

Calvinism - Part 2

Concepts Related to Conversion

Introduction:

- A. Calvinism has some elements of truth.
 - 1. One must have faith produced in his heart. (Heb. 11:6)
 - 2. One must experience a new birth. (John 3:5)
 - 3. One must be converted - under go a profound change. (Act 3:19; Matt. 18:3; Acts 15:3)
- B. Calvinism's concept of conversion differs from the Bible concept.
 - 1. Calvinism's produced by irresistible miraculous force.
 - 2. Bible conversion is produced by receiving gospel preaching.
- C. Let's notice and review three Calvinistic concepts related to conversion.

Discussion:

I. Calvinism's Concept of Sin.

- A. Calvinism teaches two kinds of sin - inborn and actual.
 - 1. Inherited guilt. Psa. 51:5; Rom. 3:10-18; 1 Cor. 15:22)
 - 2. Inherited nature – totally depraved – cannot will to do good – cannot receive, understand, believe nor obey the word (cf. Rom. 8:7-8)
- B. Calvinism teaches miraculous conversion changes that nature – not completely. (WCOF ch. 9)

II. Calvinism's Concept of Saving Faith"¹

- A. Calvinism teaches Faith requires a sign.
 - 1. Both repentance and faith are miraculously implanted by H. S.
 - 2. The implanted is generally called a "conversion experience"
- B. Saving faith does not require a sign. (1 Cor. 1:18ff)
 - 1. "For Jews request (require - KJV) a sign" - so do Calvinists. - More than those written (cf. John 20:31)
 - 2. The preached word is power to save. (v. 17,18,21 -KJV, ASV, NKJV; cf. Rom. 1:15,16)
- C. Saving faith does not require personal experience with deity. (Rom. 10:6 ff).
 - 1. "Word of faith which we preach" rather than personal encounter with deity. (vs. 6-9)
 - 2. Preached word produces faith. (vs. 14-17).
- D. Saving faith is not produced by H.S. baptism. (Acts 11:14,15)
 - 1. Peter to speak word. (10:32)
 - 2. Cornelius wanted to "hear all thing commanded you of God" (10:33).
 - 3. Peter emphasized the word. (10:36-43).
 - 4. Baptism of H.S. not for sinners benefit. (10:44-46; 11:18)

III. Calvinism's Concept of Regeneration

- A. Calvinism's regeneration – by an act of the Holy Spirit beyond our comprehension.
- B. Peter's concept. (1 Peter 1:1-25)
 - 1. Called them the "elect according to foreknowledge of God" (v. 2)
 - 2. Begotten again by mercy (v. 3)
 - 3. Redeemed by blood (v. 18-21).
 - 4. Purified souls in obeying truth. (v.22)
 - 5. Born again by word preached by apostles. (vs.23-25)
 - 6. Born of the Spirit. (cf John 3:5; vs 12,22)
- C. Paul's concept.
 - 1. "I have begotten you through gospel" (1 Cor.4:15; cf. 3:5; 15:1-4)
 - 2. Salvation through spoken word. (Heb. 2:1-4)

Conclusion:

- 1. Suppose the Eunuch (Acts 8) told his experience.
- 2. Suppose the Pentecostians told their experience (Acts 2).

1. “We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ...

“We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists of giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit”

“The applicant may stand and tell the church his experience that all may hear. It is entirely proper for the pastor, or whoever is in charge, to ask questions, bringing out in the hearing the evidence of regeneration...”