. I will provide quotations shortly.

The early church fathers' writings have been preserved for us. They are online and accessible at <https://www.earlychristianwritings.com/churchfathers.html>. I will use *The Dictionary of Early Christian Belief* as my primary citation source³.

You will see many citations like *Irenaeus (c. 180, E/W), 1.346*. Here is how you read it.

The citation begins with the author's name, in this case, Irenaeus, then c.180 represents the approximate date of writing. The E means he wrote to the Eastern church, and the W means he wrote to the Western church. This citation shows E/W because he wrote to the East and West. The 1 before the period is the volume number, and the 346 is the page number. This is how each quote is detailed.

² Ken Wilson, *The Foundation of Augustinian-Calvinism*, Independently Published. 2019

³ David W. Bercot, *A Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs*, Hendrickson Publishing 1998.

Now, the promised evidence to validate the universal belief in free will/free choice.

Early Church Father's Free Will Quotes

Please read each quote and pay attention to bolded words because they clearly articulate the writer's theology.

Clement of Alexandria (c. 195, E), 2.534

*Nor will he who is saved **be saved against his will**, for he is not inanimate. But above all, he will speed to salvation **voluntarily** and of **free choice**.*

Justin Martyr (c.160, E), 1.243

*It was God's desire for both angels and men, who were endowed with **free will**... that **they chose** the things acceptable to Him. He would keep them **free from death** and from punishment. However, if they did evil, He would punish each as He sees fit.*

Irenaeus (c. 180, E/W), 1.466

*But man, being endowed with **reason**, and in this respect similar to God, having been made **accessible in his will**, and with power over himself, is himself his own cause that sometimes becomes wheat, and sometimes chaff.*

Tatian (c. 160), 2.69, 70

*We were not created to die. Rather, we die by our **own fault**. Our **free will** has destroyed us. We who were free have become slaves. We have been sold through sin. Nothing evil has been created by God. But we, who have manifested it, **are able again to reject it**.*

Melito (c. 170, E), 8.754

*There is, therefore, nothing to **hinder you from changing** your evil manner of life, because you are a **free man**.*

Methodius (c. 290, E), 6.362

*Some persons decide that man is **not possessed of free will**. Rather, they assert that he is governed by the unavoidable necessities of fate and her unwritten commands. Such persons are **guilty of impiety toward God Himself**. For they make Him out to be the **cause and author of human evils**.*

I trust it is clear from reading these quotes that determinism was rejected by the early church!

I saved Methodius for last because he says that determinists are guilty of impiety toward God and make God the author of human evils.

I believe Methodius addresses Gnosticism, Manichaeism, or the Essence sect of Judaism because each of the groups taught pre-destination to the elect and non-elect.

Augustine converted to Christianity from Manichaeism, and in 412 A.D., he introduced predeterminism in his debate with Pelagius over original sin. The link provided in the footnotes summarizes what was articulated.⁴ Here are some quotes from the article:

“Anything short of gratia irresistibilis (irresistible grace) will fail to liberate the will whose master is sin, the world, and the devil.”

“Unless God grants faith in the first place, man will never believe but remain in his stubborn, willful disbelief.”

“Augustine concludes that grace merely extended or offered is insufficient because man does not desire it, his willful bondage being what it is.”

Three doctrines become clear from these quotes: sovereign choice, irresistible grace and total depravity. These three together can only = predestination because if we are depraved, we cannot choose God; he has to choose us.

It is a historical certainty that Augustine of Hippo was the first to teach determinism and all its associated doctrines. Calvin and Luther embraced his teaching, birthing the Protestant Reformation.

Another critical fact in our discussion is that Augustine was a professor of rhetoric in Milan. Rhetoric is the art of persuasion.

I hope you are making some connections. Let’s go back to our discussion of the false apostles’ success in persuading the Corinthian church to believe in another Jesus, spirit, and gospel. If you recall, their success included convincing people to reject the truth and embrace a lie. This was done through persuasion and excellent oratory skills.

What kind of skill do you think Augustine had as a professor of rhetoric?

⁴Matthew Barrett, The Battle of the Will, Part 1: Pelagius and Augustine. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/battle-will-part-1-pelagius-augustine/#:~:text=Definition,lives%20of%20faith%20and%20holiness>.

How much skill do you think it took to transition the church from free will to determinism, especially after almost 400 years of believing in free choice?

Rhetoric is a good thing if used for noble purposes, and yes, I am using rhetoric in written form to convince you that Augustine and Calvin are heretical.

You will have to decide for yourself who is right. I do have several advantages going for me. I have the research of Dr. Wilson, which conclusively proved that 50 of 53 of our early church fathers all emphatically believed in free will and free choice, and the other 3 suggested free will. I also have access to the early church fathers' writings.

If I were standing alone, I would have no chance in this argument, but my arguments are built on the testimony of scripture, doctoral research, and the writings of the early church fathers.

The short history lesson, philosophical challenge, preliminary early church father quotations and rudimentary scriptural arguments have formed the basis of my argument, and the challenge to their proof text begins.

Argument

The argument against Augustinian theology and modern-day Calvinism, specifically TULIP and OSAS (once-saved-always-saved), will be based on the scriptures listed below that Augustine used to introduce "Predeterminism" into the church.

1. Eph 1:3-5
2. Eph 1:13-16
3. Roman 8:28-30
4. Rom 3:9-11
5. John 6:44-47
6. Phil 1:3-7
7. Phil 1:27-30

My defence will be based on exegeting the text and drawing on correlated scripture verses and early church father quotations. Please pay attention to bolded words. I am limiting the explanation to the defence of the argument. First up, **Eph 1:3-5**.

1) Eph 1:3-5 Calvinism Proof Text 1

*3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us in Christ** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4even as **he chose us in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy and blameless before him**. In love 5he **predestined us for adoption** to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of.*

Here Observe:

1. Our blessing comes from being **in Christ**; we have every spiritual blessing when we are in Him.
2. God chose us **in him** before the foundation of the world, which directly references God's foreordained plan to bring Christ into the world as his agent of salvation.
3. Being **in Him** results in us being told to be holy and blameless before him.
4. In love, he predestined us **in Him** for adoption according to his purposes.

Since predestination and predeterminism are at the heart of Calvinistic theology, I will start my defence with them.

Please notice that predestination is to adoption, making adoption the critical point of theology. If adoption occurs in eternity past, then Calvin is correct, and predestination is a legitimate doctrine.

So, to validate or invalidate predestination, we must study what the scripture says regarding adoption. The Bible teaches that adoption is in two stages. There is a Spiritual and an Actual/Physical. The book of Romans provides us with this insight.

Rom 8:12-17 Stage 1- Spiritual Adoption

Rom 8:12-17 says So then, **brothers**, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13For if you live **according to the flesh you will die**, but if **by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live**. 14For all who are **led by the Spirit of God are sons of God**. 15For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have **received the Spirit of adoption** as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17and if children, then heirs—**heirs of God** and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him**.

Here Observe:

1. We are debtors to the Spirit, if you live by the flesh you die, if you live by the Spirit you will live.
2. Only those led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
3. We received a Spirit of adoption at our conversion.
4. The Spirit confirms we are heirs and sons.
5. Then the big if- provided we suffer with him, we may be glorified.

I will not focus on the apparent requirement to live by the Spirit if you want eternal life. This completely refutes Calvinism, but the focus of my argument is adoption.

