

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

An In Depth Study of MALACHI - the Final Prophet of the Old Testament Era -
PART III - Malachi and ELECTION

WEDNESDAY, December 10th, 2008

I. Calvinism (the doctrinal teaching and theology developed by John Calvin in the early to mid 1500's) is best explained by the acronym T. U. L. I. P. Below is a brief summary of each of the points of this doctrine:

II. T. = "TOTAL Depravity" - That man is spiritually dead to God 'in trespasses and sins' <Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 2:13> and is INCAPABLE of responding to the gospel THOUGH he is able to make other MORAL choices.

III. U. = "UNCONDITIONAL Election" - That God decides on no basis whatsoever but by the MYSTERY of His WILL to save SOME, called the "ELECT" and to allow all others to go to HELL even though He COULD save them ALL if He so desired.

IV. L. = "LIMITED Atonement" - That the "ELECT" are the only ones for whom Christ died in payment of the penalty for their SINS and that His DEATH is efficacious for NO others.

V. I. = "IRRESISTIBLE Grace" - That God is able to cause whomever He will to respond to the GOSPEL and that without this ENABLING no one could do so, and that He only provides this IRRESISTIBLE grace to the "ELECT" - and DAMNS the rest.

VI. P. = "PERSEVERANCE of the Saints" - That God will not allow any of the "ELECT" to lose their SALVATION which He has SOVEREIGNLY given them.

VII. **KEY NOTES TO THE ABOVE ACRONYM/DOCTRINE:**

1. TO A PURE CALVINIST, TOTAL DEPRIVITY EQUATES TOTAL INABILITY

* But God commands all men every where to repent (Acts 17:30) to teach that God would command people to do what they are actually INCAPABLE of doing is both CRUEL and a mockery of God's Word

2. What ABILITY is needed to receive a gift?

3. God's Word teaches that man's problem is NOT INABILITY - They do not come to Christ because they are CAN NOT rather because they WILL NOT. (John 5:40) that is

4. Calvinists teach that a person is actually BORN AGAIN before he is saved!

5. The Biblical model of SALVATION is best seen in PASSAGES such as ROMANS 6:17 (included. shown in roman. objection to CALVIN'S 1ST and MOST SIGNIFICANT POINT)

+ there would never be an excuse for a person to repent - But he continually does!

VIII. UNDERSTANDING PIVOTAL SCRIPTURES (Part I)

1. One of the MAJOR passages which Calvinists use to support their teaching is found in ROMANS chapter 9.
2. Calvinists conclude that this passage is speaking of PERSONAL election and predestination to both SALVATION (Jacob) and DESOLATION (Esau) – though a careful reading of this and related passages clearly teach a very CONTRARY truth.
3. The ROMANS 9:13 passage is quoting MALACHI 1:2,3 - for “it is written” nowhere else! But as the entire Book of Malachi reveals, the prophet is NOT referring to Jacob and Esau as Individuals BUT to the NATIONS which descended from them. (read Malachi 1:1-4; 3:6- CLEARLY, Esau is “EDOM” and Jacob is “ISRAEL”)
4. Furthermore, there is no reference whatsoever to the matter of the eternal SALVATION of either Jacob OR Esau – or of their descendants- much less that one of them was “Predestined” for heaven and the other for hell! (NOTE: One of the keys to unraveling and understanding the entire issue at hand, we must be careful to not what is NOT said in Scripture AS MUCH AS what IS said) <Another great example of that is found in Ephesians 1:4 where the Scripture does NOT say, “according as he hath chosen us to be in him...” RATHER it DOES say, “According as he hath chosen us in him...”>
5. The ROMANS passage must necessarily carry over it’s original CONTEXT from the Malachi passage THEREFORE the ROMANS passage can NOT be consistent and still be referring to personal salvation and thus be used to prove Calvinist’s version of “PREDESTINATION”!
6. The basic error of Calvinism as relates to these particular passages is in the fact that they confuse Predestination with Salvation.
7. In ROMANS 9, Paul is ALSO quoting GENESIS 25:33! The fact that the statements related to these twin brothers from the very start was specifically concerning two NATIONS rather than two INDIVIDUALS, is very clearly written. The fact that Esau never SERVED his brother NOR was Jacob stronger than his brother in their individual lifetimes is clear indication that this was NOT written concerning individuals.
8. The focus of ROMANS 9 is actually on the “MANNER of people” the descendents of these two brothers would become AND on how they would fit into God’s PURPOSES.

At. Theory =
we are predestined
to be conform
(etc)