

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: All Christians Are Calvinist When They're on Their Knees.****All Christians Are Calvinist When They're on Their Knees., on: 2007/7/24 22:54**

Go and pray for souls with your Arminian brother. You'll see what I mean.

I have never heard an Arminian brother pray like this...

"Oh God! Please save my little sister. I ask that you would do every thing that you can do to save her. But... Oh God, I know that she has to make the right choice of her free will, before you can have mercy on her. So, Lord I pray that you would do your part and be patient with her, so she could make the right decision and let you have mercy on her. Oh God, I pray that she would make the right decision to get a new heart... But, oh God I know that you can't cause the new birth. She has to choose it and cooperate with you. So, I pray that she would make the right choice, so you can have mercy on her. But... Oh God, I know that only she can answer that prayer. For God, you can't have mercy on anyone unless they do something first. And God, you would never cause her to approach you... because that would violate her freewill. Oh God, your so merciful!

Oh, God I thank you that I elected You, so that you could have mercy on me. Thank you for shedding your blood, so that I could let you have mercy on me. God, I thank you that I'm not like other men who heard the gospel... who haven't made the right decision to get born-again. I thank you that I made the right decision to get born-again. Thanks God, for electing me. It's a good thing that I let you do it. For you would never violate my freewill and regenerate me without my permission. Oh God, you're so merciful."

(Please understand, I'm not mocking the way somebody prays or making fun of someone. I don't think any true spirit-filled Christian would ever pray like this... Arminian or Calvinist.)

Rather, I hear prayers like the following one from my precious Arminian Brothers.

"Oh God, have mercy on my little sister!(1Ti 1:13, Tit 3:5) Cause her to approach you Lord Jesus! (Psa 65:4) Oh, thank you God, for having mercy upon me! (Rom 7:24, Rom 9:18) I Thank you God for taking away the stony heart that was in me and freely giving me a new heart of flesh! (Eze 36:25-32) I Thank you God for mercifully granting me repentance to the acknowledging of the truth. (2Ti 2:25, Act 5:31, Act 11:18) Oh, thank you God for the gift of tears! Thank you for birthing in me godly sorrow that works repentance to salvation. (2Co 7:10) Thank you for being merciful to me a sinner! (Lk 18:13) Thank you for your power that mercifully made me willing to come!" (Psa 110:3)

That's Calvinism. So maybe we're all Calvinist. However, like me... many started out a confused Calvinist. (Preaching like an Arminian and praying like a Calvinist.)

There's an important lesson that should be learned from these 2 prayers.

1. The theology of the First prayer is... "Lord, if I will, I can make myself clean."

1a. The heart of the First prayer is... "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican." (Lk 18:11)

2. The theology of the Second prayer is... "Lord, if You will, You can make me clean." (see Luke 5:12)

2a. The heart of the Second prayer is... "God be merciful to me a sinner." (Lk 18:13)

One hopes in the ability of the flesh (which is in bondage to an unwilling heart). And the other hopes in the ability of God (Who alone can free us from the bondage of an unwilling heart).

One is Man-centered and the other is God-centered.

God bless you! -Abraham

Edit Additions

Scriptures and Doctrine :: All Christians Are Calvinist When They're on Their Knees.

Purpose for writing this: The gospel you preach and your walk with the LORD is affected by doctrine. Doctrine should be discussed and reasoned out of the scriptures. We should not avoid studying doctrine or correcting false doctrines (though it may offend some). See Pro 4:2, Jn 7:16-17, Act 2:42, Rom 6:17, 1Ti 1:3; 1:10, 1Ti 4:1, 1Ti 4:13-16, 2Ti 4:2, 2Jn 1:9. Please understand that the purpose of this thread was to direct us to God-centered intercession and God-centered living. If you don't want to talk about it, you don't have to. This is a very serious topic. The gospel that you preach is entirely affected on your view concerning these doctrines. One might be offended when a differing view is posted, But that is not my intention. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1) I don't desire that my brother walk in doctrinal errors. I don't want to argue with anyone. I wrote the Edit Additions to endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Please understand, I love my Arminian brothers and sisters. I live in a sheeplefold with a majority of Arminians and Semi-Pelagians. I have blessed fellowship with those who know the LORD, though we disagree on these doctrines. The first prayer is ment to be a comparison to the second. It's not ment to ridicule someone. The point is, none of us should pray like this. I'm not saying that you pray like this. I'm only stating Arminian/Semi-Pelagian theology in the first prayer. I have never heard a Born-again Christian pray like this. Catholics and Mormons might pray like this. There are cults who might pray like this. They hold similar views (in opposition to "the Doctrines of Grace") and we both know the devil is behind their belief system. They are nearly hand in hand with Pelagianism.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pelagianism>

Also, some may not have any idea what is being dicussed, or what "the Doctrines of Grace" are and why they are nick-named "Calvinism". So, I would encourage you to study the matter and then post a response or start a new thread on what the Lord has taught you through His Word. I'm interested in hearing opposing views and reasoning from the scriptures ... please avoid arguments or word fights.

Here's a link for anyone who want's to study the matter.

Thread: Study Calvinism

(2nd Edit. Sentence structure corrections, thought clarification, and minor spell checks all in the "Edit Additions" section)

Re: All Christians Are Calvinist When They're on Their Knees. - posted by HopePurifies (), on: 2007/7/24 23:08

I am assuming that you don't mean to offend us. So I am trying very hard to give you the benefit of the doubt. I was a Calvinist for 3 years. THEN I realized that my understanding of the scriptures aligns with Arminianism. I only stayed Calvinist that long because all my church leaders were Calvinist and they kept giving me Calvinist books. They also kept me from seeking true holiness for those 3 years too. I pray always that God will continue to give ways that the person can hear, give circumstances so that the person can be humbled, and all sorts of things. So I pray like an Arminian too.

Re: All Christians Are Calvinist When They're on Their Knees. - posted by jordanamo, on: 2007/7/24 23:24

1 Corinthians 1:10-13 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

Re: All Christians Are Calvinist When They're on Their Knees. - posted by LoveHim, on: 2007/7/24 23:25

brother abe,

please tell me that was a joke. i am not an arminian and that was a horrible understanding of the freewill position.

Quote:

-----That's Calvinism. So maybe we're all calvinist.

no way brother, not even close. i refuse to be an arminian or a calvanist.

here is a question for you..

since when does the fact that we who believe that God has allowed mankind to either accept or reject mean that we "hope in the ability of the flesh"?? if we are convicted by the Holy Spirit and place our faith (that God has given man) in Him

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for salvation, then we have nothing to boast in of ourselves. why do most Calvinists think that we boast of that so much?? salvation is totally something God does, but God has commanded that for salvation, the condition is that man repent of his sin and believe on Christ. man cannot make themselves born again and no one who believes in freewill would ever profess that.

a man who cannot do anything except call for help and place his trust and faith in the rescuer has nothing of himself to boast in.. nothing.

Re: All Christians Are Calvinist When They're on Their Knees. - posted by Tears_of_joy, on: 2007/7/24 23:46

Dear brother Abraham,

I feel in my heart that I need to share with you something about this, and your recent threads. So take this in love.

You don't need this brother, you don't need it.

You don't need it, we don't need this kind of labeling - Calvinists-Arminianists.

I assume and believe that you have an honest heart for the Lord, but in order to enter into deep fellowship with the Holy Spirit we need brother to quit from this bondage of doctrines.

The description on this section of the forums says:

"Test everything, Hold on to the good." - 1 Thess 5:21. Here you will find discussions on all different scriptures and theological positions. Please discuss with an spirit of edification not dissention or strife.

And this is a very poor way of fellowshipping of the saints of God, labeling with man's names.

Maybe you think that your theology is life or death important, but brother please realize that you may be in bondage to it.

Please realize that the devil is the greatest theologian from all of us, and is still the devil.

What we need is LIFE, we need life from God, we need Spirit filled life, life is above doctrines and theology. The last can bring death.

I like Spurgeon on this:

"So my theological friend over there,
who knows so much that he can split hairs over doctrines-
it does not matter what you think, or what you know,
unless it leads you to glorify God, and to be thankful.
No, your knowledge may be a millstone about your neck to
sink you down to eternal woe, unless your knowledge is
turned to holy practice. "

And brother Ravenhill:

"Your doctrine can be as straight as a gun barrel-and just as empty!"

"You can have all of your doctrines right, yet still not have the presence of God."

Most of our preachers need to get free from their denomination, you go to church, what do you hear?

Do you meet God, or do you meet your church's theology, you meet your church's doctrine?

How often you go and come out breathing, and gasping - God The Holy Ghost was at that meeting and I absolutely shaken to my feet?

I believe this is the heart, and this should be the heart of our fellowshipping here.

We need the LIFE of Christ to flow from our lives, not the doctrine of Calvin or Arminia.

And when that LIFE is flowing out of us, it cannot go unrecognized! It is holy and fragrant!