The text explicitly states that spiritual adoption is something we receive at our conversion. It makes us a Son, a child and a fellow heir with Christ. But that is not where the text ends; an honest explanation of the passage cannot omit the statement that we **suffer with him**. This suffering is mandatory; it is connected to adoption, sonship, and being an heir to Christ.

So, what is this suffering? The text makes it obvious: it is putting to death the deeds of the body, which results in life. Do you not feel the tug of sin on you every day? I do. I need the Spirit daily to help me win over my flesh. The text is clear: if the Spirit leads me, I will live; if my flesh leads me, I will die.

It is impossible to refute this teaching. I once listened to a sermon by Dr. John McArthur on Romans chapter 8. I was excited to see how he would deal with **Rom 8:12-14**. He got to the text, skirted it, and did not exegete it. You cannot imagine my disappointment. Well, the answer is now evident to me. He didn't want to open this can of worms because it so adamantly refutes his theology.

What is abundantly clear is that Spiritual adoption is a gift of God, where we receive the Spirit of God at conversion. However, this adoptive gift comes with the condition of suffering, fighting against the flesh by drawing on the power of the Spirit. If you accomplish this goal, then you will be glorified with Christ.

Spiritual adoption does not guarantee final adoption, just as the text says. Paul reveals a second adoption that aligns with the theology I just articulated. A few verses later, Paul tells us more about this (**Rom 8:23**).

Rom 8:23 Stage 2 – Actual/Physical Adoption

Rom 8:23 says *And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the Firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies*

Here Observe:

1. That our actual and physical adoption as a son occurs when our body is redeemed.
2. If our physical adoption occurs at our resurrection, it most certainly did not occur in eternity past.

Please notice the phrase, “We wait eagerly for adoption as a son, the redemption of our bodies.

Do not be deceived; our spiritual adoption is a guarantee of actual adoption if, by the Spirit, we put to death the misdeeds of the body.

I hope it is clear that predestination in this context is to adoption, which has two stages: the spiritual and the actual.

Just for the record, there is no such thing as the doctrine of “Predestination.” Predestination is to adoption, so there is a doctrine of adoption. Let's go back and read the text, which says, “*In love, he predestined us to adoption.*” It does not say predestination in eternity past.

Now, let's discuss verse 4, which says, “*Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*”

This text is cited all the time as a defence for Calvinism because it says he chose us before the foundation of the world. The big problem with their exegesis is downplaying the phrase “in him.” I will come to this shortly, but first, I need to shed some light on what the text says. Paul clarifies what “*before the foundation of the world means*” in **Gal 4:4-7**.

Gal 4:4-7 Promise of Adoption

Gal 4:4-7 *4But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*

Here Observe:

1. God sent Jesus in the fullness of time.
2. Jesus was born of a woman, under the law, to redeem those under the law.
3. The purpose was that we might receive adoption as sons.
4. Sons receive the Spirit into their hearts.
5. If you are a son, then you are an heir of God.

The significant point is that adoption occurred in time and space according to God’s plan. Jesus was born of a woman under the law in the fullness of time, per God’s foreordained plan as stated in **Eph 1:4**, *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world*.

Is not the entire testimony of scripture about God sending humanity a deliverer, the promised Messiah. Did not the first promise of a deliverer come immediately upon Adam’s fall? Are there not 365 prophecies about his first coming? (To see the list of 365 prophecies, click [prophecy](http://www.breakfreeapologetics.com/free) or go to www.breakfreeapologetics.com/free)

To illustrate this further, we need to go to Acts 2, where Peter preaches Christ, resulting in 3000 Jewish converts. Please notice the underlined words in **Acts 2:22-23**: 22: “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and **foreknowledge of God**, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

The evidence is clear: prophecy and theology both necessitate that choosing in Him is how God would save humanity. Your being **in Him** is the key to your salvation.

This theology is confirmed in **Eph 1:11-14**

2) Eph 1:11-14 Calvinism Proof Test 2

*11In him we have obtained an **inheritance**, having been predestined according to the **purpose of him** who works all things according to the counsel of **his will**, 12so that we who were the **first to hope** in Christ might be to the **praise of his glory**. 13In him you also, when **you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him**, were sealed with the **promised Holy Spirit**, 14who is the guarantee of our **inheritance** until we acquire possession of it to the **praise of his glory**.*

Here Observe:

1. In Him, we have our inheritance, having been predestined to God's purposes and will.
2. In Him, you were sealed in the Holy Spirit, who is a guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire it to the praise of his glory.
3. Notice the qualifier to be in him— "*you heard the word of truth; the gospel of your salvation and you believed in him.*"

Please notice there are two stages to the inheritance the guarantee and the acquisition, just as our study on adoption revealed two stages.

Paul states we are in Christ when we hear the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation, and then believe it.

If you have not already done so, please read article 5 regarding Biblical baptism, available at www.breakfreeapologetics.com/articles, or click [Baptism](#). It was universally believed in the early church that in baptism, one is born again, receives remission of sins, and the sealing of the Holy Spirit. The early church also believed being faithful was essential to final salvation. None of these teachings is in mainstream Christianity today.

Below are our early church fathers' beliefs about baptism.

Church Father Baptism Quotes:

Justin Martyr (c 160, E) 1. 183⁵ - Remission of Sins, Born Again, Repentance

*At our birth, we were born without our own knowledge or choice, but by our parents coming together... In order that we may not remain the children of necessity and ignorance, but may become the children of choice and knowledge, and **may obtain in the water the remission of sins formerly committed**, there is pronounced over him who chooses to be **born again**, and has*

⁵ Ibid., 51.

repented of his sins, the name of God the Father, the Lord of the universe.... And in the name of Jesus Christ... and in the name of the Holy Spirit.

Theophilus (c. 180, E), 2.101 ⁶- Remission & Bath of Regeneration

*The things proceeding from the waters were blessed by God, that this also could be a sign of men being destined to **receive repentance and remission of sins**, through the water and **bath of regeneration**- as many as come to the truth and are **born again**.*

Tertullian (c.203, W), 3.661

*... However, some think that God is under a necessity of bestowing what He has promised (to give) even on the **unworthy**. So they turn His liberality into His slavery!... For do not many afterwards, **fall out of (grace)**? Is not this gift taken away from many?*

I will not expound on these quotes; go to Article 5.

As I mentioned, the early church taught that being faithful was essential to salvation. Let's see what Paul has to say in **Eph 1:1- 2**.

Ephesian 1:1-2 Faithfulness

Eph1:1-2 says- *Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, **To the saints** who are in Ephesus, and **are faithful in Christ Jesus**: **2Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.***

Here Observe:

1. The letter is addressed to the saints in Rome who **are** faithful to Christ.
2. Grace and peace are given to those who are faithful.

Please do not miss the word "saints" and the phrase "are faithful in Christ Jesus." They are critical because they define whom the letter is written for. The letter is addressed to the faithful in Christ Jesus.

A few definitions are in order.

Strong's definition of Saint:

⁶ Ibid., 51.

ἅγιος hágios, hag'-ee-os; from ἄγος hágos (an awful thing) (compare G53, H2282); sacred (physically, pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially, consecrated):—(most) holy (one, thing), saint.

Strong's Definition of Faithful:

πιστός pistós, pis-tos'; from G3982; objectively, trustworthy; subjectively, trustful: —believe (-ing, -r), faithful(-ly), sure, true.

