

CALVINISM'S CONFUSION

AN APPLICATION OF OUR RECENT SEMINAR

*"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance,
being predestinated according to the purpose of him
who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will"*

~ Ephesians 1:11

1. Introduction

- a. Calvinism is an example of salvation confused – an application of our recent seminar
- b. The major contention → is everything predetermined by God? (fate/free will is not new)
- c. Calvinist result: every sin decreed by God; some determined to be saved others damned
- d. There are not only 2 options: Calvinist or Arminian (*no, we are not Pelagian -full or semi*)
- e. Its strength is taken from Paul → grace, predestination, before the world, not works
- f. Why Christians debate it? Due to the question, "*how can I be sure I am saved?*"
- g. There is predestination, there is election, there is grace, but we are not Calvinist.
- h. Terms need defined – timing needs addressed – else there is confusion.

2. Setting the Terms

- a. Predestination is a Bible word and exclusively Pauline: Rom 8:28-29, Eph 1:5, 1:11
 - i. Predestinate ~ *def.* To set the destiny before.
 - ii. Predestination always according to the purpose of God – mystery or prophecy
 - iii. Predestination is not speaking about your next accident, sin, or disease.
 - iv. Calvin said that the mystery was God's predestination of some to damnation
- b. Election is a Bible word that means "to choose or chosen" – who are the elect?
 - i. Biblical election refers to God's choice acc. to his own will to fulfill his purpose
 - ii. Israel is God's chosen people (elect) his prophetic purpose –Is 45:4, Mt 24:22-24
 - iii. Christ is God's chosen one (elect) – Isa 42:1, 1 Pet 2:6
 - iv. The only time "foreordained" mentioned is about Christ – 1 Pet 1:19-20
 - v. Not - 'are you the elect' - but are you in the chosen Christ or the chosen nation?
 - vi. God chose to fulfill his purpose in Christ – Eph 1:9-10 - 3x we are in Christ -1:4-6
 - vii. Calvin said election was God's arbitrary choosing of who will be damned
 - viii. Calvin said that his doctrine of election is the assurance of salvation
- c. The mystery of Christ is you in Christ – Christ in you – Eph 3:6, Col 1:28
 - i. Calvin said the mystery was of God's predestination of who will be saved
- d. Calvinists and Arminians are wrong to find our terms of salvation (gospel) in Prophecy

3. The Problem of Timing and Delivery (When)

- a. When do you possess salvation? Now or in the future.
- b. Calvin taught it was an error to believe you possess all the blessings of Christ
- c. Calvinism teaches that when Christ died his blessings immediately given to the elect
 - i. Arminians say his blessings immediately offered to all (both are wrong)
- d. The delivery is different than the action needed to obtain it. (Provision/possession)
 - i. At the cross – no one was offered salvation, instead, by the cross – Eph 2:16
 - ii. Salvation declared after the purpose made, and act performed – 2 Tim 1:8-11
 - iii. When do we obtain our inheritance? Not before the world began – Eph 1:11-14
- e. Calvinism brings confusion to the terms of salvation (gospel), and when it is delivered.