

SERIES: "LAST...BUT NOT LEAST":

An In-Depth Study of MALACHI - the Final Prophet of the Old Testament Era-
PARTIX - Malachi and T.U.L.I.P.

"Irresistible Grace"

WEDNESDAY, February 25th, 2009

- I. In this doctrine of "Irresistible Grace", we find ONCE AGAIN the pervasive influence of the father of the Roman Catholic Church, "AUGUSTINE".
- II. Having once taught FREE Will and that God desired to save ALL mankind, AUGUSTINE later changed his view! Faith became something which God irresistibly bestowed upon the "ELECT" without their having believed Anything or having made ANY decision or even having been aware that they were being Regenerated.
- III. By such reasoning (as in II.) man, being by nature SPIRITUALLY "dead" in sin", cannot even PHYSICALLY HEAR the gospel, much less RESPOND to the pleadings of Christ.
- IV. This is an UNBIBLICAL premise to which Calvinists cling IN SPITE OF THE FACT that our Lord called out to "ALL" in verses like Matthew 11: 28 AND John 7: 37.
- V. A "RECAP OF CALVINISM (and the T.U.L.I.P. teaching) UP TO THIS POINT:
Because of TOTAL Depravity those whom God has unconditionally ELECTED and predestined to eternal life and for whom alone Christ died are first sovereignly Regenerated without faith, Understand or even knowing it is happening to them. Thereafter/ simultaneously, the GRACE to believe on Christ as Savior and Lord is irresistibly Imposed upon the newly regenerated elect whom God ~~from~~ eternity past has predetermined to save.
- VI. Furthermore, according to this doctrine, NO ONE can resist God's saving GRACE, irresistibly imposed by his sovereign will upon those whom He has predestined to eternal life!
- VII. If this doctrine were true, what would have kept God from "irresistibly imposing" grace upon Adam and EVE and sparing mankind the Suffering and EVIL which has resulted from their REBELLION? What kind of "LOVE" is this?????
- VIII. Tragically, Calvinism's MISREPRESENTATION of God has caused MANY to turn away from the God of the Bible to a MONSTER!
- IX. Considering the MANY scriptures which express (in very clear language) the "BONDLESS" love and grace of God, WHY DOESN'T THE GOD WHO "IS LOVE" AND INFINITE IN GRACE EXTEND IRRESISTIBLE GRACE TO ALL ?!?!
(II Chronicles 30:9; Nehemiah 9: 17, 31; Psalm 86: 15; 111: 4; 112: 4; 145: 8; Joel 2: 13; Jonah 4: 2)
- X. The FIRST Commandment itself (Deuteronomy 6:5) is proof in and of itself that ALL men have the power of CHOICE necessary to love God and to receive His love, though ALL fail to keep this Commandment just as they fail to keep the others!

- XI. I John 3:17 has a very important insight into the practical aspect of the love of God working in and through the life of a believer. (see also Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:35) How schizophrenic would God have to be to cause that His love in His children's lives would unfailingly meet through us the Needs of others YET simultaneously God Himself - seeing billions in the direst Need - Refusing to help them?!...INDEED, DAMNING those that He COULD SAVE! SURELY this is NOT the God portrayed in the Bible.
- XII. This doctrine is based upon the premise that God's LOVE can be IMPOSED upon others... irresistibly! BUT a LOVE that allows for no Rejection can hardly be true LOVE at all!
- XIII. The teaching of Irresistible Grace flies right in the face of the central teaching of the O. T. book of HOSEA. There are literally scores of such passages which leave no doubt that God LOVES and desires to BLESS not JUST the "Elect" but ALL of mankind - including those who Refuse His love and gracious offer of BLESSING.
- XIV. Again, the foundational misunderstanding in Calvinistic thought is the overemphasis that is placed upon the SOVEREIGNTY of God. They imagine that if man can make a choice, - if even with the wooing and winning of the Holy SPIRIT he can willingly Respond to the love of God in the gospel, - then God's SOVEREIGNTY has been overruled! But when one bears in mind that salvation and grace are a gift from God (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9), we must rightly reason: HOW COULD A "GIFT" BE RECEIVED AND LOVE RETURNED WITHOUT THE ABILITY TO CHOOSE ?
- XV. The very phrase "Irresistible Grace" is an oxymoron. The word "irresistible" is NEVER found in the Bible BUT the word "grace" is scripture's most important and prevalent words appearing 170 times within 159 verses. Nowhere is it suggested that grace is irresistibly IMPOSED RATHER - in every scriptural inference - God's grace is seen being offered FREELY - and willingly received. (see: Genesis 6:8; Psalm 84:11; Romans 1:5; 12:6; Ephesians 3:8; 4:7; I Peter 3:7)

ADDITIONAL NOTES: