

# *The Myth of Calvinism*



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*By*

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This article is not meant to comment on the five points of Calvinism which some people in the time passed tried to do; but since all their belief circles around the absolute sovereignty of God and that man has no choice, I shall start my argument mainly around these two subjects, then elude to other subjects till I reach the core of this myth.

## Sovereignty of God

Few years ago, a dear friend of mine presented me with a very valuable book titled "Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God" by Dr. J.I. Packer the well known professor of Theology at Regent College, Vancouver, Canada.

In his book, Dr. Packer was able to prove beyond any doubt, that God's sovereignty is absolute and unsurpassed by any earthly sovereignty, the thing which every real Christian should believe in and confess ; not only that, but He is the Eternal Living God who came to our world in the flesh: **"He made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men, and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."** (Phil. 2:7, 8) This is just a taste of His Sovereignty.

And it pleases me here, to mention that we often use examples of earthly matters to explain spiritual or heavenly matters. There is nothing wrong with that, for our Lord Jesus Christ Himself used several parables from the culture at that time, to clarify His points of view, and to bring it nearer to our human understanding. And the four Gospels are full of several parables stated by Him. And the nearest parables to our minds, are what He said describing the Kingdom of Heavens : For example, in Matthews 13, He mentioned the parables of the sower, the tares, the mustard seed, the hidden treasure, the one pearl of great price, and the dragnet that was cast in the sea. These are but few of the numerous parables which Jesus stated, where He gave us a clear idea of the benefit and importance of using parables and /or examples to illustrate facts and to bring them nearer to our understanding.

However, it is of great error, to permit ourselves to equate and /or resemble God's sovereignty to the sovereignty of kings and rulers of this world, for there is not even the slightest resemblance between the two for several reasons, some of which are :-

**(1) The Lord Jesus Christ is a King and God :**

But the earthly king is a man or a person, and not God.

Ps. 22:28 "For the kingdom is the Lord's, and He is the governor among the nations."

Rev. 19:6 "Alleluia : for the Lord God Omnipotent reigns."

**(2) The Lord Jesus Christ's Kingdom is heavenly :**

But the kingdom of earthly kings is earthly.

Luke 23:42 "And he said unto Jesus, Lord remember me when You come into your kingdom."

John 18:36 "Jesus answered, My Kingdom is not of this world."

**(3) The Lord Jesus Christ reigns forever :**

But the earthly king reigns for a short time even if he reigns all his life, and then he perishes.

Exd. 15:18 "The Lord shall reign forever and ever."

Ps. 10:16 "The Lord is king forever and ever."

29:10 "The Lord sits king forever."

Jer. 10:10 "The Lord is the true God, He is the Living God, and everlasting king."

Dan. 4:3 "His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom."

:34 "Whose dominion is an everlasting dominion."

6:26 "And His dominion shall be ever unto the end."

7:14 "His dominion is an everlasting dominion."

:27 "Whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom."

1Tim. 1:17 "Now unto the king eternal immortal."

Rev. 11:15 "And He shall reign forever and ever."

20:4 "And they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

:6 "And shall reign with Him thousand years."

22:5 "And they shall reign forever and ever."

**(4) The Lord Jesus Christ is a King and Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek :**

But there is no earthly king who is also a priest, much less to be called after the order of Melchizedek

Ps. 110:4 "The Lord has sworn and will not repent, You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek

Heb. 5:10 "Called of God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek."

6:20 "Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek."

7:11 "If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchizedek and not be called after the order of Aaron ?"

:15 "And it is yet far more evident : for that after the similitude of Melchizedek there arises another priest."

:17 "For He testifies, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek."

21 "The Lord swore and He will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek."

**(5) The Lord Jesus Christ took His earthly fleshy status by the will of God and the Holy Spirit :**

But the earthly king comes to existence by human will (parents).

Mat. 1:18 "When as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit."

Luke 1:30 "And the Angel said unto her : fear not Mary, for you have found favor with God."

:31 "And, behold, you shall conceive in your womb, and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus."

:35 "The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of the Highest shall shadow you, therefore, also that the Holy One Who shall be born of you, shall be called the Son of God."

**(6) The Lord Jesus Christ is alive for ever :**

But the earthly king will die one day no matter how long he lives.

1 Tim. 6:16 "Who only has immortality."

Please also review the previously mentioned references under the title "Lord Jesus Christ reigns forever, which is reason number 3.