From these definitions, it is clear that a saint is someone sacred, consecrated, holy and morally blameless. It is also clear that a faithful person is trustworthy, sure, and true.

Both of these definitions talk about a state of being. I have provided an extrapolation of the text.

To the pure, morally blameless, the holy and consecrated who are in Ephesus and are trustworthy, believing, sure and true in Christ Jesus.

Paul is not addressing a person who made a one-time decision to follow Christ; he is addressing those living their faith.

Do not be deceived. Those who are in Christ are faithful to Christ. This is what it means to be in Him. Not understanding this is the root cause of the heresy. Below is a list of statements in Him or in Christ in Ephesians 1.

*1bTo the saints who are in Ephesus and **are faithful in Christ Jesus**:*

*3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us **in Christ** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,*

*4even as he **chose us in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy and blameless** before him. In love*

*7**In him** we have **redemption** through his blood, the **forgiveness** of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,*

*11**In him** we have obtained an **inheritance**, having been **predestined** according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,*

*12so that we who were the first to hope **in Christ** might be to the **praise of his glory**.*

*13**In him** you also, when you heard the **word of truth**, the **gospel of your salvation**, and believed **in him**, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14who is the **guaranteed** of our inheritance until we **acquire possession** of it to the praise of his glory.*

Every statement above is tied to the saints' faithfulness to Christ Jesus. Let's see what else Paul says about who gets the inheritance.

Inheritance Scriptures

Eph 5:5-6 Let No One Deceive You

*For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), **has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.** 6 Let no one **deceive you** with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.*

Here Observe:

1. When Paul writes chapter 5, he still talks to the saints and faithful of **1:1- 2**.
2. Paul's warning states the faithful can lose their inheritance if they engage in ungodly behaviour.
3. Paul says to the faithful let no one deceive you.

What was going on is very obvious. Heretics had come into the church to deceive the saints into believing they could engage in immoral behaviour and still participate in the promised inheritance. Paul adamantly warns them that this is not true.

So, the theology is clear: you can lose your inheritance. Therefore, you were not predestined to election.

Gal 5:16-21 Walk in the Flesh vs Walk in the Spirit

But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18**But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.** 19**Now the works of the flesh** are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21envy,^d drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. **I warn you**, as I warned you before, that those who do^e such things **will not inherit the kingdom of God.** 22But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24**And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**

Just a few key points.

Here Observe:

1. Would Paul tell non-Christians to walk in the Spirit? Of course, he would not; this is why we know the warning in verses **21-22** is to Christians.
2. Please pay special attention to verse 24; notice it says those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. This takes us back to the argument

about being in Christ the saints and the faithful in Christ **Eph 1:1-2**. Faithfulness is mandatory.

Other Warnings

There are over 80 warnings in the New Testament. I have listed a few for your consideration.

- 1 Cor 6:9-12
- 1 Cor 10:6-13
- Gal 6:7-8
- 2 Pet 2:20-22
- 1 Cor 15:1-2
- Col 1:21-23
- John 15:5-6
- 2 Tim 4:6-8
- 1 Cor 9:24-27
- Rom 2:4-8
- Rom 6:15-17

May I reiterate Paul's warning, "**Do not be deceived.**"

I have previously quoted our early church fathers revealing that they all believed in free choice and that being born again included repentance, baptism, and receiving the Holy Spirit. The early church also believed absolute obedience to Christ was required after conversion. Here are a few quotes to validate their position.

Early Church Father Faithfulness Quotes

Second Clement (c.150), 7.519

*Therefore, brethren, by doing the **will** of the Father, and keeping the **flesh holy**, and observing the **commandments** of the Lord, we obtain eternal life.*

Hermas (c. 150, W), 2.22

*Only those who **fear** the Lord and **keep** His commandments **have life** with God, but as for those who do not keep His commandments, there is **no life** in them.*

Justin Martyr (c. 160, E), 1.168

*Let those who are found living as He taught, be understood **not to be Christians**, even though they profess with the lips the teachings of Christ. For it is not those who make profession, but **those who do the works, will be saved.***

Theophilus (c. 180, E), 2.93

*To those who by **patient continuance** in well doing seek immortality. He will **give life** everlasting.*

Clement of Alexandria (c. 195, E), 2.363

*It is the will of God that he who **repents** of his sins and is **obedient** to the commandments should be saved.*

Cyprian (c. 250, W), 5.472

*By enduring **suffering** and by going forward to Christ by **the narrow way** that Christ trod, we may receive the **reward of his life**.*

With certainty, the church fathers I quoted would be considered heretics in the faith alone, OSAS and TULIP theology circles. I, however, believe what they taught is consistent with the Bible's theology. Here is some evidence that they are right. John says in **1 John 2:4-6** *4Whoever says "I know him" but **does not keep his commandments is a liar**, and the truth is not in him, 5but **whoever keeps his word**, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6whoever says **he abides in him** **ought to walk in the same way in which he walked**.*

The following Calvinistic proof text is called "The Golden Chain of Redemption."

3) Rom 8:28-30 Calvinism Proof Text 3- Golden Chain of Redemption

*28And we know that for those **who love God** all things work together for good, for those who are **called** according to his purpose. 29For those whom he **foreknew** he also **predestined** to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he **predestined** he also **called**, and those whom he **called** he also **justified**, and those whom he **justified** he also **glorified**.*

Here Observe:

1. Those who love God, God works all things for good; they are called according to his purposes.
2. Those whom God foreknew he predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.
3. Those he predestined, he called.
4. Those he called were also justified.
5. Those he justified he also glorified.

The Missing Link In the Golden Chain

Based on the above text, please tell me what the qualifier is to be called according to God's purpose. Does it say to those who love God? This connects the entire chain of redemption to loving God first. This is consistent with biblical theology.

Jesus taught us about the prequalification to eternal life. Please read **Luke 10:25-27** below.

Luke 10:25-27 (also Matt 22:36-40, Mk 12:28-31)

25And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” 26He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” 27And he answered, “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.**” 28And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

Here Observe:

1. The lawyer asks directly, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?
2. Jesus’ response with, what does the law say?
3. The lawyer responds by quoting **Deut 6:5** with the requirement to love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and your neighbor as yourself **Lev 19:17-18**.
4. Jesus says you have answered correctly.

Indeed, the Bible teaches that God loved us first, evidenced in the following scriptures:

Rom 5:8

8but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us

I Jn 4:10

10In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

However, our salvation is incumbent on loving him back by believing and obeying him, as evidenced below:

John 15:10

10If you **keep my commandments**, you will **abide in my love**, just as I have **kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love**.

1 Jn 4:19-21

19We love because he first loved us. 20If anyone says, “**I love God**,” and hates his brother, he is **a liar**; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21**And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.**

1 John 5:3a

3For this is the **love of God**, that we **keep his commandments**.

Calvin’s first tenant of TULIP is total depravity; he believes that humanity is so depraved that a personal act of volition cannot save them. Therefore, God had to predestine us to election. God

ordained our conversion, who then imposed irresistible grace on us so that we would become Christians.

Yet, all the scriptures we just read tell us we have to love God back. Eternal life is itself tied to loving God and your fellow man. Yet Calvin says we are incapable of doing this.

The question I have for Calvin is why God constantly commands people to do things they are incapable of. The answer is he does not; below are the steps he asks us to follow.

The first step in Christian conversion is to realize that God loves us and wants to save us from sin, the devil and death.

The second step is to love him because he first loved us.

The third step is following his instructions by believing and obeying his words.

