

“TULIP” 5 POINT CALVINISM – A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER, BUT BAD THEOLOGY

Synod of Dort: Netherlands, 1619

Floyd Nolen Jones, Th.D., Ph.D.

Excerpt from Apples of Gold

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.” Proverbs 25:11

T – Total Depravity: because he is spiritually dead to God “in trespasses and sins” (Eph.2:1; Col.2:13), man is *incapable* of responding to the gospel – that mankind has no “free will” yet is able to make moral choices other than responses to God. This is *not* true Calvinism!

“Tulip” declares: as a consequence of the Fall, man *cannot* understand the gospel, all minds are blinded and man is not able to respond to the gospel and turn to God – unless they are *first* regenerated. Their proof: Rom.3:10-18, “There is none righteous...none that seeketh after God”

Question: where does Scripture *say* one must be regenerated before they can believe the gospel?

Question: which comes first, faith in Jesus or salvation? Answer: faith (a free gift from God to man) is *the condition* for salvation. Mk.1:14-15, 16:16; Lk.8:12; Rom.1:16, 10:17; Eph.1:13, 2:8

Question: how much ability or effort is required to *receive* a free gift? Would such be a work?

U – Unconditional Election: God decided in eternity past, on no basis whatsoever other than by the “mystery of His will”, to predestine some of mankind to eternal life (“the elect”, and that foreknowledge played absolutely no part in this) – but has reprobated all others, thereby condemning them to eternal Hell. Of course, if He so desired He could save them all.

If true, then God – who is love – doesn’t love *all* mankind! This is a major doctrinal problem for the proponents of “Tulip” Calvinism (cp. John 3:16). Furthermore, 1 Peter 1:2 declares we are: **Elect** according to the **foreknowledge** of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the **blood of Jesus Christ** (cp. Heb. 9:21)

L – Limited Atonement: these elect are the only ones for whom Christ died in order to pay the penalty for their sins – that His death is efficacious for no others.

I – Irresistible Grace: God causes whomsoever He will to be *unable* to resist the gospel and that without this enabling no one could do so. God only provides this “irresistible grace” to the predetermined elect and damns the rest of mankind. Moreover, as they never receive this “irresistible grace” they are totally incapable of ever believing the gospel.

Question: where oh where is the love of God in all this drivel?

P – Perseverance of the saints: God will not allow any of the elect to lose the salvation which He has sovereignty given them. (they got only 1 right out of 5; see Eph. 1:13-14, 4:30)

The written Word of God is our authority, not the beliefs or opinions of John Calvin, Jacobus Arminius, any council, synod, assembly, or creed.

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No “free will”? Find out for yourself and look for **Will not, not...can not** – Dt.28:62; Mat.22:2-3, 23:37; Psa.10:4; Lk.22:67; Joh.5:40; Acts 17:24-30; John 3:36, 4:42, 5:40, 12:32-33; Rom.5:6; 1 Tim.2:4; 1 John 2:2, 4:14; Rev.22:17 – man is regenerated by the Word (Jam.1:18) & the Holy Spirit (Joh.16:8)

To find out the truth, all one needs to do is check out one word. Take a Strong’s Concordance and look up the Scriptures with the word “**choose**”. (Why call on sinners to choose. If “Tulip” is right, the lost can’t and “the elect” don’t need to: they’re already irresistibly predestined)

The entire Bible teaches that God holds man responsible for his choices and actions. TULIP 5 POINT CALVINISM TEACHES THAT:

Because the whole race has fallen in Adam and become corrupt and powerless to believe, God draws out of condemnation those whom He has chosen unto salvation, passing by the others.

The children of believers, as long as they do not manifest the contrary, are to be reckoned among God’s elect.

God has decreed to bestow faith and perseverance and thus save only those whom He has chosen to salvation.

God delivered up His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross to save only the elect. (Oh? 1 Jn. 2:2; Jn. 1:29, 4:42, 6:33 & 51, 12:47; Rom. 5:18; 2 Pet 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:4 & 6, 4:10)

Man became bankrupt thru sin.
The price or debt must be paid in full.
God did not try to extract more
from a bankrupt person.

Jesus, who had stood
a surety for our debts,
paid in full for us (voluntarily).

So because of the action of a guarantor,
the bankrupt was set FREE
without in any way
taking one thing from the creditor.

Hence *all* debt (past, present, and future) has been
paid in full – *Tetelestai* ! (Greek = Tetelestai = It is finished: John 19:30)

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What we are saying is that the New Testament distinguishes between "purchase" and "redemption. All are purchased, but not all are redeemed. Redemption applies only to those who receive Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior, availing themselves of the value of His shed blood (1 Pet.1:18, 19). The biblical revelation of redemption leaves no one un-invited!

This truth is illustrated in Matthew 13:44 where our Lord is pictured as a man who sold all He had to purchase a field. Matthew 13:38 declares that the field is "the world". Thus we see that by His shed blood and death on the Cross Christ Jesus *bought* the whole world and thus all who ever lived on it. However, He did not *redeem* the whole world. Whereas His finished work on the Cross was *sufficient* for the redemption of all mankind, it is only *efficacious* (produces a desired effect) for those who repent, believe on and accept Him for who He is (the Creator Himself: Isa. 9:6; John 1:1-3, 14:9) and what He has done.

Moreover, all mankind was *identified* with Christ in His death (the pen in the book example, John 1:29, 12:32-33; 1 John 2:2) and thus has the *legal right* to eternal life (the price for their sin-sins has been paid), but it is not theirs until *each one* lays claim to their inheritance by accepting God's only provision for sin and sins – the Lord Jesus Christ. Only those who believe in and receive Him are *identified* in His resurrection, eternal life, and exaltation (1 Timothy 4:10; Romans 5:9-11, 10:8-10).