**(7) The Lord Jesus Christ gave the sovereignty to Himself :**

No one but Jesus Christ can do that.

But the earthly kings are given their sovereignty by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, because He is the King of kings, and the Lord of lords.

Ezek. 26:7 "A King of kings."

1 Tim. 6:15 "Who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords."

Rev. 19:16 "On His thigh a name is written King of kings and Lord of lords."

These are but few reasons which show that we are **NOT** to simulate the sovereignty of God to that of the kings and head of states of this world.

Now, and after establishing this fact, I would like to talk about the sovereignty of God.

There is no doubt that God's sovereignty is absolute by our human understanding and standards; **BUT**, is it so by God's standards Himself? I am afraid to say **NO**.

This is because God's sovereignty is limited, yet complimented and completed by His own other attributes. And I shall clarify that by some of the Biblical events of the Old and New Testaments, as well as by some of the historical events of our time.

**The First Event** is recorded in 2 Sam. 11:2-7 and it is the story of King David and Bath-she-ba and her husband Uriah the Hittite. It is a well known story to most of us. King David had absolute power and sovereignty that was never surpassed by any other power or sovereignty in his time.

Through this power and sovereignty, he saw that he had the right to commit

adultery with Bath-she-ba and to intentionally kill her husband, the thing which we call nowadays “First degree murder” or “Premeditated murder”

**The Second Event** is recorded in 1Kings 21:1-16 and it is the story of king Ahab and the poor Naboth the Jezreelite. And again it is a very well known story to most of us. It tells us how King Ahab and his wife Jezebel through their absolute power and Sovereignty, plotted to kill Naboth and take his vineyard.

**The Third Event** is recorded in the New Testament in Mat. 2:16-18 and it is the story of king Herod who saw through his absolute sovereignty to kill all the children of 2 years and younger, so that he may include the Baby Jesus.

**The Fourth Event** is recorded in Mat. 14:3-11 and Mark 6:21-28 and it is the story of King Herod again who through his might and power, saw that he had the right to decapitate John the Baptist.

**The Fifth Event** is recorded in the history books, and it is about Caesar Nero who through his absolute power and sovereignty, felt that he has the right to burn down the great city of Rome, so that he might get rid of all the Christians and at the same time accusing them of committing such a horrendous action.

**The Sixth Event** is also recorded in the history books, and it is about Mohammed Ali the Great who was the Sultan of Egypt and how he plotted to kill over 150 governors in the famous massacre of the citadel of Cairo.

**The Seventh Event** is also recorded in history, and it is about Hitler who starved to death millions of Jews and Christians in the famous concentration camps, and used them as guinea pigs experimenting some lethal gases on them, and using their skin to make shoes for his soldiers.

**The Eighth Event** Is also recorded in History, and it is about Stalin of Russia who in his absolute might and power saw to execute between 2 and 4 million of his own country men.

**And Many Others like Nasser of Egypt** who got rid of thousands of Egyptians, including his own friends who were his own right hand in the military coup or revolution against the king which ended by his exile in 1953.

And the list goes on and on and on, for the Holy Bible and the history books are full of similar stories which give us a clear picture of human absolute power and sovereignty, and how could it be used to commit such barbaric and beastly actions.

All these people had one thing in common, and that is the absolute power and sovereignty, which authorized them to give orders and to see that they are executed without any question asked, and without answering to any body.

**Now, according to our human thoughts, God also has absolute power and**

**sovereignty.**

**But, would He in His Might and Glory, commit such barbaric and beastly actions ?**

**Would He kill, plot to kill, lie, cheat, or even cause any harm to any body?**

**OF COURSE NOT.** Now the question is **WHY?**

**And the answer is:** because He is far from evil, exalted, infallible, inerrant, never knew sin, nor will He know sin till eternity. ***“For He has made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”*** (2Cor. 5:21)

\*God is Righteous, and the Holy Bible is full of references to that, and I shall mention here few of them:-

- Rom. 3:21 “But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested.”  
:24 “Being justified freely by His Grace through the redemption that is in Christ  
,25 Jesus, Whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood to declare His righteousness for remission of sins that are past.”  
5:18 “Even so, by the righteousness of One, the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.”  
10:3 “For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”  
Phil. 3:9 “And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.”