I am very sad, seeing that from many of the Calvinists their doctrine is their god, because they are in bondage to it and it flows out are just words of death. We need freedom from this!

I have heard labels to Spurgeon as Calvinist.
Brother, I love this Calvinist!

Because I have never read this man to preach Calvin or forcing some doctrine. But I have seen this man preaching Christ. I have seen Jesus in this man. I have seen tears, travail, call for repentance, call for love to Christ, I have seen such burden for lost souls that is so rarely, I have seen cry for the lost. This man has been sold out to Jesus and in bondage to Jesus, not to doctrine. I like his 'doctrine'.

I believe also that to be free from theological and doctrinal bondage you need death. As to every other matter. But everything begins from the death to self.

I posted this in the other thread, let me post it again, because really touches the heart of what I want to express here:

"There is today no lack of Bible teachers to set forth correctly the principles of the doctrines of Christ, but too many of these seem satisfied to teach the fundamentals of the faith year after year, strangely unaware that there is in their ministry no manifest Presence, nor anything unusual in their personal lives. They minister constantly to believers who feel within their breasts a longing which their teaching simply does not satisfy. I trust I speak in charity, but the lack in our pulpits is real. Milton's terrible sentence applies to our day as accurately as it did to his: 'The hungry sheep look up, and are not fed.'

It is a solemn thing, and no small scandal in the Kingdom, to see God's children starving while actually seated at the Father's table. The truth of Wesley's words is established before our eyes: 'Orthodoxy, or right opinion, is, at best, a very slender part of religion. Though right tempers cannot subsist without right opinions, yet right opinions may subsist without right tempers. There may be a right opinion of God without either love or one right temper toward Him. Satan is proof of this.'

Thanks to our splendid Bible societies and to other effective agencies for the dissemination of the Word, there are today many millions of people who hold 'right opinions,' probably more than ever before in the history of the Church. Yet I wonder if there was ever a time when true spiritual worship was ever a time when true spiritual worship was at a lower ebb. To great sections of the Church the art of worship has been lost entirely, and in its place has come that strange and foreign thing called the 'program.' This word has been borrowed from the stage and applied with sad wisdom to the type of public service which now passes for worship among us.

Sound Bible exposition is an imperative must in the Church of the living God. Without it no church can be a New Testament church in any strict meaning of that term. But exposition may be carried on in such way as to leave the hearers devoid of any true spiritual nourishment whatever. For it is not mere words that nourish the soul, but God Himself, and unless and until the hearers find God in personal experience, they are not the better for having heard the truth. The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God, that they may enter into Him, that they may delight in His Presence, may taste and know the inner sweetness of the very God Himself in the core and center of their hearts."

-A. W. Tozer Chicago, Ill. June 16, 1948.
(From the Preface of The Pursuit of God)

Re: - posted by cchhhrrriiiss () , on: 2007/7/25 0:03

Hi Abe...

I am not an "arminian."
I am not a "calvinist."
I just love the Lord.

When I "met" the Lord as a young teen at summer camp, I told Him that I would give everything I am -- and everything that I would ever be -- if I could just know Him and be His friend. It was a few months before I noticed the squabble between the "once saved/always saved" crowd and those who don't believe in that concept. I've often wondered why individuals so viciously try to align themselves with one of two opposing sides. Why can't an individual just be

himself/herself in the Lord?

In times of such ridiculous and petty doctrinal disputes, I am always reminded about the position of the angel of the Lord when he was asked by Joshua, "Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?" What was the answer? "And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come" (Joshua 3:13-14).

God help us to align ourselves with the independent attitude of the Lord's camp!

:-)

Re: - posted by theopenlife, on: 2007/7/25 2:58

Hello, all.

I can understand the intensity of those on each side, who fear the pitfalls associated with either opposing view.

The urgent Calvinist fears that his poor Arminian brothers are days from Socinianism, or may even be false converts yet trusting in the weak arm of the flesh. He wonders, how can they not know how helpless they were to come? He is concerned that their evangelism sends men away self-confident and not altogether stripped of hope in their own abilities.

Meanwhile, the Arminians are repulsed at the seemingly narrow view of God's plan of salvation held by their Calvinist brothers. Can one be truly a Christian and not perceive the all encompassing, unlimited atonement of Christ? They fear that their brothers may become fatalistic or cold to evangelism.

It is a real issue, one that cannot be tucked so easily away. Yet we must have it in love.

I recommend all to read the introduction to J.I.Packer's "Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God", in which he uses a not-too-similar illustration of prayer as evidence of universal Christian belief in

- unconditional election - that is, God's mercy apart from merit
- extensive unwillingness - that is, no one is willing or able to come to God apart from divine movement upon them
- and irresistible grace - that is, we pray for God to move on them whether or not they are seeking it.

Packer states it more cogently than I have done.

Anyways, let's make this thread a little more brotherly (and sisterly ;-)

So much thankfulness for you who have taught me,

Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/7/25 3:02

It is a funny thing that if this were one of those very long free will, or moral government posts, most would be saying Amen, but when a differing view is presented, and a very good example is pointed out, men recoil and say, "how dare you."

Here's a quote from Spurgeon for you all to think over as I have-

"I have heard it asserted most positively, that those high doctrines which we love and which we find in the Scriptures, are licentious ones. I do not know who has the hardihood to make that assertion, when they consider that the holiest of men have been believers in them. I ask the man who dares to say that Calvinism is a licentious religion, what he thinks of the character of Augustine, or Calvin, or Whitfield, who in successive ages were the great exponents of the system of grace; or what will he say of those Puritans, whose works are full of them? Had a man been an Arminian in those days, he would have been accounted the vilest heretic breathing; but now we are looked upon as the heretics, and they the orthodox."

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/7/25 3:46

Spurgeon also said

Again let me remind you that the Scriptures plainly teach us that the atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ has a universal bearing; and it seems to me that those who limit the value of the atonement do most seriously err from the faith. I believe the sacrifice of Jesus Christ was so infinite that, if there had been ten thousand worlds full of sinners to have been redeemed, it was amply sufficient to have redeemed them all.

but i also wonder how do you as a person that belive in this doctrine, how do you pray? do you ever pray for a lost person? even when you know(if you belive so) that your prayer will never do anything except God choose that person you happend to pray fore? if not are your prayers just wasted? I really wonder how you view that issue?

What worries me about this doctrine is if could be possible for all those who are saved to never pray one single prayer, never witness one single time to anybody and still God would save all who he has chosen. I know what many are going to answer and to think such thoughts i consider "carnal".

But in the end when i view and think about this Calvinistic Doctrine this is what i come to. because it leaves all responsibility to God.

Edit: this sermon is not about Calvinism vs arminianism. But its about sound doctrine, and it is a Good sermon to listen to no matter what "doctrine" one has. (<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2546>) Sound doctrine in life A.W Tozer (Titus series)

Re:, on: 2007/7/25 4:09

If the doctrine of limited atonement is true, then how can this scripture be true?

"And the angel said unto them...behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to ALL PEOPLE. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior" Luke 2:10-11

The gospel of limited atonement is far from being good tidings of great joy to all people.

We need to tell everyone person we meet that Christ died for them. What are we to tell sinners to believe in order to be saved? They need to believe that Christ died for them. Sinners must believe in order to be saved, and they must believe that Christ died for them, and so we must tell sinners Christ died for them.

How can we expect sinners to fall in love with God if we do not tell them that God so loved them first, by giving His Son? We are to love Him because He first loved us. And how did He love us, He so loved the world that He gave His Son.

If they are to believe, they must be told Jesus died for them.

If they are to repent, they must be told that God so loved them.

When we preach and evangelize, we are to tell sinners to repent and believe. But repent why? Because God so loved them. And believe what? That Christ died for them.

Mr 16:15 says we are to preach the gospel to everybody. And what are we to tell everybody? 1Corinthians 15:1-4 says Paul preached to sinners that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again.

We have a gospel to preach to all people, that Jesus died for them, and if they repent and believe they can have the grace made possible through the cross.

Re:, on: 2007/7/25 7:17

Quote:
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That's a Great question. I used to wonder about that also, when I was more Arminian. I used pray and hope that the person I was praying for would do something... so that God could do something.

Now, I just get on my knees and beg God do a miracle that only He can do. And I've seen miracle's from God. I've seen people nearly faint under conviction. I've seen people weep in mournful repentance after hearing the gospel. It's not som ething I can manipulate or cause... Only God can do this miracle of Convincing of Sin and Regeneration. So, I plead with Him to do it. God answers our prayers. But, He is still sovereign and none else.

Also, I haven't lost my zeal to win souls since God taught me the Doctrines of Grace. The only thing I lost, was fleshly m otivations and skills. I've been driven to preach... Because I know that God has elected a people out of every tribe, tongu e, and nation. ...And God will quicken them through the foolishness of preaching the gospel.