This believing and obeying includes repenting from sin and being baptized for the remission of sins. If we do this, God will give us the gift of the Holy Spirit, as evidenced in **Acts 2:36-39**.

Acts 2:36-38 Listen, Believe, Repent, Be Baptized, Receive the Spirit

*36Let all the house of Israel therefore **know for certain** that God has made him both **Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.**” 37Now when they **heard** this they were **cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “**Brothers, what shall we do?**” 38And Peter said to them, “**Repent and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the **forgiveness of your sins**, and you will **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**.”*

Here Observe:

1. Peter preached that Jesus is Lord and Christ, the promised Messiah.
2. They heard and were cut to the heart (believed and felt conviction)
3. They ask what they should do.
4. Peter instructs them with two commands and a promise:
 - i. Repent- turn from rebellion and love and obey God
 - ii. Be baptized for the forgiveness of sins
 - iii. You will receive the Holy Spirit.

An analysis of the text reveals personal accountability, conviction, a need to do something, repent their sins, and a willingness to be baptized.

The text does not say you are so morally and intellectually depraved that you cannot hear and decide to believe and respond to the Gospel.

We chose salvation, which starts by loving God back; love is a decision made by people with free will. Now, the first link.

Foreknew Link 1

The first link in the chain of redemption is in verse 29: “It says *those he foreknew*. I intend to prove that “foreknow” is not about election in eternity past. It is about people whom God knows because of a relationship. This is validated by the testimony of scripture that follows.

Rom 11:2 God Foreknew the Israelites

*I ask, then, has God rejected **his people**? By no means! For I myself am an **Israelite**, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the **tribe of Benjamin**. 2God has not rejected **his people whom he foreknew**.*

Foreknew in this text is a relationship word.

Gal 4:8-9 Relationship Means God knows you

*8Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. 9But now that you **have come to know God**, or rather **to be known by God**, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?*

Here Observe:

1. Romans says God did not reject the people who were his; he rejected those who did not have a relationship with him.
2. Galatians says when you were a pagan, you did not know God, and God did not know you.

The foreknew in this text is predicated on a love relationship, just like verse 28, which says “*for those who love God*,” per our missing link discussion. Now Predestination.

Predestined Link 2

Earlier, we examined the word predestination in **Ephesians 1:4** and proved that predestination is both spiritual adoption at conversion and actual adoption, the redemption of our body when Christ returns.

Then, we saw in **Eph 1:11** that our inheritance was predestined by the purpose and counsel of God’s will because Christ is the source of our inheritance.

We see in verse 28 that predestination is used in the context of conformity. The text says ***predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son***.

Please recognize that all three uses of the word in the Bible have nothing to do with being chosen in eternity past. Only believers are predestined to adoption, to receive an inheritance and to be conformed to the image of Christ.

The doctrine of predestination is Satanic; it is not good news. The true gospel of Jesus Christ is deliverance from sin, death and Satan through faith.

Here is the word of our Lord and Paul, the true gospel:

Jn 3:35-36 Whoever Believes

*35The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. 36**Whoever believes** in the Son **has eternal life**; whoever **does not obey** the Son shall not see life, but the **wrath of God** remains on him*

Here Observe:

1. The call of God is to believe and obey his Son. (Free Will)
2. The wrath of God is on those who do not believe and obey his Son. (Free Will)

What kind of God would ask you to believe something you are incapable of believing and then punish you for it? Now remember that the punishment is not a slap on the hand; it is being thrown into the lake of fire. (**Rev 20:14**)

Rom 1:16-17 Believe and Live By Faith

*16For 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. 17For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from **faith for faith**, as it is written, “**The righteous shall live by faith**.”*

Here Observe:

1. Paul declares the power of God’s gospel is in personal belief.
2. God’s righteousness is from faith to faith.
3. The righteous shall live by faith.
4. Belief and living a life of faith are expressions of free will.

Calvin’s gospel contradicts the call of God to believe and obey. By necessity, the texts he uses would have to contradict the above text. You cannot have free will and be pre-programmed at the same time.

I state emphatically that I do not believe the Bible is riddled with contradictions. Calvin accepted Augustine’s pagan predetermination precepts and then misinterpreted the scriptures based on presupposition—next the called.

Called Link 3

The following link in the chain of redemption says, “that those he predestined he also called.” The question is called to what? The Bible uses the word called in many ways. Here are a few examples.

2 Thess 2:14 Called to the Gospel and Glory

*14To this **he called you through our gospel**, so that you may **obtain the glory** of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Cor 5:20 Called to Reconciliation

*20Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, **be reconciled to God***

1 Cor 1:9 Called to Fellowship

*9God is faithful, by whom you were **called into the fellowship** of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Heb 3:1 A Heavenly Calling

*Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a **heavenly calling**, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession.*

1 Thess 4:7 Called to Holiness

*For God **has called us** not for impurity, **but in holiness***

1 Peter 1:15 Be Holy

*But he who **called you** is holy, you also **be holy** in all your conduct, since it is written “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”*

Eph 4:1-2 Vocational Calling

*Therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to **walk in** a manner **worthy of the calling** to which you have been called, 2with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,*

Eph 1:18 Called to the Hope of Inheritance

*18having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what **is the hope to which he has called you**, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,*

Matt 22:14 Chosen

*For many are called, but ***few are chosen***.*

All of the above texts are relationship-based. The biblical call is a call to initial and ongoing fellowship with Jesus Christ, evidenced by the summary of how the Bible uses the word called below.

- To the gospel and glory
- To fellowship
- To holiness
- To walk in a worthy manner

- To the hope of inheritance.
- To be chosen.

The call was not in eternity past to the elect of God. The call is to a personal relationship.

What is clear to me is that Augustine's Manichaeism philosophy greatly influenced his interpretation of the scripture. Calvin was all too willing to pick up this philosophy as a means to be in opposition to the highly heretical and backslidden Roman Catholic Church. Next is justified.

Justified Link 4

The fourth link in the chain in vs 30 says, "*and those whom he called he also justified.*"

So the question is, how does God justify the believer? The answer will become apparent when we examine the following scriptures. I will not do a complete exegesis; I will only justify the argument with relevant points.

Rom 3:25-26 Justified by Faith in Jesus

*25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the **shedding of his blood**—to be **received by faith**. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one **who justifies those who have faith in Jesus**.*

Here Observe:

1. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, and this atonement is received by faith.
2. God justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

The question posed was, how does God justify the believer? The answer is by those who have faith in Jesus!

Gal 2:15-16 Justified in the Name of the Lord

*15 "We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles 16 know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by **faith in Jesus Christ**. So we, too, have **put our faith in Christ Jesus** that we may be **justified by faith** in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law **no one will be justified**.*

Here Observe:

1. A person is not justified by the law of Moses but by faith in Jesus Christ.
2. We, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus so that we may be justified by faith.
3. The works of the law of Moses will not justify anyone.

This text dogmatically states a person is justified by personal faith in Christ.

Calvin's heresy is that God used Christ to save the elect by the means of irresistible grace. God, therefore, programmed personal faith into the elect in eternity past.

If Calvinism is correct, no one in human history has ever chosen to love God. This means God will spend eternity with preprogrammed robots who were forced to love Him and forced to believe the gospel.

Titus 3:4-7 Saved By Christ Appearing, His mercy and grace.

