

A Case Against Calvinism – Lesson 12

The Dangers of Calvinism

Colossians 2:4-10; Galatians 3:1-4; Galatians 5:7-9

Introduction: There are some who would suggest to us that this is much ado about nothing. Some well-meaning, but uninformed, believer wanders why we are pushing this when in their minds it is harmless. Well lets ask ourselves the question, “Is Calvinism an interesting harmless teaching or is it a dangerous doctrine?” “Does the moment call for us to stand firm holding to what the Bible teaches about, God, Man, and Salvation?”

What are the conclusions that we draw from the study about Calvinism? I must confess that when I began this study I was personally opposed to Calvinism. The things that I knew about it I knew I did not believe that the doctrine was biblically correct. After diving into the history and theology it is fair to say that my emotions are running stronger in my opposition to Calvinism. It upsets me to my core to think of those who are causing such havoc in the church and spreading what can only be deemed false doctrine. Personally, I am angered, yet trying not to sin, but angered none the less that this false gospel is being professed as God’s Word. It angers me for two reasons. First, I have given the majority of my life to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Church and to a lost and dying world. The message that was given by God through the prophets, angels, His Son, the apostles, and the early church. Second, it angers the pastors heart in me to hear of the turmoil that churches are in at this moment and the hopelessness that is being passed on to some in the name of God. Is Calvinism dangerous? This is the question that screams for us to go on record. Without any doubt we are dealing with the single most dangerous doctrinal issue of our generation! So, Mr. & Mrs. Calvinist, I must respectfully but firmly and totally disagree with you concerning the merits of Calvinism.

I. The forceful rhetoric of the Calvinist.

- A. The Question of Truth
- B. A Vision for Reformation
- C. Four Affirmations
 1. Under 1: We likewise affirm that we are Augustinians in our doctrine of man and in our doctrine of salvation.
 2. Under 2: Reformed Catholics affirm the importance of the church and its history in any authentic vision of God’s redemptive work in space and time.
 3. Under 4: We bemoan the influence among evangelicals of a pietistic dispensationalism in which the world is considered irredeemably wicked.

II. The unbiblical nature of TULIP.

- A. Total Depravity
- B. Unconditional Election
- C. Limited Atonement
- D. Irresistible Grace

E. Perseverance of the Saints

III. The homiletical and hermeneutical abuses of the Calvinist.

- A. The abuse of the word world.
- B. The abuse of the word elect.
- C. He abuse of the Doctrine of God's Sovereignty.
- D. The abuse of the Doctrine of Man's free will.
- E. The Calvinist argument of Jacob and Esau.
 - **Romans 9:13-14** *As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.*
 - **Hebrews 11:20** *By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.*
 - **Hebrews 12:16-17** *Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.*

IV. The Calvinist false view of the Gospel.

- **Isaiah 1:18** *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*
- **Matthew 11:27-30** *All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*
- **Revelation 22:17** *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

V. The Calvinist and preaching the Gospel.

- **1 Corinthians 1:17-18** *For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*
- **1 Corinthians 1:23-24** *But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*