

# Calvinism Versus Arminianism

## (Bible Verses Taken From The NIV Study Bible)

The following is an investigative study of the five points of Calvinism versus the five points of Arminianism – two opposing Biblical doctrines concerning the often debated beliefs of ‘predestination’ and ‘free will.’ A brief biography of the men most responsible for these two controversial doctrines is as follows:

### **John Calvin**

John Calvin (1509 -1564) was a French theologian during the Protestant Reformation who expounded the system of Christian theology which was later referred to as Calvinism because of his significant influence. Trained as a humanist lawyer, Calvin converted to this Protestant faith, but due to a violent uprising in France was forced to flee to Switzerland where in 1536, he published the first edition of his seminal work, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, in which he elaborated a system of theology based on the sovereignty of the will of God, which included as integral parts, the doctrines of predestination, election, and reprobation.

Calvin was invited by another reformer, William Farel, to help him carry out the work of reforming the church in the city of Geneva, Switzerland, but their ideas were resisted by the city council and consequently they were both expelled from the city. Calvin, on the invitation of Martin Bucer, proceeded to Strasbourg, France where he became the minister of the church of French refugees.

Calvin continued to support the reform movement in Geneva, Switzerland and was eventually invited back to lead its church, where he introduced new forms of church government and liturgy. Several powerful families in the city opposed his reforms and tried to curb his authority, with one such dissenter, Michael Servetus, being denounced by Calvin and executed by the city council. Calvin's authority over the church was no longer challenged. Through his work of writing, preaching and exhortation, his lasting contribution was to provide the seeds to the branch of theology that now bears his name.

### **Jacobus Arminius**

Jacobus Arminius (1560 -1609) was a Dutch theologian born in Oudewater, Holland, who studied at the University of Leiden, and attended the schools of theology in Geneva and Basen, Switzerland. He was ordained in Amsterdam in 1588, and soon became distinguished as a preacher. In 1589, he consented to answer a book which attacked Calvin's doctrine of predestination and, while preparing to do so, embraced the doctrine of free will which he was trying to refute.

His later writings developed this doctrine, which became known as Arminianism. From 1603 to 1609, he was a professor at the University of Leiden. He was a gifted scholar, a preacher of great popular power and an author of ability.

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### 1<sup>st</sup> Point– Does Man Have The Free Will To Repent Of His Sins?

#### Calvinism Statements for 1<sup>st</sup> Point:

1. Man is not free – he is totally depraved because of the fall of Adam and is in bondage to his evil nature.
2. Man cannot choose good over evil in the heavenly realm.
3. Faith is God's gift to the sinner, not the sinner's gift to God.

#### Bible Verses:

Genesis 6:5– The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

Jeremiah 17:9 – The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

John 6:37 , 44, 65 – All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away... No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day... He [Jesus] went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him."

Romans 3:10:18– As it is written: there is no one righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit. The poison of vipers is on their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know. There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Ephesians 2:8-10– For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith– and not from yourselves, it is the gift of God– not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

#### Additional Bible Verses:

Question: These verses all seem to agree with Statement 1, but do they prove Statements 2 and 3?

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### 1<sup>st</sup> Point– Does Man Have The Free Will To Repent Of His Sins?

#### Arminianism Statements for 1<sup>st</sup> Point:

1. Man is free– although he is initially depraved because of the fall of Adam, he possesses a free will to repent and believe with his eternal destiny depending upon how he uses his will.
2. Man can choose good over evil in spiritual matters.
3. Faith is the sinner's gift to God.

#### Bible Verses:

John 3:16– For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 7:17– [Jesus speaking] If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.

John 12:32– “But I [Jesus], when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.”

John 16:8– “When He [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will convict the world of Guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.”

Romans 1:20 – For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities– His eternal power and divine nature– have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Hebrews 11:6– And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that he exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:8 -9– Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

#### Additional Bible Verses:

Question: Apart from the convicting work of the Holy Spirit, people cannot see themselves as sinners. Once this is accomplished, do these verses suggest that each person is then free to repent of their sins and choose to follow Jesus?