4But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, She saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Here Observe:

1. Salvation was not in eternity past.
2. Christ had to come for anyone to be saved.
3. Our salvation was by the mercy of God.
4. He saved us by the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit (Act 2:38-39)
5. The rebirth was poured out on us generously through Christ our Savior.
6. His grace justifies us so that we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

These texts reveal that:

- Salvation took place in space and time when Christ came.
- Our salvation was rooted in God's mercy and grace.
- His grace justified us when we were born again and received the Holy Spirit.
- We might become an heir having the hope of eternal life.

In summary, God called us into a personal relationship justified by faith in Christ's atonement. This was made possible because of God's great mercy and grace. The method and means of receiving justification occurred when we were born again.

Do not be deceived; justification is not for those elected in eternity's past. It is given to:

Vs 28- Those who love God and are called according to his purposes.

Vs 29- Those who love God are called by his purposes and are known by him.

Vs 29- To those who love God, called by his purposes, foreknown by him and predestined to conform to the image of Christ.

Vs 30- To those who love God, called by his purposes foreknown by him, predestined to the image of his Son and are called to fellowship.

Vs 30- To those who love God, called by his purposes, foreknown by him, predestined to the image of his Son, called to fellowship, and justified by personal faith in Christ as a result of God's mercy and grace.

Remember our previous teachings on inheritance and the necessity of being faithful to receive final salvation. Paul confirms this teaching in **1 Cor 15:1-2**.

1 Cor 15:1-2

*1 Now **I would remind you**, brothers, of **the gospel I preached to you**, which you received, in which **you stand**, 2 and by which you are **being saved**, **if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain**. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.*

Here Observe:

1. The Gospel was preached and received.
2. The gospel requires a person to stand.
3. If you stand in the gospel, you are being saved only if you hold fast to the word preached to them.
4. If you don't hold fast, you have believed in vain.
5. Of first importance is that Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again according to the scripture.

In this text, Paul defines the terms of salvation and what the gospel hinges on. There is no room for ambiguity. Paul dogmatically reminds them that it could all be in vain if they do not stand and hold fast to his teachings. The context is straightforward if you read the whole chapter. Heretics had come into the church and challenged the resurrection; Paul is aware of this, so he explains the necessity of continuing to believe in Christ's death, burial and resurrection. He states if you reject the resurrection, you have believed in vain.

Paul does not elaborate on everything he taught them; notice the phrase if you hold fast to the word I preached and the emphasis on first importance.

This does not mean there are no other requirements; he only addresses the issue. This is easily understood even with a rudimentary understanding of the book of Corinthians.

1 Cor 15:1-2 nullifies OSAS and TULIP because the scripture demands personal ongoing faith as a condition of salvation. No one is predestined to election and has had God's irresistible grace imposed on them.

The clear Biblical teachings that follow prove OSAS to be a false doctrine because an enduring faith is necessary to be saved. If OSAS is false, so are the five tenets of Calvinism.

Believing Enduring Faith:

Matt 24:13 Endurance is Not Optional By the Word of Jesus

*13 But the one who **endures to the end** will be saved.*

2 Tim 2:12 He Will Deny Us

11The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; 12if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; 13if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

Do not be deceived. Paul is telling us plainly that if you want to reign with Christ, you must endure to the end and not deny Christ. Jesus said in **Luk 12:9**- 9but the one who **denies me** before men **will be denied** before the angels of God. In **Luk 9:62**- Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and **looks back** is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Please read the two verses together, **Heb 13:5** and **Deut 31:16-17**.

Heb 13:5 Never Leave

5Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**”

Deut 31:16-17 (also 2 Chron 15:2) You Forsake Him He Will Forsake You

16And the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers. Then this people will rise and whore after the foreign gods among them in the land that they are entering, and they will forsake me and break my covenant that I have made with them. 17Then my anger will be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and hide my face from them, and they will be devoured.

Heb 13:5 was taken from **Deut 31:6**, a few verses later in Deuteronomy, where it is stated that God will forsake those who forsake him. The teaching is clear: God will never forsake the faithful, but he will forsake the unfaithful.

Do not be deceived; an enduring obedient faith is not an option.

The early church fathers believed perseverance was the believer's responsibility and not God's robotic programming, as evidenced below.

Early Church Father Quotes

Tertullian (c. 198, W), 3.673

No one is a Christian but he who perseveres even to the end.

Tertullian perfectly aligns with the teachings of scripture he does not believe in OSAS.

Origen (c. 225, E) 4.308

*Certain of those (heretics) who hold different opinions misuse these passages. They essentially **destroy free will** by introducing **ruined natures incapable of salvation** and by introducing others as **being saved** in such a way that **they cannot be lost**.*

Here, Observe What Origen is calling Heresy:

1. There is no free will. (fatalism & irresistible grace)
2. That human nature is so depraved it is incapable of salvation. (total depravity)
3. Those being saved were not by free will. (predestination to election)
4. Once a person is saved, they cannot be lost. (Once Saved, Always Saved)

If Augustine or Calvin had read this, they would know Origen had called them heretics. I concur with Origen; these heretics have rejected the plain teaching of the gospel and replaced it with pagan fatalism.

The justified are those who love God, are foreknown by him, are predestined to be conformed to his images, and are saved by personal faith in Christ being born again and living by faith.

Do not be deceived. “The just shall **live by faith**”. (**Heb 10:38, Rom 1:17, Gal 3:11**)

The fifth and last link in the chain, vs 30, says, “*and those whom he justified he also glorified.*”

Glorification Link 5

Most of the scripture references to glory are naturally referring to God the Father and his Christ.

So the question becomes what does it mean, “those he justified he also glorified,” and when does this happen? The following texts answer both of these questions. Please read them all, and then I will provide a short comment after.

Phil 3:20-21 Our Future Glorious Body

*20But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it, we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21who **will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body**, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*

1 Cor 15:52-53 Imperishable Body

*52in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead **will be raised imperishable**, and we shall be changed. 53For this perishable body must **put on the imperishable**, and this mortal body **must put on immortality**.*

1 Jn 3:2 At His Second Coming We Shall Be Like Him

*2Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears **we shall be like him**, because we shall see him as he is. 3And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*

2 Cor 4:17 Our Current Struggles Prepare Us for an Eternal Weight of Glory

*16So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our ***inner self is being renewed day by day***. 17For this light ***momentary affliction*** is preparing for us an **eternal weight of glory beyond** all comparison,*

2 Cor 3:17-18 We Are Being Transformed by the Lord

*17Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are **being transformed** into the same image from ***one degree of glory to another***. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

Here Observe:

1. When our saviour comes, we will have a glorious body like his.
2. We will put on an imperishable and immortal body at the last trumpet.
3. When Christ appears, we will be like him.
4. After our trials on earth, we will be weighted down with glory beyond comparison.

These and other scriptures reveal that we will be glorified at the resurrection.

A consistent theme in the Bible is the concept of already but not yet. The texts we reviewed were all past tense. This is because the faithful already live in anticipation, believing in the promise of the resurrection, eternal life and glorification. The not yet is in play because the fulfillment of the promises does not happen until the second coming of Christ. We are being transformed but will become immortal when we receive our glorified body.

Below, I have restated the Golden Chain of Redemption to help bring clarity to what Paul is saying.

To those who love God, everything works together for those called according to his purpose, foreknown by him, predestined to the image of his Son, called to fellowship, justified by personal faith in Christ as a result of God's mercy and grace which will result in a glorified body and an immortal state at the resurrection for those who remain faithful to the end.