\***God** is not only **righteous**, but He is **Holy** as well, and here are some of the many references in both the Old and New Testaments :-

- Exd. 15:13 “You have guided them unto Your Holy habitation.”  
Lev. 11:44 “For I am Holy, says the Lord.”  
Josh. 24:19 “He is an Holy God.”  
1Sam. 2:2 “There is none Holy as the Lord.”  
1Chr. 16:10 “Glory you in His Holy name.”  
:35 “That we may give thanks to Your Holy name.”  
2Chr. 30:27 “And their prayer came up to His Holy dwelling  
Job 6:10 “I have not concealed the words of the Holy One.”  
Ps. 2:6 “Yet have I set My kingdom upon My Holy hill.”  
3:4 “And He heard me out of His Holy hill.”  
5:7 “And in Your fear, will I worship toward Your Holy temple.”  
11:4 “The Lord is in His Holy temple.”  
15:1 “Who shall dwell in Your Holy hill ?”  
:6 “He will hear him from His Holy place.”  
22:3 “But You are Holy, O, God.”  
24:3 “Who shall stand in His Holy place ?”  
33:21 “Because we have trusted in His Holy name.”

- 51:11 "And take not Your Holy Spirit from me."  
 99:3 "Let them praise Your name for it is Holy."  
   :5 "Exalt you the Lord our God for He is Holy."  
   :9 "Exalt the Lord our God for the Lord our God is Holy."
- Prov. 9:10 "And the knowledge of the Holy is understanding."  
 Is. 5:16 "God Who is Holy shall be sanctified in righteousness."  
   6:3 "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts." Also in Rev. 4:8  
 29:23 "And sanctify the Holy One of Jacob."  
 40:25 "To whom shall I be equal ? Says the Holy One."  
 43:15 "I am the Lord, your Holy One, the creator of Israel."  
 49:7 "The redeemer of Israel and his Holy One."  
 57:15 "The One Who inhabits eternity, Whose name is Holy."
- Dan. 4:13 "Behold a watcher and an Holy One down from heaven."  
   9:24 "And to anoint the Most Holy."
- Hos. 11:9 "For I am God, the Holy One, in the midst of you."  
 Hab. 1:12 "O, Lord, my God, mine Holy One."  
   3:3 "The Holy One came from mount Paran."
- Mark 1:24 "I know You Who You are, the Holy One of God."  
 Luke 1:35 "Therefore also, That Holy One Who shall be born of you, shall be called the Son of God."  
   :49 "Done to me great things, and Holy is His name."
- John 17:11 "Holy Father, Keep those You have given Me."  
 Acts 2:27 "Neither will You suffer Your Holy One to see corruption."  
   3:14 "But you denied the Holy One and Just."
- Eph. 1:13 "You were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise."  
   4:30 "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God."
- Heb. 7:26 "Who is Holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners."  
 1Pet. 1:15 "Be holy as He Who has called you is Holy."  
 1John 2:20 "But you have been an unction from the Holy One."  
 Rev. 3:7 "These things says He Who is Holy, He Who is True."  
   6:10 "How long O, Lord, Holy and True, do You not judge."  
 15:4 "For You only are Holy."

These attributes are some of the many that God has. And, had He been unrighteous and unholy, He would have done exactly the same as those kings, if His sovereignty is absolute as we see it.

**BUT**, His sovereignty is not absolute in His eyes, for it is limited, yet complimented and completed by His other attributes as we mentioned before. Now, we have proved that God cannot do evil, though He has absolute sovereignty (as per our standards), because He is righteous and Holy. Among other attributes of God are Love, Mercy, Peace, Justice, Faithfulness ..... etc.

**ALL** these attributes compliment and complete each other, to reveal the real nature of God Who is Love, Merciful, Just, Faithful, and Prince of Peace, in spite of His absolute sovereignty. And here is an example of what I have just said:-

## **“SIN and its WAGES”**

The Holy Scripture states: ***“The wages of sin is death.”*** (Rom. 6:23)  
God, in His ultimate justice, can never disregard enforcing this law which He Himself has decreed, for ***“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.”*** So, said the Lord in Mat. 24:35; Mark 13:31; and in Luke 21:33.

So, man has been sentenced to death and no escape, ***“Wherefore, as by one man, sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so, death passed upon all men, for all have sinned.”*** (Rom.5:12)

**NOW**, the absolute sovereignty of God, gives Him the absolute right to execute or enforce the death penalty on all humans.