My motivation is God's glory.

Or, a better question... How did these men pray? Did they ever pray for a lost person?

John Owen, George Whitfield, Jonathan Edwards, Charles Spurgeon.

My dear brother, I have yet to hear of a men who preached like Whitfield. It was rare that he preached without tears in hi s eyes.

I can tell you very simply how my prayers have been affected by the doctrines of Grace. My hope is in God. I know that only God God can save. So, I plead with God. I don't understand the mystery of intercession and God's sovereignty. Stu dy George Mueller's life of prayer.

(http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Biographies/1531_George_Muellers_Strategy_for_Showing_God/) Georg e Mueller

Study David Brainerd's Life of prayer.

http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/product?item_no=09766&netp_id=102558&event=ESRCN&item_code=WW

Also, dear brother... you asked if I pray for a lost person? I'm am poor at this compared to some of these men above. Bu t, I desire to be filled with God's intercessions. By God's grace, I've experienced it to greater degrees lately. It had nothin g to do with me. It had everything to do with God and His grace working in me. I will say this, I've been weeping more lat ely. Because, I am struck down by the greatness of God's mercy upon the greatness of my sin. I was a murderer. I want ed to kill Jesus himself. I continually cursed God with my thought, words, and deeds. I was in the multitude of scoffers th at day! I cried out against Him, "Crucify Him! Pierce Him! Come down from the cross and save yourself Jesus! I will not h ave this man to reign over me!"

He has had mercy on me! He has set His love upon me! He has freed me from my sin. I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me! Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for His love is better than wine!

Dear brother's and sister's, I want you to read this blog from my journal. Be encouraged to pray for souls.

Somebody Please Help Me Pray for My Children
The Preaching Journal of Abraham Juliot

Jan 25, 2007 11:58 PM

I went witnessing today. God really worked. He led me to people that were really open and ready to hear the gospel. It's a rare thing to find someone who quickly realizes they are a guilty sinner in desperate need of mercy, yet no one has ever taken the time to preach the whole gospel to them. It makes me want to weep and sob. The thought, that there are billions of people in bondage to sin (against our Lord Jesus)... ought to bring great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. They love death, for they hate God! Should we not weep? There are so many people going to hell. I find that when I pray for people as if they are my own child, I am seriously grieved for them. I shared with around 10 people today. I imagine that they are my own children. That means 10 of my children are on their way to hell... 10 of my children are in bondage to sin!... 10 of my children are not walking with God! Oh, I imagine them when they were younger, maybe 5 years old... at an age that I could be a father or a nurse to them. I have 5 girls and 5 boys, dead in sin and going to hell! I cannot help but weep. Somebody please help me pray!

Jer 6:26 O daughter of my people, gird thee with sackcloth, and wallow thyself in ashes: make thee mourning, as for an only son, most bitter lamentation: for the spoiler shall suddenly come upon us.

Jer 9:1 Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

Jer 14:17 Therefore thou shalt say this word unto them; Let mine eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease: for the virgin daughter of my people is broken with a great breach, with a very grievous blow.

1Th 2:7 But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

1Th 2:11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,

God bless you! Abraham

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/7/25 7:51

i just think you calvanists make God so small,

my God is powerful and sovereign and can save sinners to the uttermost who repent and believe in the eternal almighty God's son.

it grieves me deeply people ignore so much scriptures, just for a "doctrine"

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/7/25 7:53

Quote:

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"There is today no lack of Bible teachers to set forth correctly the principles of the doctrines of Christ, but too many of these seem satisfied to teach the fundamentals off he faith year after year, strangely unaware that there is in their ministry no manifest Presence, nor anything unusual in their personal lives. They minister constantly to believers who feel within their breasts a longing which their teaching simply does not satisfy. I trust I speak in charity, but the lack in our pulpits is real. Milton's terrible sentence applies to our day as accurately as it did to his: 'The hungry sheep look up, and are not fed.' It is a solemn thing, and no small scandal in the Kingdom, to see God's children starving while actually seated at the Father's table. The truth of Wesley's words is established before our eyes: 'Orthodoxy, or right opinion, is, at best, a very slender part of religion. Though right tempers cannot subsist without right opinions, yet right opinions may subsist without right tempers. There may be a right opinion of God without either love or one right temper toward Him. Satan is proof of this.'

Thanks to our splendid Bible societies and to other effective agencies for the dissemination of the Word, there are today many millions of people who hold 'right opinions,' probably more than ever before in the history of the Church. Yet I wonder if there was ever a time when true spiritual worship was ever a time when true spiritual worship was at a lower ebb. To great sections of the Church the art of worship has been lost entirely, and in its place has come that strange and foreign thing called the 'program.' This word has been borrowed from the stage and applied with sad wisdom to the type of public service which now passes for worship among us.

Sound Bible exposition is an imperative must in the Church of the living God. Without it no church can be a New Testament church in any strict meaning of that term. But exposition may be carried on in such way as to leave the hearers devoid of any true spiritual nourishment whatever. For it is not mere words that nourish the soul, but God Himself, and unless and until the hearers find God in personal experience, they are not the better for having heard the truth. The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God, that they may enter into Him, that they may delight in His Presence, may taste and know the inner sweetness of the very God Himself in the core and center of their hearts."

-A. W. Tozer Chicago, Ill. June 16, 1948.
(From the Preface of The Pursuit of God)

Scriptures and Doctrine :: All Christians Are Calvinist When They're on Their Knees.

Re: - posted by Nile (), on: 2007/7/25 8:14

Quote:

hmmhmm wrote:

i just think you calvanists make God so small,

my God is powerful and sovereign and can save sinners to the uttermost who repent and believe in the eternal almighty Gods son.

it grives me deeply people ignore so much scriptures, just for a "doctrine"

Another thing I notice, is that no one is born a Calvinist. We all have an intuitive God-given idea that we freely make choices. I never would have thought that God *arbitrarily* chooses who goes to heaven and hell unless I had heard it from other men.

I do believe God chooses, ordains, foreknows, and predestines those who go to heaven: They are the ones who believe in Jesus Christ and repent of sin.

An Armenian,
Nile

Re:, on: 2007/7/25 8:31

All christians are christians when they are on their knees... all children of the devil are still children of the devil when they are on their knees. I fear for many (not thinking of anyone in this thread) who spend so much time and effort arguing the ology instead of walking in the reality of the kingdom of God.

I will not be labeled a 'calvinist' or 'arminean'.. both of these will perish along with many who hold to both theologies.

In Christ - Jim

Re: - posted by running2win (), on: 2007/7/25 9:03

It seems to me that when someone, either calvinist or arminean, places so much emphasis on their doctrine and becomes unwaveringly loyal to their doctrinal camp then something is **WAAAAAAAY** out of balance. I hear people talk about Spurgeon, Calvin, Whitefield, etc. but let me say that the secret of their christian life was **ABSOLUTELY NOT IN THE FACT THAT THEY WERE CALVINISTS** and neither was Wesley's in the fact that he was in the other camp. So Spurgeon was the prince of preachers. Well, Wesley won more souls to God. $2+2=5????????!!!!!!$

But Wesley's doctrine was **DAMNABLE HERESY!** or so some would like us to think. Did Spurgeon preach to fix everyone's bad doctrine? Not at all, he preached to bring souls to Christ. The same with Edwards, Whitefield, you name the giants of the faith and I can assure you they weren't out to make disciples of Calvin, they were out to make christians in the best way they knew how. Give me a man who is turning this world upside down for God and I'll ask him what God has done for him. Not what his doctrinal party is.

People love and are loyal to their doctrine even at the expense of a brother or sister in Christ in these kinds of discussions. I don't think it ought to be that way.

Rather than arguing that Wesley was arminian or Whitefield was calvinist we'd be much better off getting on the floor and crying "God, make my life like that of Whitefield and Wesley!!!!"

Very well said Jim. That's how I see the matter as well.

A more excellent way - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/7/25 9:35

Dr. Tozer's & Spurgeon Advice

I was preparing to go to Nyack College. Before I left there was one burning question I had in mind, and I went to Dr. Tozer and said, "Could you give me some advice concerning the problem of Calvinism versus Arminianism?" And I'll never forget the advice he gave me. At the time I thought it was rather inconclusive and not too helpful. But I listened carefully. He said, "My son, when you get to college you're going to find that all of the boys will be gathered in a room discussing and arguing over Arminianism and Calvinism night after night after night. I'll tell you what to do, Cliff. Go to your room and meet God. At the end of four years you'll be way down the line and they'll still be where they started, because greater minds than yours have wrestled with this problem and have not come up with satisfactory conclusions. Instead, learn to know God."

-Cliff Westergren

(http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?viewmodeflat&order0&topic_id6139&forum36&post_id&refreshGo) Dr. Tozer's & Spurgeon Advice

Re: A more excellent way - posted by ccchhrrriiss (), on: 2007/7/25 9:38

Thanks Mike! That is some wonderfully convicting (and much needed) advice!