The truth is we must continue to love God and walk in the calling he has given us; we must daily be transformed by renewing our minds to conform to the image of Christ. We must keep our faith by obeying God and trusting in his grace and mercy. The result of such conduct will be immortality and our inheritance in Christ Jesus.

Since glorification is post-conversion, requires faithfulness to Christ and is not fully realized until the second coming OSAS, and TULIP is false, now on to our following proof text.

4) Rom 3:9-11 Calvinism Proof Text 4

9What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, 10as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; 11no one understands; no one seeks for God.

Calvinists believe the above scripture is evidence of the doctrine of total depravity. I intend to prove the doctrine of total depravity to be depraved totally. Indeed, man is depraved without God. However, man can respond to God’s call and be saved.

Let me draw your attention to the hall of faith in Hebrews 11. All these people were righteous before God because they believed and obeyed God. They responded to the call of God by faith.

Here are some excerpts from the chapter.

- Abel offered a better sacrifice; he was righteous
- Enoch, taken from life, pleased God, “And without faith, it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to him must believe he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”
- Noah built the ark in holy fear and was the heir of righteousness
- Abraham left his country based on God’s promise of land inheritance
- Moses was mistreated rather than enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin; he felt being disgraced for Christ was better than the treasures of Egypt

Heb 11:39-40 says- *They were all commended for their faith, yet none received what was promised since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.*

Paul is not contradicting all of scripture; he is affirming it. No one is righteous on his own; however, when a person turns to God and obeys him, God makes him righteous.

The Bible states, “Abraham believed God, **and God credited him with righteousness.** (Gen 15:6, Rom 4:3)

Every person in the hall of faith believed and obeyed God by a personal act of volition. They were saved not because they were predestined to election. They were saved by faith. If you want an unmistakable picture of Biblical faith, please read article 4, “Abraham Believed God.” You can go to www.breakfreeapologetics.com/articles or click [Abraham Believed](#).

Now, let’s look at those declared righteousness in the Bible. None of these people were predestined to election.

Here is a short list of those who were called righteous in the Bible:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Noah Gen 6:5 | 5. Cornelius Act 10:22 |
| 2. Lot 2 Pet 2:8 | 6. John the Baptist MK 6:20 |
| 3. Joesph of Arimathea Luk 23:50 | 7. Zacharias Luk 1:5-6 |
| 4. Abel Heb 11:4, Matt 23:35, I Jn 3:12 | 8. Elisabeth Luk 1:5-6 |
| | 9. Simeon Luk 2:25 |

Indeed, none of these people were righteous without God. They trusted and believed God, and God declared them righteous. “The righteous shall live by faith” **Heb 10:38**.

Please understand that a person can be righteous in God’s sight. Calvinists love to quote **Isa 64:5-6** -Our righteousness is as filthy rags. Let’s examine the text.

5Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways: behold, thou art wroth; for we have sinned: in those is continuance, and we shall be saved. 6But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness’s are as filthy rags, and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. 7And there is none that calleth upon thy name, **that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee**: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, **because of our iniquities**.

The text is clearly saying the nation of Israel is as filthy rags because they have abandoned righteousness. God has hidden himself from them because of their iniquities. Please notice in verse 5 that God meets and rejoices with those who worketh righteousness and remember his ways.

The misquoting of this text is Satanic; it deceives believers into believing that there is no one righteous and no one can be righteous, and therefore we can excuse our sins.

This is blatantly false; the Bible is full of righteous people (evidenced above) who believe and obey God; they are righteous because of faith. The very call to faith is based on obedience. Here is what Paul said in **Rom 1:5**: through whom we have received grace and apostleship **to bring about the obedience of faith** for the sake of his name among all the nations,

Do not be deceived by these heretics who are perverting the word of God to their demise and yours unless you take heed to their deceptions.

Now let’s look at things from the opposite direction, **Rom 1:28-32**.

Roman 1- Suppression of Truth/Depravity Rom 1:18-21, 28 (NIV)

*18The **wrath of God** is being revealed from heaven against all the **godlessness and wickedness** of people, who **suppress the truth by their wickedness**, 19since what may **be known about God** is **plain to them**, because God has made it **plain to them**. 20For since the creation of the world God’s **invisible qualities**—his **eternal power and divine nature**—have been **clearly seen, being understood** from what has been made, so that **people are without excuse**.*

21For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

I will state it again: the doctrine of total depravity is depraved totally, and the above text proves it.

Paul tells us the root cause of depravity.

Here Observe:

1. God's wrath is poured out on godlessness and wickedness because people suppress the truth in their unrighteousness.
2. God has revealed himself to all humanity in creation, revealing his invisible qualities: eternal power and divine nature. Every human has this understanding, so God says people are without excuse.
3. In verse 21, Paul says that people knew God but refused to glorify or give thanks to him; their thinking became futile, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

The text reveals that humanity is without excuse because all humans know God through general revelation. When humanity chooses by his own volition to suppress their God-given knowledge of God, their thinking becomes futile, and their hearts darken. This result is God's wrath; they are given over to a depraved mind.

The Consequences of Depravity Rom 1:22-32

*22Although they **claimed to be wise**, they **became fools** 23and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.*

*24Therefore God **gave them over in the sinful desires** of their hearts to **sexual impurity** for the degrading of their bodies with one another. **25They exchanged the truth about God for a lie**, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.*

*26Because of this, God gave them over to **shameful lusts**. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. 27In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. They have **become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity**. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30slanderers, **God-haters**, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they **invent ways of doing evil**; they disobey their parents; 31they have no understanding, no fidelity, **no love, no mercy**. 32Although **they know God's righteous** decree that those who do such things **deserve death**, they not only continue to do these very things but also **approve of those who practice them**.*

Here, Observe the Consequences of Rejecting the Knowledge of God:

1. God gave them over to sinful desires.
2. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie.
3. God gave them over to shameful lusts, which resulted in shameful acts of lesbian and homosexual sex.
4. Mankind became filled with wickedness, evil, greed, depravity, etc.
5. Mankind invented new ways of doing evil.
6. They know God's righteous decree that those who behave this way deserve death, they don't care, they decide to engage and approve of others who practice the same evil.

All of these texts prove rejection by free will.

Rejection by Free Will:

1. All humans know God exists and, by an act of personal volition, suppress the truth so they can live in sin.
2. God made sure everyone knew he existed by understanding his divine qualities- His eternal power and divine nature are seen in creation.
3. All humans know God exists, yet refuse to glorify or give thanks to him, and because of this, their thinking becomes futile, and their hearts become darkened.
4. All humans know God, but most decide it is not worthwhile to retain this knowledge.
5. If a person professes to be wise, they become fools.
6. Rejecting God results in every type of wickedness vs 24-32.
7. Even after all the sins, they still know God's moral standard, choose sin, and surround themselves with others who practice the same.

Do not be deceived. The vast majority of humanity has always and will always reject God, but this is by their own volition. The truth is most love sin more than God. This is not because God in eternity past predestined them to hell. It is, as Paul teaches that they willingly suppress the truth and choose to reject the knowledge of God.

Jesus confirms man's choice of sin over salvation in the following text:

Jn 3:19-21 Sin or Salvation (NIV)

*19This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light **because their deeds were evil.** 20Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light **for fear that their deeds will be exposed.** 21But whoever **lives by the truth** comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.*

Jesus is making it clear that if people live by the truth, they come to the light. Jesus tells us this is a choice; people love darkness or light.