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Point Conclusion:

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### 2<sup>nd</sup> Point– Unconditional Election Versus Conditional Election

#### Calvinism Statements for 2<sup>nd</sup> Point:

1. God's choice of certain Individuals for salvation rests solely on His own sovereign will.
2. God's choice is not based on any foreseen response or obedience on man's part, such as repentance, virtuosity, or faith.
3. Salvation is based on God's sole choice of sinners, not the sinner's choice of Christ.

#### Bible Verses:

Romans 8:29 -30– For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Romans 9:11 -13, 16 & 18 – Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad– in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls– she was told, "The older will serve the younger." Just as it was written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."... It [God's choice] does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy... Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

Ephesians 1:4-6– For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will– to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has given us in the One he loves.

Ephesians 1:11-12– In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

#### Additional Bible Verses:

2 Thessalonians 2:13, Jude 4

Question: Does the wording of these four Scriptures passages totally rule out the possibility that God's predestination and election is based on God's foreknowledge of sinners responses to the convicting work of the Holy Spirit to choose to follow Jesus?

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### 2nd Point– Unconditional Election Versus Conditional Election

#### Arminianism Statements for 2<sup>nd</sup> Point:

1. God's choice of certain individuals for salvation was made before the foundation of the world, based on His foreseeing that they would respond to His call.
2. It is left up to mankind to determine who will believe and therefore be elected for salvation.
3. Salvation is based on the sinner's choosing to follow Christ, not God's choice of the sinner.

#### Bible Verses:

Romans 4:4-5– Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

Romans 8:29 – For those God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

*The NIV Study Bible* footnote for Romans 8:29 gives the following definitions for the word **foreknew**: “Some people hold that God not only knew us before we had any knowledge of him, but that he also knew us, in the sense of choosing us by his grace, before the foundation of the world. Others believe that Paul refers to the fact that in eternity past, God knew those by faith would become his people.”

Galatians 2:15-16 We who are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners, know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:1-2– Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood.

#### Additional Bible Verses:

Question: Do the clauses, “his faith is credited as righteousness,” “by faith in Jesus Christ,” and “obedience to Jesus,” suggest man's responses to God's calling?

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Point Conclusion:

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### 3<sup>rd</sup> Point– Limited Redemption Versus Universal Redemption

#### Calvinism Statements for 3<sup>rd</sup> Point:

1. Christ's redeeming work was intended to save the elect only.
2. Christ's redemption secured everything necessary for the elect's salvation, including the faith that unites them to Him.
3. The gift of faith from the Holy Spirit guaranteed the salvation of the elect.

#### Bible Verses:

Matthew 1:21– She [Mary] will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the Name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

John 10:11, 14 -15, 26 -27– “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep... I know my sheep and my sheep know me– just as the Father knows me and I know my Father– and I lay down my life for the sheep... but you [the unbelieving Jews] do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

John 15:13– “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends”

John 17:9– “I [Jesus] pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.”

Acts 20:28– Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Romans 8:32-33– He [God] who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all– how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?

#### Additional Bible Verses:

Question: Can one believe that these six Scripture passages prove that since God sovereignly elected some sinners to salvation, that He sent Christ to die only for them?

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Point– Limited Redemption Versus Universal Redemption

### Arminianism Statements for 3rd Point:

1. Christ's death on the Cross made it possible for everyone to be saved.
2. Christ's death on the Cross enabled God to pardon sinners on the condition that they believe in Him.
3. Christ's redemption becomes effective only if man chooses to accept it.

### Bible Verses:

John 1:29– The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

John 3:16– For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:19– ... that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:5-6– For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men– the testimony given in its proper time.

1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:10– ... we have put our hope in the living God [Jesus], who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

Hebrews 2:9– But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

2 Peter 2:1– But there were false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them– bringing swift destruction on themselves.

1 John 2:2– He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

### Additional Bible Verses:

Question: Do these eight Scripture verses point out that Christ's atonement is sufficient for all people but effective only for those who believe?

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Point Conclusion:

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### 4<sup>th</sup> Point– Irresistible Grace Versus Resistible Grace

#### Calvinism Statements for 4<sup>th</sup> Point:

1. The Holy Spirit extends to the elect a special inward call of salvation.
2. This inward call cannot be rejected and it always results in a conversion.
3. Therefore, God's grace can never be resisted.