:)

Re: A Better Way - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/25 10:24

I believe a true sign of Christian maturity comes when a believer can finally reconcile this Calvin/Arminian discrepancy to *his or herself*, and not feel compelled to draw others into the ring. The wisest men of God knew to avoid it, because such debates are quite unwinnable. Believers who wrangle over this topic and use certain scriptures to prove their point are actually spinning their wheels in a mud pit. The engine is screaming, scripture is flying, lots of noise and power and fuel expenditure...but in the end you go nowhere. You're no closer to the destination than when you first put the key in the ignition and turned the engine on.

I believe Tozer was right: We need to get past the urge to participate in these fruitless debates and instead go after God with a single eye. We need to avoid the pits in the road, brethren.

All of us are at points where we are receiving light from the Word. Some of us have more light than others, because more Word has entered in. I can *guarantee* that your current theological leanings will change somewhat as more light is imparted to your soul in the future. The trivialities that charmed you in third grade will be forgotten by the time you're in high school -- in fact, you'll look back and see much of it was quite infantile and pointless.

I bless God for the example of Wesley and Whitefield. These two men were not on opposite ends of a theological spectrum by chance. God knew what He was doing, whom he was choosing. He was setting a profound example with these two brothers, showing His ways are so far above and beyond our mortal understandings. Let us therefore get our vessels unstuck and go after God. I realize this post will not change many of your convictions, but I believe someone will read this and realize that it is time to progress to higher grades in God's academy.

Brother Paul

Re:, on: 2007/7/25 10:33

Very well spoken Mike and Paul... I think your comments should be copy-pasted into every new thread that pops up related to this matter.

In Christ - Jim

Re:, on: 2007/7/25 12:42

Sometimes I think it to ones disadvantage to know much about church history and doctrines of others such as Calvin, Spurgeon and Whitfield. With no disrespect to any of them, these men are not where our hope lies although they are legends of the faith. The Apostle Peter, Paul, and the other writers under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit did not know all their doctrine and they had no trouble proclaiming God's Word to others. That same SPIRIT is available to us through Christ and we not only have the Old Testament Scriptures but the New Testament as well which is much more than Jeremiah had.

As Terry Bradshaw said once before the Super Bowl game.

" When you go to the big dance, You dance with the one that brung ye"

Jesus brung us.

John 1:1

John 1:14

Mark 7:7-9

7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

KJV

Re: - posted by HomeFree89 (), on: 2007/7/25 13:23

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There is no need to label ourselves to fit a certain doctrinal stance. This only leads to division amongst believers.

If you read through the Gospels you'll see that Jesus didn't spend much time on doctrine, He taught about what it meant to walk with Him and how to be His disciple.

Jordan

Here is an excellent article:

The True Gospel And The False - Zac Poonen

Christians are generally speaking, categorized into two groups as follows:

- (1) "Roman Catholics" and "Protestants" - depending on birth.
- (2) "Episcopal" (conformist) and "Free church" (non-conformist) - depending on church-pattern.
- (3) "Born again Christians" and "Nominal Christians" - depending on an "experience";
- (4) "Evangelicals" and "Liberals" - depending on doctrine.
- (5) "Charismatics" and "Non-charismatics" - depending on "speaking in tongues".
- (6) "Full-time Christian workers" and "Secular workers" - depending on profession.

There could be other such categorizations too. But none of these categorizations deal with the root of the problem that our Lord came to solve.

Many know that "Christ died for our sins" (1 Cor.15:3). But many do not know that the Bible says that Christ also died "that we should no longer live for ourselves but for Him" (2 Cor.5:15).

A more Scriptural way of categorizing Christians therefore would be as follows: "Those who live for themselves" and "Those who live for Christ"; or "Those who seek their own" and "Those who seek the things of Christ" or "Those who seek earthly things first" and "Those who seek the kingdom of God first"; or "Those who love money" and "Those who love God

". (Jesus said it was impossible to love both -Lk.16:13)

But I have never heard of such a categorization being used. This categorization deals with the Christian's inner life and private walk with God, whereas the methods mentioned earlier deal with the external details of his life. Yet it is in this latter way that heaven categorizes Christians. And if that be the case, then this is the only categorization that matters! In this method, others cannot categorize us. We have to categorize ourselves - for no one but we ourselves know our inner motivations and desires. Even our wives may not be aware what we are living for.

Our Lord did not come primarily to give people a doctrine, or a church-pattern or to make them speak in tongues or even to give them an experience!

He came to "save us from sin". He came to lay the axe to the root of the tree. And the root of sin is : Being centered in ourselves, seeking our own and doing our own will. If we do not permit the Lord to axe and uproot this "root" from our lives, we will be Christians only superficially. Satan may however deceive us into imagining that we belong to a higher class than other Christians, because of our doctrine or our experience or our church-pattern!

Satan doesn't care even if we have the right doctrine, experience and church-pattern, so long as we continue to "live for ourselves" (This, by the way, is just another phrase for "living in sin"!!). Christendom today is filled with Christians who seek their own and live for themselves, who are yet convinced that God views them as superior to other Christians, merely because of doctrinal differences or church-pattern or "experiences". This shows what a great work Satan has succeeded in doing in Christendom.

In John 6:38, our Lord said that He came from heaven to earth:

(1) To deny His human will (that He had acquired, when He came to earth as a Man), and (2) To do the will of His Father, as a Man. Thereby He became our example.

Throughout Jesus' earthly life -- during all His 33 1/2; years - He denied his own will and did His Father's will. And He told His disciples clearly that those who wanted to be His disciples would have to go the same way. He came to hit at the root of sin in our lives - "doing our own will" - and to deliver us from that.

In the realm of science, for thousands of years, man made the mistake of imagining that the earth was the center of the universe. It looked like that to human eyes - because the sun, moon and stars did indeed appear to be revolving around the earth once every 24 hours. It took the courage of a man like Copernicus to question this popular notion, just about 450 years ago, and to show that it was utterly false and that the earth was not even the center of the solar system, leave alone the universe. The earth, he showed was created to be centered in the sun. As long as man had the wrong center, his scientific calculations and deductions were wrong - because his center was wrong. But once man discovered the right center, then these calculations and deductions turned out right.

It is the same with us when we remain "self-centered" instead of being "God-centered". Our understanding of the Bible and of God's perfect will (our calculations and deductions) will then be wrong. But just as men were convinced for over 5000 years that they were right (as we saw above), we too may imagine that we are right! But actually, we will be 100% wrong.

This is what we see even among many "good Christians" today. They have so many different interpretations of the same Bible - and yet each one is convinced that his interpretation alone is right and everyone else's is wrong. The others, they will say are "deceived". Why is this so? Because they've got their center wrong.

Man was created to be centered in God and not in himself. And when Christians have got their center wrong, their "gospel" will be wrong too. Basically, there are only two gospels being preached today - one man-centered and the other God-centered.

The man-centered gospel promises man that God will give him everything he needs to make his life on earth comfortable and will also give him a seat in heaven at the end of his life. Man is told that Jesus will forgive all his sins, heal all his diseases, bless and prosper him materially, solve all his earthly problems, etc., etc.

Self still remains at the center of such a man's life, and God revolves around him - as his servant - to answer his every prayer and to give him whatever he wants!! All that he has to do is "believe" and "claim every material blessing in Jesus' Name"!!

This is a false gospel, because no mention is made of "repentance". Repentance is what John the Baptist, Jesus, Paul, Peter and all the apostles preached first of all. And repentance, unfortunately, is what is not preached today, even last of all!!

The God-centered gospel, on the other hand, calls upon man to repent. It explains that "repentance" means:

Turning FROM Self as the center of one's life, from doing one's own will, from walking along one's self-chosen way, from loving money, and from loving the world and the things in the world (the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life), etc., and

Turning TO God, loving Him with one's whole heart, making Him the Centre of one's life and doing His will henceforth et c.,

Faith in Christ's death on the cross can forgive a man his sins only when he has repented. Then he can receive the power of the Holy Spirit empower him to deny himself daily so that he can live a God-centered life. This is the gospel that Jesus and the apostles preached.

The false gospel makes the gate wide and the way broad (easy to walk along, because one does not have to deny one's Self or stop living for one's own interests or stop seeking one's own gain). Millions attend meetings where such a false "gospel" is preached. And many enter through this gate and walk along this way, imagining that it leads to life. But it actually leads to destruction. The evangelists of this gospel however gloat in, and report about the large numbers of people who "raised their hands and made decisions for Christ" in their meetings!! But it is all a deception. Although some are indeed genuinely converted in such meetings, because of their sincerity, many such "converts" end up becoming "twofold children of hell" (Matt.23:15) - deceived about their true state.