I reiterated the doctrine of Total Depravity is indeed depraved totally.

Onto to proof text number 5.

5) John 6:44-47 Calvinism Proof Text 5

*44No one can come to me **unless the Father who sent me draws him**. And I will raise him up on the last day. 45It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has **heard and learned from the Father comes to me**— 46not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. 47Truly, truly, I say to you, **whoever believes has eternal life***

Here Observe:

1. No one can come to Jesus unless the Father who sent me draws him.
2. Those drawn will be raised on the last day.
3. Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Jesus.
4. Whoever believes has eternal life.

This is another example of heretical presuppositions perverting the word of God. God the Father has always been calling humanity to faith. It was always his plan to save humanity by faith through Jesus Christ.

Let's consider the eight (8) main covenants of God.

1. Edenic Gen 2:15-16; Ps 8:5, 6 Rule & Reign

Gen 2:15-16 *The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to **work it and keep it**. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you **shall surely die**."*

Ps 8:5-6 *Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour.6 You **have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet**,*

Adam was given dominion and rule over the entire earth, but he was called to obey God. If he does not obey God, he will die. Adam's disobedience is the root cause of sin and death. In this story, we see Satan as the antagonist, bringing about our downfall by getting Adam and Eve to reject the word of God.

2. Adamic Gen 3:15 Redemption

Gen 3:15 *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."*

God immediately sees our predicament and promises deliverance with the first messianic prophecy. God will redeem humanity through the woman and her offspring, Jesus. God will crush Satan by defeating his offspring, those who are under the curse of death.

3. Noahic

Gen 6:5-9

Restraint, No Curse, Rainbow

Gen 6:5-9 *The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 7 So the LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.” 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. 9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.*

Gen 8:21: *“I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. 22 While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”*

Gen 9:13 *I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.*

Noah is the only preacher of righteousness, the only one who obeys God. The sin on the earth was beyond repair, so God destroyed the world and then promised not to curse the ground or living animals again. He gives a rainbow as a sign (We see God’s grace preserving the race so Christ could come).

4. Abrahamic

Gen 12:1-3

Restore

Gen 12: 1-3 *Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed*

Humanity still did not follow the ways of God, evidenced by the tower of Babel’s story (**Gen 11:1-9**), where man sinks into sin again. However, God has a plan. He will use a single family to bless all the nations of the earth. God called Abraham and he obeyed God, he left his country, and was willing to sacrifice his son in obedience to God, so Abraham became the father of all the righteous. Abraham believed and obeyed God, he was not perfect, but he obeyed God (Gen 18:19, 22:15-18) and walked in his ways so he was credited with righteousness.

5. Mosaic**Ex 19-24, Lev 26:1-3****Reveal**

Lev 26:1-3 *"You shall not **make idols** for yourselves or erect an image or pillar, and you shall not set up a figured stone in your land to bow down to it, for I am the LORD your God. 2You shall keep my Sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD. 3"**If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them.***

The mosaic covenant is God moving forward with his promise **to bless all** people of the earth. Israel was to be a holy nation, a kingdom of priests who would glorify God and **draw other nations back to him**. They were to worship him by the standards he set out. They failed and did not keep the covenant. Part of the covenant was blessings and curses listed in (**Deut 27 and 28**). Obedience would bring blessings, and disobedience would result in the loss of their homeland.

6. Palestinian**Dt 28:1 30:1-5****Return**

Dt 30:1-5 *"And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God **has driven you**, 2and return to the LORD your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, 3**then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples** where the LORD your God has scattered you. 4**If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there he will take you.** 5**And the LORD your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And he will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers.** 6**And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.***

This covenant promised that even though exiled, God would eventually restore his people back to the land. This had to happen as part of God's plan to redeem humanity.

7. Davidic**2 Sam 7:12-16****Reign**

2 Sam 7:12-16 *12When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, 15but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. 16And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. **Your throne shall be established forever.**"*

The next advancement to the promise in Gen 3:15 and to Abraham was the Davidic covenant, where a King would sit on David's throne. This was part of God's sovereign plan to bring about the Messiah, the ultimate eternal King sitting on David's throne.

8. New

Jer 31:27-35

Regenerate

Jer 31: 27-34 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³²not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: **I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.** And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. **For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.**”

God’s plan in human history was to bring about a new covenant where he would restore humanity and the earth to its original purpose.

All eight covenants are a **testimony to the grace of God**. From the beginning, it was God’s plan to have a people for himself who would love and enjoy his fellowship forever. These eight covenants connect everything to Christ’s Incarnation, Birth, Death, Resurrection, Ascension, Current Reign, and ultimate and complete victory at his Second Coming.

Reading the eight covenants should give you a different view of Eph 2:8-10, which says- *8For by **grace** you have been saved **through faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is the **gift of God**, ⁹not a result of works, so that **no one may boast**. ¹⁰For we are **his workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

Being saved by Grace and being drawn by the Father are not in opposition. They are in perfect alignment. God has been working from the beginning to save people through Christ.

Do not be deceived; being drawn by God is God’s active grace extended to humanity to be saved by Christ.

Here is some additional scriptural evidence.

John 14:9

*“If you have seen me, **you have seen the Father.**”*

Jn 12:49

*49For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—**what to say and what to speak.***

So indirectly, whenever Jesus speaks, he is speaking the words of the Father. So if a person hears and believes Jesus’ words, they have learned and heard from the Father.

The Bible is the call of our Father, drawing humanity back to himself first by the prophets and then by Jesus, as stated below in **Heb 1:1-3**.

Hebrews 1:1 The Father Speaks Through Jesus

*1Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers **by the prophets**, 2but in these last days he has spoken to us **by his Son**, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3He is the radiance of the glory of God and the **exact imprint of his nature**, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.*

John 6:44-47 does not teach Irresistible Grace; it teaches God's Active Grace, calling humanity back to himself. Those who hear the call and believe and obey his voice are said to have faith.

Now, let's see what the church fathers have to say.

Early Church Father Quotes

Clement of Rome (c.96, W), 1.13

*For what reason was our Father Abraham blessed? Was it not because **he worked** righteousness and truth through faith?*

Clement of Alexander (c. 195, E), 2.435

*What does it mean to "be drawn by the Father"? It means to **become worthy** to receive the power of grace from God so as to run without hindrance.*

Who is worthy to receive grace, only those who hear and learn from God, have faith.

The testimony of our early church fathers agrees with the Bible they do not believe in irresistible grace. Now proof-text 6.

6) Phil 1:3-7 Calvinism Proof Text 6

*3I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5because of your **partnership in the gospel** from the first day until now. 6And I am sure of this, **that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ**. 7It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.*

Here Observe:

1. Paul remembers and prays for the Philippians because they partner with him in the gospel.
2. Their partnership is evidence of their commitment to the gospel. Remember, this is likely a house church, not a megachurch like today.

3. He says I am sure of this, which is his opinion, not theology.
4. He says it is right for me to feel this way about you—another opinion.
5. He then states why he feels this way.
 - a. Because I hold you in my heart.
 - b. For you are all partakers with me of grace.
 - i. Both in my imprisonment and defense and confirmation of the gospel.

Paul's confidence is not the doctrine of predestination. His confidence is in their commitment to the gospel. They supported him while he was in prison and are helping him defend the gospel.

Please notice the phrase **will bring it to completion** is directly tied to the day of Jesus Christ. The day of Jesus Christ is the day the Lord returns, and we are made immortal, glorified and live forever.