#### Bible Verses:

John 6:37, 44, 65– “All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away... No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day... This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.”

John 10:11– “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

John 10:16– “I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.”

John 15:16– “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit– fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”

Acts 13:48– When the Gentiles heard this [that the Lord was providing salvation to the Gentiles as well as the Jews], they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all that were appointed for eternal life believed.

Romans 9:16– It [God's compassion] does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

#### Additional Bible Verses:

Question: Do these six Scripture passages support the claim that God causes the elect to believe the gospel even though they may not be aware of this fact?



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## 4<sup>th</sup> Point– Irresistible Grace Versus Resistible Grace

### Arminianism Statements for 4<sup>th</sup> Point:

1. The Holy Spirit inwardly calls all who are called outwardly by the gospel invitation for salvation.
2. Man is free to resist the Holy Spirit's call.
3. Therefore, God's grace can be resisted by man.

### Bible Verses:

Ezekiel 18:23– Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign Lord. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?

Matthew 23:37 – “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wing, but you were not willing.”

Luke 7: 29-30– All of the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus' words acknowledged that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John. But the Pharisees and experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves because they had not been baptized by John.

1 Timothy 2:3 -4– This [living peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness] is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Hebrews 4:2 -3– For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said.

2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:9 – The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

### Additional Bible Verses:

Question: Do these six Scripture passages teach that humans are capable of resisting God's will?

### 4<sup>th</sup> Point Conclusion:

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### 5<sup>th</sup> Point– Eternal Security Versus Loss of Salvation

#### Calvinism Statement for 5<sup>th</sup> Point:

1. All who are chosen by God, redeemed by Christ, and given faith by the Spirit, are eternally saved.

#### Bible Verses:

John 10:27-30– My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.

Romans 8:29-30– For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

*The NIV Study Bible* footnote says that the word “foreknew” in Romans 8:29 can be interpreted two ways: “Some hold that God not only knew us before we had any knowledge of him but that he also knew us, in the sense of choosing us by his grace, before the foundation of the world. Others believe that Paul here refers to the fact that in eternity past God knew those who by faith would become his people. The reason God “foreknew,” predestined, and conformed believers to Christ's likeness is that the Son might hold the position of highest honor in the great family of God.”

Ephesians 1:4-8, 11-12– For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will– to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding... In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

*The NIV Study Bible* footnote says that the words “in him” in Ephesians 1:11-12 indicate that “Christ is the center of God's plan. Whether the universe or the individual Christian is in view, it is only in relationship to Christ that there is a meaningful future destiny. Paul goes on to speak, not of the world as a whole, but those who respond to God's call.

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Hebrews 3:6,14— But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast... We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.

2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:9 -10— Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### Additional Bible Verses:

Question: Do the “ifs” in the last two Scripture passages indicate that there may be some people who might at one time accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and later fail to hold on to their courage or lose their eagerness to make their calling and election sure? If that were true, wouldn't they lose their salvation?

## 5<sup>th</sup> Point— Eternal Security Versus Loss of Salvation

### Arminianism Statement for 5<sup>th</sup> Point:

1. Those who believe and are truly saved can lose their salvation by failing to keep up their faith.

### Bible Verses:

Matthew 24:10-11— At that time [at the End of the Age] many will turn away and betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

John 3:16, 18— For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life... Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

Romans 2:13— For it is not those who hear the Law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the Law who will be declared righteous.

Philippians 2:12 — Therefore, my [Paul] dear friends, as you have always obeyed— not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence— continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling...

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1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1: 18-19— Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you so that by following them you may fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and have shipwrecked their faith.

Hebrews 2:1— We must pay more careful attention, to what we have heard [from angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation] , so that we do not drift away.

Hebrews 5:8-9— Although he [Jesus] was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all that obey him...

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:6-7— In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you have had to suffer grief in all kind of trials. These have come so that your faith— of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire— may be proved genuine and result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Additional Bible Verses:

Question: Were any of these eight Scripture passages written to warn believers that they could lose their salvation?