The true gospel however, makes the gate small and the way narrow - not smaller or narrower than Jesus Himself made it, as some "super-spiritual" cultists do, but just the same size as Jesus made it. Few there be, that find this way to life. There is not much for the evangelists of this gospel to report about, and the statistics are not impressive. But this gospel leads people to the Lord Jesus and to heaven.

"Be careful how you listen. Whoever obeys what he has heard, to him more light and understanding will be given. But whoever does not obey what he has heard, even what light and understanding he thinks he has will be taken away from him." (Paraphrase of Luke 8:18).

He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/7/25 13:45

Brother hmmhmm I post this for your consideration, not to win you to a certain belief, but simply to give a defense of the hope that lies within. You have asked questions, and I will try to answer.

In response to your Spurgeon quote, I post this from a sermon called "The Death of Christ"

They believe in an atonement made for every body; but then, their atonement is just this. They believe that Judas was atoned for just as much as Peter; they believe that the damned in hell were as much an object of Jesus Christ's satisfaction as the saved in heaven; and though they do not say it in proper words, yet they must mean it, for it is a fair inference, that in the case of multitudes, Christ died in vain, for he died for them all, they say; and yet so ineffectual was his dying for them, that though he died for them they are damned afterward. Now, such an atonement I despise—I reject it. I may be called Antinomian or Calvinist for preaching a limited atonement; but I had rather believe a limited atonement that is efficacious for all men for whom it was intended, than an universal atonement that is not efficacious for anybody, except that he will of man be joined with it. Why, my brethren, if we were only so far atoned for by the death of Christ that any one of us might afterward save himself, Christ's atonement were not worth a farthing, for there is no man of us can save himself—no, not under the gospel; for if I am to be saved by faith, if that faith is to be my own act, unassisted by the Holy Spirit, I am as unable to save myself by faith as to save myself by good works. And after all, though men call this a limited atonement, it is as effectual as their own fallacious and rotten redemptions can pretend to be. But do you know the limit of it? Christ hath bought a "multitude that no man can number." The limit of it is just this: He hath died for sinners; whoever

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in this congregation inwardly and sorrowfully knows himself to be a sinner, Christ died for him; whoever seeks Christ, shall know Christ died for him; for our sense of need of Christ, and our seeking after Christ, are infallible proofs that Christ died for us. And, mark, here is something substantial.

Now, I firmly and most vehemently believe that one drop of the blood of Christ is enough to save galaxy upon galaxy of men. However, this blood will not be applied to all so that all are saved. Here is where there is a huge difference in the Arminian and Calvinist thoughts, for the Arminian limits the "sufficiency", while Calvinists limit its "efficiency".

No matter what we think, we must come to grips with the fact that men perish. So we must ask why? Some will say unbelief, and that is fair. Yet if the death of Christ was for all mens' sins equally, is not unbelief a sin? And yet the man for whom Christ died is now in Hell though his penalty was paid?

This most definitely would make God unjust, to demand double payment, both from Christ, and from the man himself. If this were done in our courts there would be immediate uprising.

So how do we reconcile this?

If all sins of all men are covered, and paid for, then none will perish. Even those who die in unbelief. Or there must be some limit to the extent of Christ's payment.

Re: All Christians Are Calvinist When They're on Their Knees. - posted by Logic, on: 2007/7/25 13:47

Quote:

-----Abe_Juliot wrote:

"Oh God! Please save my little sister. I ask that you would do every thing that you can do to save her. But... Oh God, I know that she has to make the right choice of her free will, before you can have mercy on her. So, Lord I pray that you would do your part and be patient with her, so she could make the right decision and let you have mercy on her. Oh God, I pray that she would make the right decision to get a new heart... But, oh God I know that you can't cause the new birth. She has to choose it and cooperate with you. So, I pray that she would make the right choice, so you can have mercy on her. But... Oh God, I know that only she can answer that prayer. For God, you can't have mercy on anyone unless they do something first. And God, you would never cause her to approach you... because that would violate her freewill. Oh God, your so merciful!"

Oh God! Please save my little sister. I ask that you would do every thing that you can do to save her. But... Oh God, I know that she will or will not make the right choice because she has no free will, it only depends on if you love her or not. So, Lord I it does not matter if I pray or not because I can not sway you or move your heart, so you would you save her. Oh God, Your will is set in stone from the foundation of the Earth... But, oh God I know that you it doesn't matter if I pray or not, you will do what you will. She can not choose and cooperate with you. So because you conemnd her because of what Adam did, I am pray only because you tell me to, for who knows what reason, no one knows. But... Oh God, I know that only You will answer this prayer only if you pre-ordained it. For God, you will not have mercy on anyone unless you pre-ordained by election. And God, you would never cause her to approach you if you did'nt elect her because you hate her... because that would violate your sovrenity if any one could choose. Oh God, your so merciful?

Oh, God I thank you that you didn't elect my brother, so that you could show your power in him. Thank you for shedding your blood, only for few so that many of your creation that you hate will burn for ever. God, I thank you that I'm not like other men who heard the gospel and can not submit, because I am of the elite... who didn't want to make the right decision to get born-again, but you made me do it anyway. I thank you that you brainwashed the right decision in to me to get born-again. Thanks God, for electing me. It's a good thing that you didn'y elect by brother who is burning in hell because you did'nt want him with you. For you would never let people have freewill Oh God, you're so merciful?"

(Please understand, I'm not mocking the way somebody prays or making fun of someone. I don't think any true spirit-filled Christian would ever pray like this... Arminian or Calvinist.

How ever this is the logical extent to calvism)

Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/7/25 13:50

Also here are some Scriptures to look at

The atonement of Christ is effective

To justify

Isa 53:11 ; Rom 8:34

To redeem and cleanse from sins

Eph 5:25-27; Tit 2:14

To propitiate the Father

1John 2:2 ; 1John 4:10

To raise to new life

2Cor 5:14-15 ; 1Pet 3:18

Those whom God purposed to redeem include all who believe

John 3:16

From every nation

Rev 5:9

From every class

Gal 3:28; 1Tim 2:1-6

Therefore, Christ's saving work is commonly spoken of in terms of "all," "world," etc.

John 1:29; Tit 2:11-14 ; Heb 2:9-10 ; 2Pet 3:9 ; 1John 2:2

The word "all" is often used to indicate all of a set, or even many representatives of a set

Mat 10:22; 1Cor 6:12; 1Cor 15:22; Mat 2:3; John 4:29; Act 10:39; Act 17:21; Act 21:28; Act 26:4

Or, to indicate all "classes" or "nations," not all individuals

Mat 5:11; Act 2:17; Act 10:12

The word "world" is often used in the sense of "many," or "all of a set"

Luk 2:1-2; John 6:33; John 12:19; Act 19:27; Rom 1:8

Additional reasons that the atonement of Christ is not for all the sins of all people

God punishes people in hell, which would be unjust if their sins were atoned for

Mark 9:43-44

If one were to say, "their sins are atoned for, but that atonement is not applied because of unbelief," he fails to realize that unbelief is likewise a sin

Heb 3:12

God bears eternal wrath against people, which by definition means that his wrath against them has not been propitiated

1The 2:16; 2The 1:6-9

-Nathan Pitchford of monergism.com

Re: - posted by LoveHim, on: 2007/7/25 14:06

Quote:
----- I realise this post will not change many of your convictions, but I believe someone will read this and realize that it is time to progress to higher grades in God's academy.

thank you brother for this. i am feeling the Lord speak this to my heart. thank you for obeying the Lord.

Re: - posted by Logic, on: 2007/7/25 14:47

roaringlamb wrote:

Quote:
-----"The Father imposed His wrath due unto, and the Son underwent punishment for either:

- 1) All the sins of all men;
- 2) All the sins of some men; or
- 3) Some of the sins of all men.

In which case it may be said:

- 1) If the last be true all men have some sins to answer for, and so none are saved;
- 2) That if the second be true, then Christ, in their stead suffered for all the sins of the elect in the whole world, and this is the truth;
- 3) But if the first is the case, why are not all men free from the punishment due unto their sins? You answer, Because of unbelief. I ask, Is this unbelief a sin, or is it not? If it be, then Christ suffered the punishment due unto it, or He did not. If He did, why must that hinder them more than their other sins for which He died? If He did not, He did not die for all their sins!" -- John Owen, The Death of Death in the Death of Christ

Quote:

God bears eternal wrath against people, which by definition means that his wrath against them has not been propitiated

One must take advantage of the Atonement in order for the effect to take place.

Ye are save by *Atonement* through faith(opposite of unbelief) and that not of yourself...

If one has faith, then, his sins along with the prior unbelief will be atoned for.

If one remains in unbelief, that one is not appropriating the atonement to him self, therefore, the sin of unbelief is not covered along with all the rest.

Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/7/25 14:52

Quote:
-----If one remains in unbelief, that one is not appropriating the atonement to him self, therefore, the sin of unbelief is not covered along with all the rest.

So how does a man come to see his need of the atonement?

Also, doesn't your view limit the atonement too?

