

Calvinism - Part 1

An Introduction

Introduction:

- A. Calvinism is a theological system affecting most Protestant churches.
 - 1. Especially Presbyterian and Baptist churches.
 - 2. It at the heart of many differences among professed Christians.
- B. Calvinism is a profitable study because:
 - 1. It helps us understand where many religious people are coming from.
 - 2. Some parts of it has influenced the thinking of people in and out of the church of Christ.
 - 3. It is so appealing to those who desire salvation with little effort.
 - 4. Hence, we begin this series of studies of Calvinism.
- C. In this lesson, we focus on the source and basic tenants of Calvinism.

Discussion:

I. The Source of Calvinism.

- A. John Calvin (1509-1564)
 - 1. Born in France.
 - 2. Most of his work in Geneva
 - 3. Became early supporter of Luther and the Reformation.
- B. “Institutes of the Christian Religion.”
 - 1. Influenced many of the “reformers”
 - 2. Influenced John Knox, the founder of Presbyterianism.

II. The Basic Tenants of Calvinism.

- A. Predestination “What is to be will be”
 - 1. Nothing “by chance” (cf. Eccl. 9:11; Luke 10:31)
 - 2. Ill. Calvinistic offender and judge.
 - 3. “Free-Will Baptists” and “Primitive Baptist”
 - 4. Most modern Baptists modified Calvinism
- B. Imputation.
 - 1. Our sins imputed to Christ.
 - a. Did Jesus become sinner? Pay penalty?
 - b. Became sin or sin offering? (Cf. 2 Cor. 5:21)
 - (1) Over 100 times OT “sin” = “sin-offering”.
 - (2) Would had to suffer ETERNAL death (Rom. 6:23).
 - (3) Became perfect sin offering (1 Pet. 1:18-21; Isa. 53:4-6,10)
 - 2. Christ’s righteousness imputed to us.
 - a. Judged by our deeds, not his (2 Cor. 5:10).
 - b. Saved by his life (resurrection) (Rom. 5:10; Heb. 7:25).
 - 3. Christ is propitiation not substitution.
 - a. Blood of animals a type of perfect atonement to come.
 - b. Blood of animals could not take away sin only blood of Christ (Heb. 9:8-12).
- C. The “Tulip”
 - 1. Total Hereditary Depravity.
 - a. All of Adam’s decedents have inherited his sin and fallen depraved nature.
 - b. Babies are born sinners with a depraved nature.
 - c. Without divine intervention, one cannot do any righteous deed.
 - 2. Unconditional Election
 - a. God chooses “the elect” to be saved unconditionally.
 - b. God chooses all others to be lost unconditionally.
 - c. Consistent Calvinists do not believe in evangelism.
 - 3. Limited Atonement.
 - a. Jesus died only for the elect.
 - b. The blood of Christ is available only to the elect.
 - 4. Irresistible Grace
 - a. The elect are saved by God’s irresistible grace.
 - b. By this grace man is given faith and repentance that they cannot resist.
 - 5. Perseverance of the Saint
 - a. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to the sinner.
 - b. The saint is one to whom God will not impute sin.
 - c. “Once saved always saved.”

Conclusion:

- A. Have only laid out an overview of Calvinism.
- B. Will give more detailed answers to these error in the lessons to come.