5<sup>th</sup> Point Conclusion:

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## Brief Summary of Calvinism:

Salvation is accomplished by the almighty power of the Triune God as follows:

1. All mankind is evil in God's eyes and is unworthy of eternal salvation.
2. Before the foundation of the world, **God the Father** predestined (elected) those who would be saved solely in accordance to His Sovereign will.
3. **Jesus Christ** died on the Cross in atonement for the sins of the Father's elected only.
4. The **Holy Spirit** makes Christ's death effective by bringing the elected to faith and repentance, not by their own free will, but by causing them by God's will to have faith in God's gift and to obey the gospel.
5. The entire process – election, redemption and regeneration – is the work of God alone. Thus God, not man, determines who will be the recipients of His gift of salvation.
6. God's elected cannot lose their salvation.

## Brief Summary of Arminianism:

Salvation is accomplished by the almighty power of the Triune God as follows:

1. All mankind is evil in God's eyes and is unworthy of eternal salvation.
2. Before the foundation of the world, **God the Father**, not wanting that any man should perish, predestined (elected) certain individuals for salvation based on His foreseeing that they would respond to His call.
3. **Jesus Christ** died on the Cross in atonement for the sins of the whole world.
4. The Holy Spirit makes Christ's death effective by offering every man, by their own free will, the choice of accepting God's gift of salvation through repentance and faith in Jesus' sacrificial work on the Cross.
5. It is man, not God who determines who will be the recipients of God's gift of salvation.
6. Man can lose his salvation by failing to keep his faith and walking away from God's gift.

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## Predestination

The Calvinism versus Arminianism controversy is not totally complete without some basic understanding the Biblical meaning of the word "Predestination." The following explanation of this controversial word is provided by *The Layman's Bible Encyclopedia*:

"The word 'predestination' means to settle beforehand; to foreordain to an earthly or eternal lot or destiny. The doctrine of 'predestination' is based upon belief in a living, acting God who orders events, things, and men. As part of this activity, he has set aside certain groups and individuals to sustain a definite relationship to him. The nation of Israel, the house of David, and the prophet Jeremiah were all chosen by God 'beforehand' to serve a special end. God's determination to reconcile the world to himself through the agency of Jesus Christ is perhaps the clearest instance of the divine 'predestination.'

"The New Testament speaks of the members of the church as the elect, the called, the chosen, and the 'predestined'." There is great joy in believing some have been 'predestined' to a special relationship with the God of the Universe, but there is also a dark side to this belief, for if some have been 'predestined' to eternal life by divine decree, then it follows logically that others have not. This doctrine of 'double predestination' has been one of the thorniest aspects with which Christian theologians have had to deal.

"The apostle Paul treats this problem in Romans 8:10 -11, which reads, **But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him [God] who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he [God] who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.**

"In Romans 8:28 which reads, **And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.**, Paul encourages his readers by assuring them that, despite whatever tribulations might befall them, their salvation is secure, since they have been 'predestined' to be 'conformed to the image of his Son.

"Paul makes it clear that his election rests not upon race or merit, but upon God's sovereign will and grace. In Ephesians 1:3 -14, we see clearly that God's grace is made known in Jesus Christ and that however we are to understand 'predestination,' it is not to be separated from the work of Christ, who takes part in the determinations that are made with regard to mankind.

Ephesians 1:3-14 reads as follows: **Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of**

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the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, and forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment— to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession— to the praise of his glory.

“Paul does not deny that God has ‘predestin ed’ some to life and others to death. He is unwilling, however, to draw the lines with any certainty, or decl are unequivocally that God has ‘predestined’ some to eternal damnation. In Romans 11:7-16, he contrasts Israel with ‘the elect’ but speaks of the p ossibility of their eventual salvation.

Romans 11:7 -16– What then? What Israel sought so earnestly it did not obtain, but ‘the elect’ did. The others were hardened, as it was written [refer to Isaiah 6:8-10]:

God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes so that they could not see, and ears so that they could not hear, to this very day.

And David says [refer to Psalm 69:22-23]:

May their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them. May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent forever.

*The NIV Study Bible* footnote for the clause, ‘to this very day’ says that it refers to ‘the dullness of the Jews that had continued from Isaiah’s day to Paul’s day, and that the words attributed to David ‘describes the results of divine hardening.’

