**Calvinism’s Major Tactics & Comparison of Major Tenets to Scripture**

Why do this study?

1. Most Calvinist preachers/authors are not open about their Calvinism so anyone can easily be taught Calvinistic concepts and not know it!
2. Many churches have hired Calvinists unaware to them (definitely NOT unaware to the Calvinist himself!) to the splitting of a local church!
3. Calvinists intentionally hide their doctrine’s straight-forward language as most rightly reject it outright. They will be open, of course, after the split.
4. Calvinism is theistic fatalism, which usually acts in direct correlation to atheistic fatalism in society, as they are the same thing with different terminology.
5. Both Calvinism and fatalism share one major premise: “nothing I can do.”
6. Both often result in either irrational false hope and actions among its adherents or hopelessness and equally ill behavior on the part of those who believe they are predestined to damnation.
7. Neither are “Christian” or “Biblical”; yet many good people believe it
8. It is this preacher’s hope that you can recognize and reject Calvinistic thinking that may try to enter to your life.

UNIVERSAL WAYS TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL, HARMFUL CALVINISTIC DOCTRINE QUICKLY IN A SERMON OR LESSON:

The most common keywords (some of these terms are Scriptural, so context is needed):

Predestination, total depravity, unconditional election, elect, limited atonement, irresistible grace, grace (“grace theology”), perseverance of the saints, once saved always saved

The less common keywords (often used to mask Calvinist doctrine/teaching initially):

Sovereignty, man unable, man incapable, God is in total control, “election is the gracious purpose of God which is consistent with the free agency of man”, God’s secret will, man’s limited free will, regeneration, Holy Spirit regeneration, experience grace, salvation by faith alone (originated by Luther; nowhere stated in Scripture except James 2:24, “not faith alone”), God’s mysterious will

A SCRIPTURAL ANALYSIS

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| **#** | **Calvinism Teaches** | **Scripture Says** |
| 1 | **Total Depravity**  Man cannot freely choose to follow God  Man is unable to choose for Himself to follow God | Romans 10:17:  "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." |
| James 1:21:  "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and RECEIVE with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save your souls." |
| Isaiah1:18:  "Come now, and let us REASON together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." |
| 2 Timothy 1:12:  "...I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have COMMITTED unto him against that day." |
| 2 | **Unconditional Election**  God arbitrarily chooses some unto salvation according to His own pleasure/preferences | Luke 7:50 – “Luke 7:50: "... Thy faith hath saved thee ..." |
| 2 Peter 3:9 – “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” |
| John 12:32 – “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me.” |
| 3 | **Limited Atonement**  Christ only died for the chosen  Christ’s blood only applies to the elect  Christ only died for a minority  The unchosen cannot receive any benefit from Jesus’ sacrifice at all | Isaiah 53:6 – “Isaiah 53:6:  "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us ALL." |
| 1 Timothy 4:10 – “1 Timothy 4:10:  "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of ALL MEN, specially of those that believe." |
| 1 John 2:2 – “1 John 2:2:  "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of THE WHOLE WORLD." |
| Hebrews 2:9 – “Hebrews 2:9:  "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for EVERY MAN." |
| 1 Timothy 2:4 – “1 Timothy 2:4:  "Who will have ALL MEN to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the Truth." |
| 4 | **Irresistible Grace**  When God chooses a person for salvation, their will is taken over by God and they cannot resist  A person cannot choose whether to be saved, or not saved  God’s grace overrides a person’s free will to choose to become a Christian or not  If God’s grace does not come upon you, you cannot be saved  If God’s grace does not change your will, you cannot choose to follow God | Matthew 23:37 – “Matthew 23:37:  "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and YE WOULD NOT!" |
| John 5:39-40 – “John 5:39-40:  "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And YE WILL NOT come to me, that ye might have life." |
| Acts 7:51 – “Acts 7:51: "Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always RESIST the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye." |
| Proverbs 1:24-26 – “Proverbs 1:24-26: "Because I have called, and YE REFUSED; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh." |
| Proverbs 29:1 – “Proverbs 29:1: "He, that being often reproved HARDENETH HIS NECK, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." |
| 1 Samuel 6:6 – “Why then do you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? When He had severely dealt with them, did they not allow the people to go, and they departed?” |
| 5 | **Perseverance of the Saints**  Once saved, always saved  Once a person has received salvation, they cannot lose it  There will be people “kicking and screaming” going into heaven | **Hebrews 6:4-6 – “**For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, **5**And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, **6**If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.” |
| **2 Peter 2:20-22 – “0**For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. **21**For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. **22**But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.” |
|  |  | **Ezekiel 18:24-26 – “**“But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice and does the same abominations that the wicked person does, shall he live? None of the righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which he is guilty and the sin he has committed, for them he shall die. “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die.” |

There are MANY more Scriptures for all of the above.

Some final thoughts:

1. Calvinism flies in the face of God not showing favoritism:
   1. Proverbs 24:23:  "... It is not good to have preferences of persons in judgment."   
        
      Acts 10:34-35:  "... Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him."
   2. If God is just and fair, how could be arbitrarily choose some of His own creation unto salvation and not others?
2. Calvinism makes God out to be a despot
   1. God is not love if he hates some
   2. If Calvinism is true, then God’s will is based on His pleasure/feelings/preferences – total arbitrarily, impossible to quantify
   3. If Calvinism is true, then God gives us commands that are pointless like to evangelize or love our forever-lost neighbor
3. Calvinism makes creation out to be a cruel joke
   1. Some of God’s creation is saved, others is condemned, for no other reason than they were made by Him
   2. Those who are elected cannot help our neighbor to be saved even if we want to; we must hopelessly watch as they simply cannot be saved.
4. Calvinism makes having children a terrifying prospect:
   1. Your children may or may not be saved
   2. Odds are most would not be! (As most people will not be!)
   3. You would be absolutely helpless to save your child from hell
   4. Why teach your children to be good if God may or may not choose them?

Popular Calvinists today:

John Piper – “Before you were born or had done anything good or bad, God chose whether to save you or not.”

* John F. MacArthur – “the doctrine of election simply means that God, uninfluenced and before creation, predetermined certain people to be saved.”
* RC Sproul – “Rather, election rests on God’s sovereign decision to save whomever He is pleased to save.”