

CALVINISM: UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

As previously observed, first in Calvinism's view of God's scheme of redemption is the doctrine of *Original Sin (Hereditary Total Depravity)*. It assumes that all humans inherit the guilt of Adam's original sin and by birth are, "...utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil..." (THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U.S.A., Confession of Faith, pgs. 35, 36).

The second point in this concept is *Unconditional Election*. The Calvinistic document cited above reads, "By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life, and others to everlasting death. These angels and men, thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed; and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or diminished" (op. cit., pg. 22).

Granted, the Calvinist's point on unconditional election is perfectly logical. If, as the Calvinist claims, we are totally depraved from birth and therefore disabled and wholly inclined to evil then, obviously, it is impossible for us to think about God in godly terms much less seek him. Therefore, since we could not seek God, he would have to seek us, at least those of us he decided to save.

Logicity, however, does not guarantee truth, not when the logic is based on a false premise. The false premise of the entirety of Calvinism is its doctrine of *Original Sin (Hereditary Total Depravity)* (previous article). Therefore, we would expect to find that the Bible also exposes *Unconditional Election* as being false, as well. It does.

According to passages such as Roman 8:29, 30 and Ephesians 1:4, 5 (Paul penned both), God's ordaining, choosing, predestinating mankind to salvation is IN CHRIST. Thus, what God has predetermined is not specific individuals, but the relationship of salvation for all individuals. That relationship is in his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

So, does one enter Christ by God's arbitrary choice of certain preferred individuals, or must individuals choose for themselves to submit to Christ by the exercise of their own free will? The answer: "...let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17).

—Jerry F. Bassett