**HOWEVER**, there are other attributes of God which limit the power of this sovereignty, such as Mercy, Love, Grace, Truth, Righteousness, and Faithfulness. Please listen to what the Holy Scripture says :-

Ps. 85:10 “Mercy and Truth are met together, Righteousness and Peace have kissed each other.” And this as we all know, is a prophesy about the incarnated Christ.

Is. 53:10 “Yet, it pleased the Lord to bruise Him, He has put Him to grief: when You shall make His soul an offering for sin.” Again this is a prophesy about Christ.

John 1:17 “For the Law (which condemns) was given by Moses, but Grace and Truth came by Jesus Christ.”

3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

:17 “For God sent not His Son in the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him, might be saved.”

Rom. 5:8 “But God commends His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Tit. 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy, He saved us.”

Heb. 9:26 “But now, once in the end of the world, has He appeared to put away sin, by the sacrifice of Himself.”

So, from what is mentioned above, God gave His begotten Son as a sin sacrifice, in order to execute His Holy Justice (which has to be done as mentioned above), so that He may save Humanity from eternal and certain death.

In conclusion, **THERE** is Holy Justice supported by absolute sovereignty, both working together to execute this Holy Justice ; **BUT** on the other hand, there is Love, Mercy, Truth, and Grace which also work together to save humanity.

This is a short simple research about the absolute sovereignty of God which

have been misunderstood, and misinterpreted by many. But the fact remains, that it is limited, yet complimented and completed by His other attributes.

And now my friends, you see : He who believes or even thinks that God's sovereignty is absolute (as per human understanding), and that it equates human sovereignty ; he is actually ascribing unfaithfulness, dishonesty, prejudice, injustice, and unrighteousness to God. God forbid.

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## Does Man Has The Free Will to Choose?

Since, we have clarified the subject of God's sovereignty; I think it would be appropriate here to discuss the free will of man.

This subject is even more complicated and misunderstood than the subject of sovereignty. And the reason for that is that people tend to confuse it with God's will.

And the most confusing part of it, is the question: "If man has free will, then where can we place the will of God, if we believe in that?"

Of course we believe in God's will, but it has nothing to do whatsoever with man's will as we shall see later in the discussion to follow ; and in order to understand it, one has to start from the beginning.

So, in the beginning, God created the world in six days, as the Holy Scripture tells us.

And on that last day, He created Adam, and gave him the right of free will and choice:

***"And out of the ground, the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air, and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle and to the fowl of the air and to every beast of the field."*** (Gen. 2:19-20)

So, the first right, God gave Adam was the freedom to choose names for all creatures.

Then, when we proceed in Genesis, we find that God assured that right shortly before Adam's fall: ***"And the Lord God commanded the man saying, of every tree of the garden, you may freely eat but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it, for in the day that you eat thereof, you shall surely die."*** (Gen. 2:16-17).

Before we go any further; we must pause a little to understand this command, we must know that God owns this tree and He has the right to permit and / or forbid anyone from eating from it. On the other hand He permitted Adam to eat from all the other trees in the garden.

From the above, it is clear that God gave Adam the right of free choice. He can choose between obeying and disobeying God. But Adam chose not to obey God as we all know.

**AT THIS POINT**, I would like to ask **TWO** important questions:-

**Q. 1** Did God have the foreknowledge that Adam will disobey Him?

**A.** Either **YES** or **NO**.

If we say **NO**, then this is against God's nature, because He is Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Omniscient, which means He is present everywhere at any time, and He knows everything, past, present, and future.

Then the answer must be **YES**, and that is the correct answer.

**Q. 2** Did God want (or was it His will) that Adam disobeys Him and falls into sin?

**A.** Again either **YES** or **NO**.

If we say **YES**, then this is again against God's nature, because God did not create Adam to make him sin. And the reason for that is, God is Righteous and Holy and He created Adam in His image. How could He possibly cause Adam to sin?

And

how could He possibly betray His own creation ?

Then the answer must be **NO**, and that is the correct answer.

Now, let us put the two questions together and the two answers together:

**Q.** Did God have the foreknowledge that Adam will disobey Him, and Did God want (or was it His will) that Adam disobeys Him and sins?

**A.** **YES**, He foreknew that Adam will disobey Him, but **NO**, He did not want (or it was not His will) that Adam disobeys Him and sins.