Re: - posted by Logic, on: 2007/7/25 15:01

roaringlamb wrote:

Quote:

Quote:
-----If one remains in unbelief, that one is not appropriating the atonement to him self, therefore, the sin of unbelief is not covered along with all the rest.

So how does a man come to see his need of the atonement?

The Law is our schoolmaster that brings us to Christ.

1Tim 1:8-10 But we know that the law is good, if a man uses it lawfully;

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:9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,
:10 For fornicators, for homosexuals, for slave traders, for liars, for perjurers, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

The law is used to show the need of salvation

Quote:
-----Also, doesn't your view limit the atonement too?

Limits to only those who do not want it.

You limit it to who can not have it.

I put the blaim on man, you put the blaim on God.

Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/7/25 15:11

But, people speak poorly of limited atonement when it is linked to God, yet when man is the one making the limitation it's ok?

So, if the atonement is limited by unbelief, why then do many say it is for everyone?

It cannot be, for either all are saved because all sin is forgiven, or it is limited right?

Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/7/25 15:33

Brother Logic and others,
Please be patient with me, I am asking these questions to understand.

If it is as many say that God foresees faith in those whom He elects, then isn't this still limiting Christ's work based upon God's election?

(As we have determined that Christ's work cannot be for all mens' sins else all would be saved, because unbelief is a sin that would have to be forgiven as well)

So now, would this mean that God favoured some over others because He saw something in them that others did not have(faith)?

Re: All Christians Are Calvinist When They're on Their Knees. - posted by adamdawkins, on: 2007/7/25 15:57

Quote:
-----Please understand, I'm not mocking the way somebody prays or making fun of someone.

Perhaps not, but you are speaking foolishly.

Quote:
-----That's Calvinism. So maybe we're all calvinist. However, like me... many started out a confused calvinist. (Preaching like an Arminian and praying like a Calvinist.)

I am trusting that the heart of this post is good, and no offense was meant (though some provocation maybe) - I feel this has really taken to extremes.

I could equally say "All Christians are Arminean when they preach the Gospel"

Scriptures and Doctrine :: All Christians Are Calvinist When They're on Their Knees.

Have you ever heard anyone preach:

"The Good News of the Gospel is that Christ *might* have died for you. If you aren't listening to the Word, and are resisting it, don't worry, because God will either make you obey and you'll agree with me in the end and we'll both be in Heaven - or you're already going to Hell so it's irrelevant what you do.

Come to Jesus today, no, not all of you, only those that are going to come anyway. I bring good news, if you're a special one - if not, bad luck."

OF COURSE No-one would preach like this.

If only you had concluded that perhaps calvinism and armineanism aren't mutually exclusive in part, and that there has to be some cross-over in any Christian life, it'd be good (I think I mentioned praying like a calvinist and preaching like an arminean in another post) - I just don't know what this post is set out to achieve?!

All I can conclude is that you've thought long and hard about us Armineans (I say that, I'm not, I just believe in free-will and not unconditional election - I've read no armineanism) and realised that perhaps we don't pray like arrogant Heathen..

Re: - posted by Logic, on: 2007/7/25 16:56

roaringlamb wrote:

Quote:

-----But, people speak poorly of limited atonement when it is linked to God, yet when man is the one making the limitation it's ok?

So, if the atonement is limited by unbelief, why then do many say it is for everyone?

It cannot be, for either all are saved because all sin is forgiven, or it is limited right?

It isn't limited in scope but in gaurenty; Christ's work makes redemption possible for all but guaranteed for only those apply it to themselves.

Salvation is limited for only those who have faith, why the confusion about this?

Quote:

-----roaringlamb wrote:

So now, would this mean that God favoured some over others because He saw something in them that others did not have(faith)?

Of course.

It is imposible to please Gos without choosing to have faith(Heb 11:6).

Re:, on: 2007/7/25 17:01

There are many Bible Believing Christians who believe in their eternal security and are NOT Armenian or Calvinist. I'm one. I actually get offended when Calvinists try to indoctrinate you and tell you to read their materials or the Institutes of Calvin. It seems like that is their mission in life...and not sharing the Gospel with the lost. Anyone who holds up a doctrine over the scriptures or is always giving you materials to read reminds me of the Mormons or JW's or such. Let's just stay with Scripture and let Scripture teach scripture as it is suppose to do. Why is it so important to Calvinists to indoctrinate you???

Many believe in eternal secutiry and totally disagree with the 4 or 5 or 6 points of Calvinism.

If a Calvinist doesn't believe Faith comes by hearing, why and what good are they anyway? Seems like they just like sticking their tongues out at the world and saying...Ha..Ha..Ha.. God picked me and not you! Or make up silly prayers to poke fun....tht is NOT of the Lord!!!

Sorry, just had to let my feelings made known!

Scriptures and Doctrine :: All Christians Are Calvinist When They're on Their Knees.

Love in Christ
Katy-did

Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/7/25 17:19

Quote:
-----Salvation is limited for only those who have faith, why the confusion about this?

My confusion lies in this. If I say God limits those who will be saved on the basis of election, people have a fit and tell me I am cruel and making God a mocker of man.

However if you say that man limits the atonement through his lack of faith, all say, "amen."

But to move beyond that, where does this faith come from?

From how I see this, it seems that so long as man has the last decision everyone is happy, but remove that decision, and everyone shouts, "unfair!"

I am really trying to grasp what the other side believes, as it does not make sense to me at the moment.

Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/7/25 17:21

Quote:
-----If a Calvinist doesn't believe Faith comes by hearing, why and what good are they anyway?

If someone says this, their theology matters little, as the Scripture says that faith comes by hearing, and to deny that is denying Scripture.

Re: - posted by hulseys (), on: 2007/7/25 17:45

roaringlamb,

Quote:
-----However if you say that man limits the atonement through his lack of faith, all say, "amen."

I'm not really sure what you mean by this statement. Could you elaborate?

I'm not an Arminian by-the-way, but I don't think they would necessarily agree with that statement either.

Re: - posted by adamdawkins, on: 2007/7/25 18:03

Quote:
-----There are many Bible Believing Christians who believe in their eternal security and are NOT Armenian or Calvinist. I'm one. I actually get offended when Calvinists try to indoctrinate you and tell you to read their materials or the Institutes of Calvin

Exactly. There is no way of holding to 'strict' Calvinism or 'strict' Arminianism without having to explain away a few scriptures. I've never read either, but am tired of getting battered with a tulip every 10 seconds!

Scriptures and Doctrine :: All Christians Are Calvinist When They're on Their Knees.

Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/7/25 18:06

Quote:

-----I'm not really sure what you mean by this statement. Could you elaborate?

What I am saying is that, if a Calvinist says that God limits who will partake of the work of the Cross, usually people are quick to say, "unfair, that is not the God of the Bible etc."

But it seems that as long as man is the one who can choose to limit its application men do not have a problem.

It seems that so long as man can retain some say, or maintain some sort of godlike quality(i.e. choosing to partake of Christ), men don't have a problem. But once you get into the total inability and ingratitude towards God that men have, and how they would not seek God unless He gave them the very urge to do so, man begins to become infuriated as he believes there is still something redeemable in him.

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/7/25 18:07

Quote:

"The Good News of the Gospel is that Christ might have died for you. If you aren't listening to the Word, and are resisting it, don't worry, because God will either make you obey and you'll agree with me in the end and we'll both be in Heaven - or you're already going to Hell so it's irrelevant what you do.

Come to Jesus today, no, not all of you, only those that are going to come anyway. I bring good news, if you're a special one - if not, bad luck."

:P this is what calvanism looks to me. :-) and im not from arminian.....

Re: - posted by adamdawkins, on: 2007/7/25 18:16

Quote:

-----his is what calvanism looks to me. and im not from arminian.....

me either really.

Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/7/25 18:16

Quote:

-----but am tired of getting battered with a tulip every 10 seconds!

But did you know that had it not been for the followers of Arminius, the TULIP would not have been created?

The five points of Calvinism were not written down by Calvin, as he was dead when they were brought together. But rather the five points were in response to five points presented by the Remonstrants(Arminians).

If you search for the Synod of Dort, you can find the objections presented and refuted. If anything it will strengthen you in what you currently believe.

Here is a link to the points raised and refuted

(<http://www.spurgeon.org/~phil/creeds/dort.htm>) Synod Of Dort

Re: - posted by adamdawkins, on: 2007/7/25 18:34

Then I'm tired of the Remonstrants too!

Thanks for the link though.

Re: - posted by LoveHim, on: 2007/7/25 19:23

Quote:
-----What I am saying is that, if a Calvinist says that God limits who will partake of the work of the Cross, usually people are quick to say , "unfair, that is not the God of the Bible etc."

we only cry unfair because (1)God has said that He desires all men to be saved and (2)He has commanded all men everywhere to repent and "believe on Him".

it would be different if God said "i don't really want all to be saved, i just want some of all kinds of people and don't worry about it because if you are selected you will come to me and if you are not, then you cannot do anything about it". if the bible said this, then we cannot cry unfair because that would be His choice. but God has not said this. He said that He wants all men to be saved.period.