What is being brought to completion is their resurrection—the culmination of why the good work was begun.

Paul says he is confident they will be raised in the resurrection because he sees evidence of their commitment to the gospel.

Do not be deceived this text is not about predestination to election. Now, proof text 7.

7) Phil 1:27-30 Calvinism Proof Text 7

*27Only let your manner of life **be worthy of the gospel of Christ**, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are **standing firm** in one spirit, with one mind **striving side by side for the faith of the gospel**, 28and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, **but of your salvation**, and that from God. 29For it **has been granted** to you that **for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake**, 30engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.*

Here Observe:

1. They are told to **live** a life worthy of the gospel.
2. Paul wants to hear that they are **standing firm**.
 - a. in one spirit.
 - b. with one mind.
 - c. **striving** side by side for the faith of the gospel
 - d. not frightened by anything or by your opponents.
3. The opponent's opposition is evidence of their destruction.
4. The Philippians living a worthy life, standing firm and standing for the gospel are evidence of their salvation, and that is from God, not predestination; it is God's grace calling them to believe.

5. For it has been granted is not a statement of predetermination; it is a statement of privilege because with faith comes the necessity to continue to believe and to suffer.
6. The Philippians are now experiencing the same conflict that Paul had and still has because of the opposition to the gospel.

The Calvinistic argument centers around the phrases and that from God and has been granted.

Of course, their salvation is from God. God sent Christ to save them. Paul is not saying man is predestined to election but is saved by believing and obeying Christ. At conversion, a person must believe, repent, be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit. After conversion, we must walk the walk of faith.

God did not predestine the Philippians to election and salvation. He called them by his grace when they heard and believed the gospel of their salvation.

The phrase “*has been granted*” is not predestination. It is a privilege. Our salvation is possible because of God’s active grace, which is expressed in Christ. We have been granted the privilege to believe in Christ and to suffer as a result of believing. This is the true gospel, not predestination to election.

Believing and suffering for the gospel go hand in hand, as evidenced below.

- **Acts 5:41**... rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for his name.
- **Acts 9:16** ...for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake.
- **Rom 8:17** ... heirs of God, and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

Conclusion

The preponderance of evidence reveals that Calvin’s gospel is false. OSAS and TULIP are in perfect alignment with pagan fatalism, not Christianity.

In summary:

Total Depravity assaults man's **nature**. The Bible teaches that man left alone is without hope of salvation. However, the entire testimony of scripture says humanity can respond to God’s intervention of Active Grace. God’s grace calls humanity to believe and obey. Humanity can choose to believe God, have faith, and be saved.

Unconditional Election is an assault on the **character of God**. God did not choose some in eternity past to be saved and some to spend eternity in hell. The testimony of scripture states that man has free will; he can suppress the truth in unrighteousness or embrace the truth and be saved. We have a choice, just like Abraham- He believed in God and was credited with righteousness. (Gen 15:6) The call to faith is the same for us.

Limited Atonement is an assault on **the cross of Christ**. Christ died for the who-so-ever may come. The entire testimony of scripture states God wants all of humanity to be saved by coming to the knowledge of the truth. Jesus died for all who would believe and be saved, not for those predetermined in eternity past to be elected to salvation.

Irresistible Grace is an assault on **the testimony of scripture**. All the covenants of God, the voice of the prophets, and the revelations of Christ all reveal God's Active grace, calling humanity back to himself. God will also use judgment and discipline to influence humanity to repent. Of this, we can be sure God did not in eternity past predetermine the elect to have irresistible grace imposed on them.

Perseverance of the Saints, or OSAS, is an assault **on human free will**. God has revealed his invisible quality, making himself known to humanity. Humanity can choose to suppress this knowledge of God. Man can also reject God's special revelation, the scriptures, the voice of the prophets, the revelation of Jesus Christ, and the conviction of the Holy Spirit. All of these are within our God-given human purview. All the special revelations of God prove humans have free choice before and after our conversion to Christ.

In summary, proponents of Calvinism do not teach Christianity and, therefore, are not Christians. They are teaching another Jesus. They have received a different spirit, the spirit of pagan fatalism, and preach a false gospel: predestination to election, not grace through faith.

Their theology assaults the nature of man, the character of God, the cross of Christ, the testimony of scripture and the free will of man.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article.

Please share this truth with everyone.

Appendix 1 Proof Texts

Total Depravity	Unconditional Election	Limited Atonement	Irresistible Grace	Perseverance of the Sanints
Gen 2:17	Rom 9:15-16	John 3:16-18	John 3:3-8	John 17:2
John 3:6	Eph 1:9-12	Rom 8:30	Eph 2:1-10	2 Pet 3:9
John 8:34	Rom 9:11	John 6:35-40	John 6:37	Phil 1:6
Gen 6:5	John 1:12-13	Matt 1:21	John 6:44	Phil 2:11-12
Rom 1:18-32	Mark 13:20	John 10:11	John 10:16	Heb 12:2
Jer 17:9	Rev 13:8	John 17:9	Ps 65:4	rom 8:28-30
Rom 3:10-18	Rev 17:8	Acts 20:28	Ez 36:26-27	John 10:27-29
Isa 64:6-7	Rom 10:20	Reb 5:9	John 1;12-13	Eph 1:3-14
Rom 3:23	1 Cor 1:27-28	John 10:14-18	Rom 9:15-18	Rom 8:31-39
Rom 8:7-8	2 Tim 1:8	Eph 1:4	John 5:21	John 6:37-40
Isa 65:12	John 10:26-30	Isa 53:8,11-12	Rom 11:5-6	John 5:24
Tit 1:5	John 10:15-16	Eph 2:1-5	Rom 8:30	Rom 5:9
Jer 13:23	John 6:37, 44	Eph 2;8	John 6:39, 65	Rom 11:29
Rom 5:12	Rom 8:29-30	John 5:21,24	Heb 9:15	Ps 37:29
Rom 5:14-19	Isa 43:20,21	John 10:26-27	Phil 1:6, 29	Isa 46:3-4
Eph 2:1-5	Tit 1:1	John 12:37-40	Phil 2:13	Ps 20:6
Mark 7:21-23	Ps 65:4	Ps 85:2	2 Tim 1:9-10	Ps 121:1-8
Ps 14:2-3	Mat 22:14	John 14:21-24	Isa 55:11	Jer 32:3-40
Matt 7:17-18	2 Tim 2:10	John 17:2,8,10	Act 13:48	Heb 6:17-19
Ps 58:3	Ex 33:19	Acts 10:40-41	Acts 18:27	Heb 12:20-21
John 3:19	Deut 7:6-7	Acts 13:48	Tit 3:5	1 Pet 1:3-5
1 Cor 2:14	Acts 13:48	Acts 15:14	John 11:43-44	1 thes 5:23-29
Prov 14:12	1 Pet 2:8	Rom 11:7	Col 1:13	1 Jn 5:4,5,11-13
1 Cor 1:18	John 6:39	Tit 2:14	Ps 3:8	1 Jn 3:9
Col 2:13	John 17:2	Heb 7:25-27	2 Cor 4:6	1 Cor 1:6-8
Job 15:14-16	Rom 11:5-7	Matt 26:28	Act 16:14	1 Cor 15:10

A proper understanding of scripture will reveal that these proof texts are loaded with pagan, fatalistic dogma that distorts the truth.

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