So, now we know that it was **NOT** God's will or plan (as some claim), that Adam falls into sin, and that is why He (The Lord God) gave him Warning : "**For in the day that you eat thereof, you shall surely die.**"

God was, is, and shall always be just and honest. So, He did not deny Adam the freedom to choose. He let Adam Choose for himself.

Let me ask another question. Wouldn't it have been possible for God to deprive Adam from his free will, and make him do His (God's) will? And of course, God's will was that Adam should not sin or disobey Him as we have proved in answer to question 2?

**YES**, God certainly would have done that, because it was not His will that Adam would disobey Him, especially that Adam was obedient to God in every respect before eating from that particular tree, and the Holy Scripture did not mention any incidence where Adam displeased God before. Then why He didn't do it? Because He granted Adam Absolute and Complete freedom of choice.

God loved Adam, and took care of him every moment of his existence in the

garden.

God created Eve to be a helper to Adam, and the Holy Scripture tells us that God always asked about him, walked, and talked with him.

Now, let me summarize all what we have deduced so far :-

**1- The Lord God had foreknowledge of Adam's fall in sin.**

**2- It was not God's will that Adam falls in sin.**

**3- The Lord God did not deprive Adam from his free will or choice.**

And because of all that, God prepared salvation for Adam and all his seed, even before creation because of His foreknowledge, as we have seen, and also will explain later.

But for those who still believe that Adam did not have free will, in spite of all previous proofs, I would say that they accuse God of being unjust and dishonest.

And I would imagine the following scenario revolving in their minds:

It came to the thought of God before creation, the following monologue:

**"Let Us create unto Us heaven, sky, earth, waters, sun, stars, day and night, and everything else that pleases Our eyes. Then let Us make or create a man in Our image. Then, let Us make him fall into sin, and condemn him to death. Then, to show Our kindness and Sovereignty, let Us arrange a salvation for him."**

And as much as this scenario looks strange, silly, and unreal, yet that is what these people think according to their belief. And of course, this means that God in His foreknowledge created Adam to condemn him to death. This of course is blasphemy and unthinkable of.

What is the meaning of God creating Adam to condemn him to death? God does not make any body sin. This is against His Holy and Righteous nature.

Listen to what the Holy Scripture says : ***"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God, for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither He tempts any man."*** (James 1:13)

But the most suitable and acceptable explanation, is that the Lord God as He foreknew that Adam by his own will and free choice, will fall into sin, He (God) gave him a warning because He loves him, but since Adam did not listen to this warning, God in His mercy and love, prepared salvation before creation. Listen to the Holy Word:

John 6:64 ***"But there are some of you that believe not, for Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray Him."***

1 Peter 1:18-20 ***"Forasmuch as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot, Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you."***

Some still argue :- Yes, the right of free will, was given to Adam before falling into sin, but after that, it was taken away from him, and he was expelled from the garden.

But I still tell them that they are **WRONG**, because the proof came immediately after:

The Holy Scripture tells us that Adam knew Eve his wife, and he was begotten two sons, Cain and Abel, and we all know their story: Both offered offerings to God. The Lord God accepted Abel's offering and not Cain's. Cain became furious at his brother, and thought of killing him. Now listen to what the Holy Scripture says: ***"And the Lord God said unto Cain, why are you wrath? And why is your countenance fallen? If you do well, shall you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door, and unto you shall be its desire, and you shall rule over it."*** (Gen. 4:6-7)

Nothing could be more clear than that, The Lord God wanted Cain to know that he has the free will and choice, telling him that the whole solution is in his hands, if he does well, he will be accepted, and if he does not, he will fall into the sin which lies at the door. Not only that, but the Lord God tells him that he has the power to rule over it, meaning that he can stop it. What more of a warning can the Lord God give Cain?

But, did Cain listen to this warning? **OF COURSE NOT.**

Now, I shall ask the same two questions:

**Q. 1** Did the Lord God foreknow that Cain is going to sin, by killing his brother ?

**A. YES,** He foreknew. That is why He warned Cain.

**Q. 2** Was it the Lord God's will, that Cain kills his brother ?

**A. NO,** because if it is so, then why should He warn him?

So, in summary, the Lord God foreknew that Cain is going to kill his brother, and it was not His will. So, whose will was it? It was the absolute free will of Cain.

Why the Lord God did not do anything about it? Because Cain has his own free will !!

And the Holy Scripture is full of proofs of free will to every human being, some of it are:

\* By their absolute will, the sons of God chose to take the daughters of men as wives.

