

# TULIP

The Five Points of Calvinism

Week Four - Irresistible Grace

## CLASS SCHEDULE

September 6	Unit 1	Introduction to The Five Points of Calvinism T – Total Depravity
September 13	Unit 2	U – Unconditional Election
September 20	Unit 3	L – Limited Atonement
September 27	Unit 4	I – Irresistible Grace
October 4	Unit 5	P – Perseverance of the Saints

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Steele, David N. and Curtis C. Thomas. *The Five Points of Calvinism Defined, Defended, and Documented*. P&R Publishing, 2004.

Medders, J.A. *Humble Calvinism*. The Good Book Company, 2021.

Orrick, Jim Scott. *Mere Calvinism*. P&R Publishing, 2019.

**CLASS 4**  
**IRRESISTIBLE GRACE**

**T: Total Depravity.** The unsaved person is so affected by sin, that he/she is unable to choose God apart from the sovereign, regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. This regeneration precedes faith and repentance.

**U: Unconditional Election.** God's election is not based upon any action, faith or future performance by the unsaved person, nor is it a result of God's looking into the future and choosing someone on the basis of their faith. God's setting His redemptive love on some, and giving them grace is His sovereign choice.

**L: Limited Atonement.** Jesus' death on the cross secured, for those whom He chose, an eternal relationship with Himself. Jesus did not die merely to provide the opportunity for salvation.

**I: Irresistible Grace.** All those for whom Christ died will come to faith and repentance because of the work of the Holy Spirit in their hearts.

**P: Perseverance of the Saints.** All those whom God has chosen are eternally secure in their relationship with Him and because of the work of the Holy Spirit, they will persevere. Christians are forgiven, and yet are often rebellious sinners, but yet the deepest desire of their hearts is to serve Him.

<b>TOTAL DEPRAVITY – Review</b>
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**Spiritual Deadness**

*Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—Romans 5:12*

*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— Ephesians 2:1-2*

*And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses. Colossians 2:13*

*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Psalm 51:5*

*The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray from birth, speaking lies. Psalm 58:3*

### **Darkened Minds and Corrupt Hearts**

*The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Genesis 6:5*

*For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Romans 8:7-8*

*The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14*

<b>EFFECTUALLY CALL/IRRESISTABLE GRACE</b>
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### **The Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF):**

*“All whom God has chosen He, in His appointed time, calls by the Word and the Holy Spirit out of sin and death to salvation in Christ. He regenerates His people by enlightening their minds to understand the things of God, replacing their hard hearts with new ones, and renewing their wills. The person who is made alive by this call must and will act according to his new nature. He is now able and desires to embrace salvation as it is offered to him.”*

*To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. Titus 1:15*

*Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”... <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. John 3:3,5,6*

*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. John 6:44*

*One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. Acts 16:14*

*For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. Romans 8:29-30*

*The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14*

*In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4*

**REGENERATION PRECEDES FAITH**

**Lazarus**

**NEW CREATION, NEW BIRTH, RESURRECTION**

Resurrection –

New birth –

New Creation –

**Erroneous Views**

PART I: THE FIVE POINTS DEFINED

4. *The Holy Spirit Can Be Effectually Resisted*

The Spirit calls inwardly all those who are called outwardly by the gospel invitation; He does all that He can to bring every sinner to salvation. But inasmuch as man is free, he can successfully resist the Spirit's call. The Spirit cannot regenerate the sinner until he believes; faith (which is man's contribution) precedes and makes possible the new birth. Thus, man's free will limits the Spirit in the application of Christ's saving work. The Holy Spirit can only draw to Christ those who allow Him to have His way with them. Until the sinner responds, the Spirit cannot give life. God's grace, therefore, is not invincible; it can be, and often is, resisted and thwarted by man.

4. *The Efficacious Call of the Spirit or Irresistible Grace*

In addition to the outward general call to salvation which is made to everyone who hears the gospel, the Holy Spirit extends to the elect a special inward call that inevitably brings them to salvation. The external call (which is made to all without distinction) can be, and often is, rejected; whereas the internal call (which is made only to the elect) cannot be rejected; it always results in conversion. By means of this special call the Spirit irresistibly draws sinners to Christ. He is not limited in His work of applying salvation by man's will, nor is He dependent upon man's cooperation for success. The Spirit graciously causes the elect sinner to cooperate, to believe, to repent, to come freely and willingly to Christ. God's grace, therefore, is invincible; it never fails to result in the salvation of those to whom it is extended.

**FREE WILL and MAN'S ABILITY**

*For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those, who are in the flesh, cannot please God. Romans 8:7-8*

*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13*

**Faith is not our gift to God. Faith is God's gift to man.**

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

## FAITH VS. WORKS

## OUTWARD CALL AND INWARD CALL OF THE GOSPEL

*All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.* <sup>28</sup> *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* Matthew 11:27-28

**Q. What about people who are unable to respond to the gospel?**

## EVANGELISM

*The Lord said to Paul in a night vision, "Don't be afraid, but keep on speaking and don't be silent. For I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to hurt you, because I have many people in this city."* Acts 18:9-10

## CONCLUSION

## Additional Handout Given:

### Atonement: Spurgeon's Q and A

Reformed theologians are told we limit the atonement of Christ because we say Christ did not pay for all men's sins.

A = Arminian  
R = Reformed

A: Christ died for all men.

R: What do you mean by that?

R: Did Christ die to secure the salvation of all men?

A: No, because that would mean universalism.

R: Did Christ die to secure the salvation of any man in particular?

A: No, because Christ died to make salvation available for all men not anyone in particular.

A: Christ died so that any man may be saved if they follow the conditions of salvation (faith). Christ died to make salvation available for everyone.

The Arminian view is saying that Christ did not die to secure the salvation of anyone. So, Christ's death only makes it possible but by no means secures it for anyone since it is dependent on man's choice. So the Arminian, limits the power of the cross to save. Christ therefore is not a savior because he does not secure salvation for anyone. He only makes it possible. He is not a savior but merely a hoping salesman. The power is not in the cross or the Savior but in the hands of man who chooses Christ.

The Reformed view is saying that Christ died only for the elect. He died only for his sheep. He saves them by his death for them. He is a Savior that truly saves by securing the elect.