Quote:
-----It seems that so long as man can retain some say, or maintain some sort of godlike quality(i.e. choosing to partake of Christ), men don't have a problem. But once you get into the total inability and ingratitude towards God that men have, and how they would not seek God unless He gave them the very urge to do so, man begins to become infuriated as he believes there is still something redeemable in him.

didn't God make us in His image in that He made us free moral agents to choose God or not?? if not, then what does it mean that we are created in His image?? didn't adam have the option to eat from whatever trees he desired?

there is nothing in man that makes him so redeemable save that God loved us so much that He died for us. He loved man so much that He refused to let any perish except those that continually reject the Light and conviction of the Holy Spirit .

Re: - posted by Logic, on: 2007/7/25 19:27

Quote:
-----roaringlamb wrote:
It seems that so long as man can retain some say, or maintain some sort of godlike quality(i.e. choosing to partake of Christ), men don't have a problem.

How is agreeing with God a godlike quality?

Quote:
-----roaringlamb wrote:
But once you get into the total inability and ingratitude towards God that men have, and how they would not seek God unless He gave them the very urge to do so, man begins to become infuriated as he believes there is still something redeemable in him.

This goes back to a comment that I made after you replied to a post of mine on a nother thred. I will bring it up here for the relevance of it.

Me:
If my new born can not mow the lawn, should I expect him to mow it?

Quote:
-----roaringlamb wrote:
If it was a required for him to live, and you were compassionate towards him, would you not intervene, and do what he could not? And then in the wonders of your grace attribute it to him as if he had done it so that he could be in relationship to you and have life.

What if I was your god who hates some of his creation and do not choose for him to be in relationship to me. Would I still I expect him to mow it and condemn him for not mowing it?

This is why man gets man begins to become infuriated with "total Depravity" and "inability"

Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/7/25 19:38

I wonder though, do any of you feel sympathy for Satan and his angels?

They cannot be saved, why not?

Re: - posted by adamdawkins, on: 2007/7/25 20:36

Quote:

roaringlamb wrote:

I wonder though, do any of you feel sympathy for Satan and his angels?

They cannot be saved, why not?

The first point of interest here seems to be that Satan *chose* to rebel against God.

Isaiah 14:

12 "How you are fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground,
You who weakened the nations!
13 For **you** have said in **your** heart:

"I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
On the farthest sides of the north;
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High."
15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,
To the lowest depths of the Pit.

As for why they cannot be saved, I don't what it takes to sin in the Heavenly places - I don't what time is like their either. To sin in Heaven itself is surely beyond our comprehension.

If God pre-destined *everything* - from Satan's Fall, through Adam's fall to the crucifixion and the election of the saints, then it seems to me He is merely playing a game - creating a story and letting it play out.

My God is the God who chooses to react as well as act - the God who 'relents' after hearing the prayers of Moses and Abraham - who says "Come ALL who are thirsty". Oh dear, I'm being sucked in at last. roaringlamb, I wonder if maybe you should read how your posts sound, I do find them unnecessarily provocative.

Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/7/25 20:50

My point in this was simply to show that no one thinks it's unfair for Satan and his angels to be sent to hell for sin, but yet it is for man.

I am simply trying to show that sin has negated any claim man had on Heaven, thus if God should save not one soul, He is still just, and good, and holy, and love.

The fact that He saves any should humble us, as salvation is one the most UNFAIR things man receives.

Again, I will post one Scripture that many have refused to answer-

Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Joh 1:13 **Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

This seems to indicate that man's will had nothing to do with his new birth, but that it was God's doing, then this is this one-

Jas 1:18 **Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth,** that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Re: - posted by seanjol (), on: 2007/7/25 21:53

Joh 1:12 **But as many as received him** to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Joh 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

For by grace are ye saved through **Faith**, and that not of yourself it is the gift of God, Not of Works, lest any man should boast.

The fact that in john 1:12 he states that as many as **received**him to them gave he the prerogative to be called the sons of God. Not by works, or following the letter of the law but by faith. Jesus came into the world and was received, yes received, by a few and to those it was given the right to be the sons of God.\

The religious of the time only understood being born of the flesh; Nicodemus didn't know what it meant to be born again.

There are things on both views that I ponder greatly. One thing that I truly believe is that Calvin and the belief limits God to our time-space continuum. God can see eternal past and future. God can be moved by our prayers, look at Moses's intercession for the children of Israel in the desert when he was going to destroy them. He is not locked in to a your in your out salvation plan.

He is the one who inspired john to write, for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him would not perish, but have everlasting life. Now if Calvin is right it should have said whosoever is chosen by Him would not perish but have everlasting life.

Lastly, who is Calvin,
who is Arminius

I am of Christ

Sean

Re: - posted by Logic, on: 2007/7/25 22:07

Quote:

-----roaringlamb wrote:

My point in this was simply to show that no one thinks it's unfair for satan and his angels to be sent to hell for sin, but yet it is for man.

It is perfectly just for man to be sent to hell.

Quote:

-----roaringlamb wrote:

I am simply trying to show that sin has negated any claim man had on Heaven, thus if God should save not one soul, He is still just, and good, and holy, and love.

Scriptures and Doctrine :: All Christians Are Calvinist When They're on Their Knees.

Choosing Christ does not give man a "claim on heaven", it gives man claim to his own destiny.

Again, I will post one Scripture:

John 1:12-13 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

:13 Which were born, not of bloods, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of a man, but of God.

bloods = descendants of Abraham

will of the flesh = merit (choice has no merit)

will of a man = Not a person, but a fellow, husband, man, sir.

If it was according to your theory, it would use the word "anthropos" not "anayr".

It was not God's sovereignty in unconditional election that John was addressing in this passage at all, nor the lack of man's free choice.

It was purely a contrast between the "natural" ("born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man") and the "supernatural" "but of God". © Pristine Faith Restoration Society

John 1:13 Children born not of natural descent, nor of human effort or a husband's will, but born of God.

Re: - posted by roaringlamb (), on: 2007/7/25 22:40

Quote:

-----John 1:13 Children born not of natural descent, nor of human effort or a husband's will, but born of God.

So, how does this negate what I have been saying? If anything, it affirms what I have been saying, a man cannot birth himself in the natural or spiritual realm, so the issue of a man being born again because of his choice seems to be proven false here does it not?

Re: - posted by adamdawkins, on: 2007/7/25 23:42

Quote:

roaringlamb wrote:

Quote:

-----John 1:13 Children born not of natural descent, nor of human effort or a husband's will, but born of God.

So, how does this negate what I have been saying? If anything, it affirms what I have been saying, a man cannot birth himself in the natural or spiritual realm, so the issue of a man being born again because of his choice seems to be proven false here does it not?

I believe the point was that the correct translation isn't "the will of man" (i.e. all humanity, including oneself) but more 'the will of a man' - perhaps 'another man' --> i.e. "men don't pronounce who is saved and who isn't"

The emphasis was also in the context of "those who received Him".

Re: - posted by Logic, on: 2007/7/26 9:41

Quote:

-----roaringlamb wrote:

Quote:

-----John 1:13 Children born not of natural descent, nor of human effort or a husband's will, but born of God.

So, how does this negate what I have been saying? If anything, it affirms what I have been saying, a man cannot birth himself in the natural or spiritual realm, so the issue of a man being born again because of his choice seems to be proven false here does it not?

Choosing christ is not birthing ones self.

The Verse is saying that Physical desent, effort, or a husband wanting a child is **not like** that of Spiritual birth. It is a com parison of the two.

V.12: He gave to them **authority to become** children of God **to those who are believing** in His name.

cpmpaired to:

V.13: who were begotten, not from...

The authority is the right to choose to believe.

The term "to become" means what is sais, He gave the oppertunity to become. It doesn't say that "He made the be."

If it is not of choice, it is involantary.

Would you want a spouse wed to you involentarily?

A spouse that you had to brain wash, or coerce into marrying you?

The verse I presented is not about ones self chooseing or inward determination, but of outward determinations; Physical desent, effort, or a husband wanting a child.

Re: - posted by TimmyJoe, on: 2007/7/26 18:36

This whole post is making me sick.

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the fa ith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Col. 2:6,7

I don't care if you believe in eternal security or not. It really does't matter, because either way we still have to (Follow pea ce with all , and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Heb. 12:14).

So when you meet a man who is not saved, don't try to explain to him the doctrines of men. Point him to Jesus Christ.

You see we think we're so smart with our doctrines and our theology. These doctrines are useless without faith in Jesus Christ. A man can study theology for years, but if he never gets on his knees in child like faith and enters in to communio n with Jesus Christ he will never know God.