Genesis 6:2 ***"That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair, and they took them wives of all which they choose."***

\* By his own absolute will, Abram chose to lie and cause his wife Sarai to lie, and to say that she is his sister.

Genesis 12:13 ***"Say, I pray you, you are my sister; that it may be well with me, for your sake and my soul shall live because of you."***

\* By his own absolute will, Lot chose to separate from Abram.

Genesis 13:11 ***“Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan.”***

- \* By her absolute own will, Sarai chose to give her maid to Abram to produce offsprings.

Genesis 16:2 ***“And Sarai said unto Abram, behold now, the Lord has restrained me from bearing : I pray you, go in unto my maid ; it may be that I may obtain children by her.”***

- \* By his own absolute will, Esau chose to sell his birthright unto Jacob.

Genesis 24:33 ***“And he sold his birthright unto Jacob.”***

- \* By his own absolute will, Isaac chose to lie, saying that Rebecca is his sister.

Genesis 26:7 ***“And the men of the place asked him of his wife, and he said, she is my sister.”***

- \* By her own absolute will, Rebecca chose to lie at her husband Isaac, to bless her son Jacob, whom she loved more than Esau.

Genesis 27:9-10 ***“Go now to the flock (she is talking to Jacob), and fetch me from thence, two good kids of the goats ; and I will make them savory meat for your father such as he loves, and you shall bring it to your father, that he may eat, and that he may bless you before his death.”***

**AND** here, I would like to pose for a moment to discuss this very important issue, and to argue with those (and they are many) who believe that what Rebecca had done was just a mere fulfillment of God's will !!

- 1- God is in no need for any body to fulfill his will especially by lying and cheating as Rebecca did.
- 2- If the secular people believe that the purpose justifies the means, YET God who is Righteous, Holy, and who cannot do anything wrong; He cannot possibly accept cheating and lying or any kind of sin to justify His will.
- 3- Couldn't God have appeared to Isaac in a dream and tell him to bless Jacob and not Esau? Exactly as He appeared to Joseph (Mary's husband) in a dream to take the baby Jesus and his mother and flee to Egypt? (Mat. 2:13)
- 4- Didn't God Himself say that He loved Jacob and disliked Esau? (Malachi 1:2-3). Yes, God has every right to love whom He loves and hates whom He hates, but He cannot possibly do that by cheating and lying, even if it is accomplished by men.

Didn't He have the power to bless Jacob without telling any body?

- 5- Couldn't God have told Isaac to call his two sons, and tell him to put his right hand on Jacob's head (the younger) and to put his left hand on Esau's head (the older), exactly as He inspired Jacob as how to bless the two sons of Joseph later on in the land of Egypt, before he died?

Genesis 48:14 ***“And Israel (Jacob) stretched out his right hand and laid it upon Ephraim's head (the younger), and his left hand upon Manasseh's head (the older) and firstborn.”***

These are just but few points I raised against the wrong belief that Rebecca

cheated and lied to fulfill God's will.

\* By his own absolute will, Jacob chose to lie to his father.

Genesis 27:19 ***“And Jacob said unto his father, I am Esau your firstborn, I have done according as you bid me, arise, I pray you, sit and eat of my venison, that your soul may bless me.”***

\* By his own absolute will, Laban chose to cheat his nephew Jacob, and made him marry Leah instead of Rachel.

Genesis 29:25 ***“And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold it was Leah, and he said to Laban, what is this you have done unto me ? Did not I serve you for Rachel? Wherefore then have you beguiled me?”***

\* By their own absolute will, Joseph's brothers chose to sell him to the Ishmaelite.

Genesis 37:27 ***“Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelite.”***

\* By their own absolute will, the two sons of Aaron chose to offer strange fire before The Lord, which caused their death.

Lev. 10:1-2 ***“And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which He commanded them not, and there went out fire from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.”***

\* God Himself, offered the children of Israel to choose between eternal life and death.

Duet. 30:19 ***“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both you and your seed may live.”***

\* By his own absolute will, Joshua and all his house chose to worship the Lord God.

Josh. 24:15 ***“And if it seems evil unto you to serve the Lord (he was addressing the Israelites), choose you this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”***

\* By their own absolute will, the Israelites chose to worship the Lord God.