“In Titus 1:1, which reads, Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God’s elect, and the knowledge of the truth that leads to Godliness— a faith and knowledge on the hope of eternal life, which

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God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time... , Paul speaks of furthering the faith of the elect in 'hope of eternal life,' indicating that the final salvation – even of the elect – is not entirely certain. It would appear, therefore, that we can never plumb the depths of the divine mind deeply enough to arrive at an answer that will be satisfactory to all. It is doubtful the tension between 'predestination' and 'free -will' can ever be resolved. We must content ourselves with the knowledge that our final destiny will be determined by our relationship to Christ and that as 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:9 tells us, God is not willing that anyone should perish, but that all should come to repentance.



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## Final Assessment

### Calvinism Belief Statements

1. Man is not free – he is totally depraved because of the fall of Adam and is in bondage to his evil nature.
2. Man cannot choose good over evil in the heavenly realm.
3. Faith is God's gift to the sinner, not the sinner's gift to God.
4. God's choice of certain Individuals for salvation rests solely on His own sovereign will.
5. God's choice is not based on any foreseen response or obedience on man's part, such as repentance, virtuosity, or faith.
6. Salvation is based on God's sole choice of sinners, not the sinner's choice of Christ.
7. Christ's redeeming work was intended to save the elect only.
8. Christ's redemption secured everything necessary for the elect's salvation, including the faith that unites them to Him.
9. The gift of faith from the Holy Spirit guaranteed the salvation of the elect.
10. The Holy Spirit extends to the elect a special inward call of salvation.
11. This inward call cannot be rejected and it always results in a conversion.
12. Therefore, God's grace can never be resisted.
13. All who are chosen by God, redeemed by Christ, and given faith by the Spirit, are eternally saved.

Grade each question above according to your belief in its Biblical accuracy using a scale of zero to five, with zero being total disbelief and five being total belief:

### Belief Grade

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_

Calvinism Total Score \_\_\_\_\_

# Calvinism Versus Arminianism

## Final Assessment

### Arminianism Belief Statements

1. Man is free— although he is initially depraved because of the fall of Adam, he possesses a free will to repent and believe with his eternal destiny depending upon how he uses his will.
2. Man can choose good over evil in spiritual matters.
3. Faith is the sinner's gift to God.
4. God's choice of certain individuals for salvation was made before the foundation of the world, based on His foreseeing that they would respond to His call.
5. It is left up to mankind to determine who will believe and therefore be elected for salvation.
6. Salvation is based on the sinner's choosing to follow Christ, not God's choice of the sinner.
7. Christ's death on the Cross made it possible for everyone to be saved.
8. Christ's death on the Cross enabled God to pardon sinners on the condition that they believe in Him.
9. Christ's redemption becomes effective only if man chooses to accept it.
10. The Holy Spirit inwardly calls all who are called outwardly by the gospel invitation for salvation.
11. Man is free to resist the Holy Spirit's call.
12. Therefore, God's grace can be resisted by man.
13. Those who believe and are truly saved can lose their salvation by failing to keep up their faith.

Grade each question above according to your belief in its Biblical accuracy using a scale of zero to five, with zero being total disbelief and five being total belief:

#### Belief Grade

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
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12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_

Arminianism Total Score \_\_\_\_\_

## Calvinism Versus Arminianism

The following simplified analogy is presented for those who will read the above opposing presentations and quickly forget the difference between Calvinism and Arminianism:

When one hears the word Calvinism, think of an animal that also starts with the letter “C,” Cat. When kittens face danger and need somebody to save them, the mother cat grabs each kitten, one by one, by the scruffs of their necks and carries them to safety. Their salvation is based on the action of their mother and not on their own efforts. Only the kittens who are rescued by their mother are saved, with the other kittens facing impending annihilation.

And, when one hears the word Arminianism, think of an animal that starts with the letter “A,” Ape. When young monkeys — members of the ape family — face danger and need somebody to save them, they scamper up on their mother’s back and ride to a place of safety. Their salvation is based on their action of wanting to be saved. Only the young monkeys who want to be rescued are saved, with the other young monkeys facing annihilation.