

Theological Foundations for Leadership (TFL)
Creekstone Church • Spring 2011

Session #5 — Saved by Grace Alone: The Five Points of Calvinism (TULIP)

“For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.” ~ Ephesians 2:8-9

I. A Very Brief History

1. The Protestant Reformation erupted in _____ in 1517 with Martin Luther’s 95 *Theses*.
2. John Calvin (1509-1564) — Wrote *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*
3. James Arminius (1560-1609) — Was a professor of theology in the Netherlands at the University of Leiden
4. The Synod of Dort (1618-1619) met to discuss the Remonstrant’s five points of _____.
5. The reply of the Synod were five points that _____ the five points of the Arminians.
6. George Whitefield and Charles Spurgeon called these five points “the doctrines of _____.”

II. A Survey of the Doctrines of Grace

1. Total Depravity (Radical depravity; total inability) - Jeremiah 17:9; Ephesians 2:1-3
 - (1) This doctrine deals with human _____ to do good works and/or _____ to the gospel.
 - (2) It does not mean that we are as wicked as we could be. God’s common grace provides _____.
 - (3) We are like a glass of water with drops of food coloring. _____ part is affected.
 - (4) Ultimately, apart from regeneration, we are spiritually _____.
2. Unconditional Election - Deuteronomy 7:6-8; Ephesians 1; John 15:16; Romans 9
 - (1) This teaches that, ultimately, _____ chooses who will be saved. This goes with the Bible’s doctrine of _____, where the parent chooses to bless the child.
 - (2) The terms election and predestination are often used _____.
 - (3) Election is a sub-heading under the _____ of God.
 - (4) The Bible describes a _____ angle on election/predestination - Acts 2:38, John 3:16
 - (5) The Bible describes a _____ angle on election/predestination - Acts 13:48, John 6:44
3. Limited Atonement (Definite Atonement) - Matt. 1:21; John 10; Revelation 5:9; Romans 9
 - (1) There are two ways to see the atonement. One perspective is called _____ atonement and the other is _____ atonement.
 - (2) Universal atonement makes salvation _____ for anyone.
 - (3) Particular atonement _____ salvation for some/the elect. Thus, it is better called _____ atonement rather than limited atonement.

- (4) However, both views limit the atonement in some capacity.
- (1) The Arminian view limits the _____ of the atonement.
- (2) The Calvinistic view limits the _____ of the atonement.
- (5) These views are like two bridges. One goes _____ of the way across, while the other goes _____ the way across.
4. Irresistible Grace (Effectual Calling) - Romans 8:29-30
- (1) There is a general, _____ call to all people- Mt. 11:28; John 3:16; Jn. 7:37
- (2) There is a special, _____ call to the elect - Acts 13:48; Acts 16:11-15
- (3) *The Westminster Shorter Catechism* Question #31: What is effectual calling?
- “Effectual calling is the **work of God’s Spirit**, whereby, **convincing** us of our sin and misery, **enlightening** our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and **renewing** our wills, he doth **persuade** and **enable** us to **embrace** Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.”
- (4) The prerequisite for effectual calling, or irresistible grace, is _____.
- (5) A living illustration is Jesus calling _____ to come out of the tomb.
5. Perseverance of the Saints (Preservation of the Saints)
- (1) This teaches that a true Christian will continue to persevere in _____.
- (2) A Christian perseveres because God _____ - Phil. 1:6; John 10:27-29; Romans 8:29-30

III. Practical Implications

1. God’s _____ is magnified (Eph. 1:3-14).
2. _____ is deepened and _____ is strengthened (Eph. 2:8-10).
3. _____ is motivated and propelled (Romans 10:13-15).

IV. Q & A

V. For Further Study

- *The Doctrines of Grace: Rediscovering the Evangelical Gospel*, James Boice and Philip Ryken
- *The Five Points of Calvinism: Defined, Defended, Documented* by David N. Steele and Curtis C. Thomas (Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing Co.)
- *The Five Points of Calvinism* by Edwin H. Palmer (Baker)
- *TULIP: The Five Points of Calvinism* by Duane Edward Spencer (Baker)
- *The Institutes of the Christian Religion* (Book Three, Chapters XXI-XXIV) by John Calvin (The Westminster Press)