One thing I know for a fact is WE GOTTA BELIEVE! He is, and he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Heb. 1 1:6 Not of them that diligently study theology.

LOVE YOU ALL! Timmyjoe

Re:, on: 2007/7/26 19:43

Quote:

-----So when you meet a man who is not saved, don't try to explain to him the doctrines of men. Point him to Jesus Christ.

These are not doctrines of men. Read Romans. Read Isaiah. Read John. It's nick-named Calvinism. However, Jesus was the first to teach these doctrines. So, we can call it Jesus Doctrine. Paul also taught the doctrines of Grace. Isaiah taught it. John taught it. The name Calvinism is just the name. Calvin didn't make these doctrines up. The doctrines of Grace are everywhere in the Bible. They're not a man's doctrines. It's God's doctrine. How shall you point a man to Jesus Christ, if you don't preach and teach the word of God. The word of God is the Doctrine of Jesus. Doctrine is important. We should warn others about false doctrines if we love them.

God bless you! -Abraham

Re: All Christians Are Calvinist When They're on Their Knees. - posted by LiveforGod (), on: 2007/7/26 19:57

Well, one thing I do know is that all Christians are in the presence of God almighty When They're on Their Knees, and that alone should be enough to make anybody tremble to call themselves anything. All I know is that I was a sinner and he made me his child. Praise God I am nothing but his.

Re: - posted by TimmyJoe, on: 2007/7/27 21:17

Quote:

-----So, we can call it Jesus Doctrine.

Brother Abe,

I never read anywhere Jesus giving 5 points about God's grace and how it works. I do, however, remember Jesus giving a parable about a sower. This parable explains how the ground (heart) is in different conditions when the seed is sown. Please tell me why it is any harder for a rich man to be saved if God just elects folks. How can the ground be broken and ready to receive if it is covered in thorns?

The LORD nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Ps. 34:18

Oh brother, listen to what I'm telling you. God's election is based on foreknowledge (1 Peter 1:2) Of what. Of the ground in which the seed will be sown. I believe God will trouble the waters of a man's life, but will never force his grace on anyone who doesn't want it.

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: Deu. 30:19

Our responsibility is to plant the seed, sow the seed, and let God do the rest.

I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. 1 Cor. 3:6

We seem to have a hard time believing if we don't understand everything. I don't understand much at all. Don't let your intellect get in the way of God.

For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns. Jer. 4:3

The Word of God is spiritual and no man can explain the ways God works. But we must trust him and do what he has called us to do. BELIEVE!!! Jesus Christ said follow me, so no matter what causes us to do it. We must.

Scriptures and Doctrine :: All Christians Are Calvinist When They're on Their Knees.

I love you brother, but I cannot agree with a doctrine that puts God in such a small box. We as men will NEVER understand this in this life. Both Calvinism and Arminianism are incorrect. Sure they both have some truth, but should not be used to teach men about God. Point a man to Jesus Christ and then pray. The Holy Spirit will lead into all truth.

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Col.2:6,7

With Love-Timmyjoe

Re:, on: 2007/7/27 21:55

Amen Timmy good post.

Sounds as if we heard some of the same words from HIM. The parable of the seed sower opened up so much more understanding for me after I read it a few years ago and understood it. Here is one of first post on SI.

http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=17915&forum=40&

Re:, on: 2007/7/27 22:24

Quote:
-----Well, one thing I do know is that all Christians are in the presence of God almighty when they're on their knees, and that alone should be enough to make anybody tremble to call themselves anything. All I know is that I was a sinner and he made me his child. Praise God I am nothing but his.

Amen... Brother. Very edifying thoughts.

Re:, on: 2007/7/27 22:50

Quote:
-----I love you brother, but I cannot agree with a doctrine that puts God in such a small box. We as men will NEVER understand this in this life. Both Calvinism and Arminianism are incorrect. Sure they both have some truth, but should not be used to teach men about God. Point a man to Jesus Christ and then pray. The Holy Spirit will lead into all truth.

"Point a man to Jesus Christ and then pray."

Amen... Brother. very edifying truth. I want to share this with you to edify you.

It so good to hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus. It never is old news. His mercies are new every morning. Hallelujah! This is a quote from Spurgeon's sermon "Lama Sabachthan?"

The last of the three points is this, let us abhor the sin which brought such agony upon our beloved Lord. What an accursed thing is sin, which crucified the Lord Jesus! Do you laugh at it? Will you go and spend an evening to see a mimic performance of it? Do you roll sin under your tongue as a sweet morsel, and then come to God's house, on the Lord's-day morning, and think to worship him? Worship him! Worship him, with sin indulged in your breast! Worship him, with sin loved and pampered in your life! O sirs, if I had a dear brother who had been murdered, what would you think of me if I valued the knife which had been crimsoned with his blood?—if I made a friend of the murderer, and daily consorted with the assassin, who drove the dagger into my brother's heart? Surely I, too, must be an accomplice in the crime! Sin murdered Christ; will you be a friend to it? Sin pierced the heart of the Incarnate God; can you love it? Oh, that there was an abyss as deep as Christ's misery, that I might at once hurl this dagger of sin into its depths, whence it might never be brought to light again! Begone, O sin! Thou art banished from the heart where Jesus reigns! Begone, for thou hast crucified my Lord, and made him cry, "Why hast thou forsaken me?" O my hearers, if you did but know yourselves, and know the love of Christ, you would each one vow that you would harbour sin no longer. You would be indignant at sin, and cry,

Scriptures and Doctrine :: All Christians Are Calvinist When They're on Their Knees.

"The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be,
Lord, I will tear it from its throne,
And worship only thee,"

May that be the issue of my morning's discourse, and then I shall be well content. The Lord bless you! May the Christ who suffered for you, bless you, and out of his darkness may your light arise! Amen.
<http://www.spurgeon.org/sermons/2133.htm>

This is from Spurgeon's sermon "The First Cry from the Cross"

Listen attentively to these sentences. I will make them as terse and condensed as possible. Some of you here are not saved. Now, some of you have been very ignorant, and when you sinned you did not know what you did. You knew you were sinners, you knew that, but you did not know the far-reaching guilt of sin. You have not been attending the house of prayer long, you have not read your Bible, you have not Christian parents. Now you are beginning to be anxious about your souls. Remember your ignorance does not excuse you, or else Christ would not say, "Forgive them;" they must be forgiven, even those that know not what they do, hence they are individually guilty; but still that ignorance of yours gives you just a little gleam of hope. The times of your ignorance God winked at, but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent. Bring forth, therefore, fruits meet for repentance. The God whom you have ignorantly forgotten is willing to pardon and ready to forgive. The gospel is just this, trust Jesus Christ who died for the guilty, and you shall be saved. O may God help you to do so this very morning, and you will become new men and new women, a change will take place in you equal to a new birth; you will be new creatures in Christ Jesus.

But ah! My friends, there are some here for whom even Christ himself could not pray this prayer, in the widest sense at any rate, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do," for you have known what you did, and every sermon you hear, and especially every impression that is made upon your understanding and conscience by the gospel, adds to your responsibility, and takes away from you the excuse of not knowing what you do. Ah! Sirs, you know that there is the world and Christ, and that you cannot have both. You know that there is sin and God, and that you cannot serve both. You know that there are the pleasure of evil and the pleasures of heaven, and that you cannot have both. Oh! In the light which God has given you, may his Spirit also come and help you to choose that which true wisdom would make you choose. Decide to-day for God, for Christ, for heaven. The Lord decide you for his name's sake. Amen.

Praise God for His mercy upon us! We are truly blessed.

I'm not the best at trying to get across what calvinism is and isn't. But, I would recommend hearing it from Spurgeon... A man who preached the gospel in such a way that few have ever preached.

<http://www.spurgeon.org/calvinis.htm>

God bless you! -Abraham

Re: - posted by TimmyJoe, on: 2007/7/28 15:34

Quote:
-----A man who preached the gospel in such a way that few have ever preached.

Amen. I love reading brother Spurgeons sermons and writings. Here is my favorite quote of his.

"If sinners be dammed, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies.
If they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees.
Let no one go there unwarned and unprayed for."
-Charles Spurgeon

And it shall come to pass, whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.
Acts 2:21

Oh we must plant that seed of life, and pray that one day, whoever it is, they will call upon the name of Jesus Christ.

...How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! Romans 10:15

Thank you brother Abe for that clip from your journal. It was very encouraging. Keep preaching this great gospel.

With love-Timmyjoe

Re: - posted by TimmyJoe, on: 2007/7/28 15:46

Quote:

moe_mac wrote:

Amen Timmy good post.

Sounds as if we heard some of the same words from HIM. The parable of the seed sower opened up so much more understanding for me after I read it a few years ago and understood it. Here is one of first post on SI.

http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=17915&forum=40&0

Amen, Amen. That is a very eye opening parable. It is very important for us to pray for our eyes to be open to what God has told us in his word.

God Bless-Timmyjoe