

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

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

"Unconditional Election"

WEDNESDAY, February 11th, 2009

BUT FIRST...a few more thoughts on "Total Depravity":

- I. The ultimate problem with Calvinism is the limit it places upon Christ's REDEMPTION AND God's MERCY and LOVE.
- II. One of the Bible's first revelations concerning the character of God was that His "spirit shall not always STRIVE with man." (Genesis 6:3) - But how can there be any real "STRIVING" if man is DEAD in trespasses and sins insofar as he is then incapable of HEARING, much less of being PERSUADED?
- III. The argument Calvinists make concerning what it means to be "DEAD in trespasses and sin" reveals an absurd interpretation of what is only meant to be an ANALOGY. They teach that a "DEAD man" CANNOT (ability) exercise faith in Jesus Christ". YET neither can a "DEAD man" REJECT Christ OR even SIN! In fact, even Christians are said to be "DEAD to sin" (Romans 6:2, 7, 11). Does that mean that we Believers are "INCAPABLE of the FIRST MOVE TOWARD sin"? Of course not! James 1: (spiritual L.S.D.)
- IV. Furthermore, Calvinism is founded upon a grave DISTORTION concerning the SOVEREIGNTY of God.
- V. Yet, the only way to legitimately defend God's INTEGRITY, LOVE and COMPASSION in a world filled with SIN and SUFFERING is to acknowledge that He has granted to man the power to CHOOSE for himself!
- VI. This extreme view of God's "SOVEREIGNTY" does not take into consideration the fact that there are 4 things that God can NOT do:
 1. God can not tempt Nor can He be tempted; <enticed to sin vs- TESTED>
 2. God can NOT FORGIVE sin without the PENALTY being paid;
 3. God can NOT FORCE a gift upon anyone;
 4. God can NOT FORCE anyone to LOVE Him or to accept His LOVE.
- VII. If there is one thing that "5 Point Calvinists" hold with vigorous tenacity, it is the belief that there can be no human FREE WILL at all. With surprising ILLOGIC, they usually argue that God can NOT be SOVEREIGN if man is granted ANY DEGREE of FREE

OT. NACHT (ie Abraham sacrifice of Isaac - God was not Entry to murder but TESTING ABRAHAM'S faith and obedience)

I. This Calvinistic doctrine teaches that; "The atonement of Christ was Limited to the ELECT."

II. It is, therefore, akin to the limitations which they place on the love of God in the "U." (Unconditional Election) of the T.U.L.I.P. acronym in spite of the fact that every aspect of God is actually INFINITE!

III. The great H. A. Ironside once cleverly observed, "The 'whosoever Wills are the elect and the whosoever WON'T'S are the NON-elects"!

IV. Plainly stated, this doctrine teaches that, "the cross of Christ provides a SURE, REAL and SECURE salvation for everyone God intended to saved - for them ALONE!"

V. The late great Dave Breese wrote, "By contrast to the doctrine of limited atonement, the Bible teaches most strongly the doctrine of unlimited atonement. The doctrine of limited atonement is specifically denied in the Bible."

VI. Some believe this point in Calvinism to be the "Achilles Heel" of Calvinism. ("a fatal weakness in spite of overall strength, actually potentially leading to a Downfall")

VII. One tiny, little word which stands like a mighty mountain against this doctrine is the word: ALL!

VIII. I Timothy 4: 10 is an excellent verse to prove the point in VII, where it states that Christ's death is only propitiatory for those who "believe"

IX. The familiar verses in Romans 3:22 and 23 ALSO support this important teaching.

X. One of the most stunning refutations of this doctrine can be found in simply reading the many verses that so clearly teach that salvation is for "ALL"!

XI. *Isaiah 53: 6; John 1:29; John 3:14,-18,36; John 7:37; Romans 1: 16; Romans 5: 6; Galatians 3: 22; Romans 6: 23; I Timothy 1: 15; I Timothy 2: 4, 6; I Timothy 4: 10; Hebrews 2:9; II Peter 3: 9; I John 1:9-2:2; I John 4:14

XII. Taken at face value, these verses, and many more like them, seem to state in unambiguous language that Christ was sent to be "the Saviour of the world", that His death was "a RANSOM for all" and that He is therefore "the Saviour of ALL men" IF they will but Believe!

XIII. In the Calvinist scheme, believing the gospel is NOT the means of one's salvation but proof that one is among the ELECT and was

regenerated by God and thereafter given the faith to believe.

XIV. As a result of Christ's death having paid the full penalty, no one will spend eternity in the lake of fire because of his SINS; they will be there for rejecting Christ and the salvation He obtained and freely offers to all. NO SIN could be greater than Rejecting Christ!

XV. Christ did not die and shed all of His precious blood for individual sins ONLY, BUT for SIN itself.

XVI. To be consistent, a Calvinist preacher can NOT in good faith (& conscience) proclaim to an audience that "Whoever" among them would believe in Christ would be SAVED ...for he knows not if all or ANY of those before him are really the "ELECT".

XVII. Verses such as Romans 10: 9, 13; Mark 16: 15 Acts 13:26; and

Acts 2: 38 ALL teach the Personal aspect of the GOSPEL.

XVIII. Out of the 240 times that the word "World" appears in the New Testament, not one time does it exclusively mean the "elect"!

XIX. I John 2:2 - if taken at face value - would be the end of Calvinism BUT the Calvinistic (Reformed) understanding of this devastating verse is that it refers to "the propitiation for the sins of all the Christians to which John was writing, and not ONLY TO THEM, BUT for ALL Christians around the world, Jew and Gentile, at all times and in all places."

XX. Clearly, without special definitions of words and much Scripture-twisting, the doctrine of Limited Atonement crumble—and with it the rest of CALVINISM!

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

ATONEMENT:

- 1) "at-one-ment" (The bringing together of 2 who have been enemies into a relationship of peace & friendship)
- 2) A word that belongs primarily to the O.T. But is found 1 time in the N.T. (Rom 5:11)
- 3) Comes from Hebrew "KAPHAR"; literally, 'to appease' 'to pacify'; 'to cover'
- 4) Gen 6:14 = root / (the 'pitch' of the ark)
- 5) Type of the Blood of Christ's sacrifice which stands between