Josh. 24:22 ***“And Joshua said unto the people, you are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen you the Lord, to serve Him. And they said, we are witnesses.”***

\* By her own absolute will, Ruth the Moabite chose to stay with her mother-in-law Naomi the Israelite, and worship her God.

Ruth 1:16 ***“And Ruth said, entreat me not to leave you, or to return from following after you, for whither you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge, your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.”***

\* By his own absolute will, the Psalm writer chose God’s ways and His commandments.

Ps. 119:30 ***“I have chosen the way of truth, Your judgments have I laid before Him.”***  
:173 ***“Let Your hand help me, for I have chosen Your precepts.”***

\* By their own absolute will, the sinners chose not to fear God, and to follow their own ways which pleased them.

Prov. 1:24 ***“Because, I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no man regarded.”***

:29 ***“For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord.”***

Is. 66:3 ***“Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their delights in their abominations.”***

\* By her own absolute will, Martha, chose to trouble herself about many things, and by her own absolute will, Mary chose the good part which cannot be taken from her.

Luke 10:41-42 ***“Martha, Martha, you are careful and troubled about many things, but one thing is needed, and Mary had chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”***

\* Paul kept the absolute own will of Philemon, to accept back his runaway slave Onesimus and also if he permits to leave him in Paul’s service.

Philemon.10-14 ***“I beseech you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds, which in time past, was to you unprofitable, but now profitable to you and to me. Whom I have sent again, you therefore receive him, that is my own bowels, whom I would have retained with me, that in your stead, he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel. But without your mind, would I do nothing, that your benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.”***

\* By our own absolute will, we choose to sin.

Heb. 10:26 ***“For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of truth, there remains no sacrifice for sins.”***

\* By his own absolute will, Paul chose to live honestly.

Heb. 13:18 ***“Pray for us, for we trust we have a good conscience in all things willing to live honestly.”***

- \* By our own absolute will and choice, we ought to feed the flock.  
1 Peter 5:2 ***“Feed the flock if God who is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly.”***
- \* By his own absolute will, the younger son (the prodigal son), chose to demand his portion of goods.  
Luke 15:12 ***“And the younger of them, said to his father : father give me the portion of goods that falleth me.”***
- \* And by his own absolute will, he chose to leave to a far country, and waste his money with riotous living.  
Luke 15:13 ***“And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there he wasted his substance with riotous living.”***
- \* And again by his own absolute will, he chose to rise and go back to his father.  
Luke 15:18 ***“I will arise and go to my father.”***  
:20 ***“And he arose and came to his father.”***
- \* By her own absolute will, a woman chose to pour a very precious ointment on Jesus' head.  
Mat. 26:7 ***“There came unto Him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on His head, as He sat at meal.”***  
This story is also mentioned in Mark 14:3, and in John 12:3.

These are but few examples that I picked up from reading the Holy Scripture which is full of statements, stories, and events which demonstrate the full, complete, and absolute will and freedom of choice of human beings. For example when you read in Chronicles 1 & 2, and in Kings 1 & 2, you will see the Holy Scripture describing the life led by this king or that as “following in the foot steps of his ancestors”, or “feared the Lord God”, or “followed the Lord God’s commandments”, or “he did evil in the eyes of the Lord”, or “he did not fear the Lord God and did not follow His commandments” and so on.... Etc All that demonstrates the free will that God graciously granted us.

**NOW**, I would like to point out a fact which I eluded to before, but because of its utmost importance, I would like to stress on it again :-

There is great difference between **GOD’S WILL** and His **FOREKNOWLEDGE**. And in order to clearly understand it, I have to go back to Genesis:

\* Let us have a second look at the story of Adam:

We have already established that; it was in the **foreknowledge of God** that Adam will fall into sin. But **God’s will**, was for Adam **NOT** to fall into sin.

\* Let us also have a second look at the story of Cain :

Again, we have already concluded that, it was in the **foreknowledge of God**

that Cain will kill his brother. But **God's will**, was for Cain **NOT** to kill his brother.

Then listen to what the Holy Scripture says in some other places :-

\* Prov. 1:24,25 ***"Because I have called and you refused ; I have stretched out My hand, and no man regarded, but you have set at nought all my counsel, and would have none of My reproof."***

So, here we see that God's will, was that He called, stretched out His hand, and gave counsel. But man's will, which was foreknown to God, was that man refused, did not regard, and set at nought all His counsel.

\* Mat.23:37 & Luke 13:34 At the triumphant entrance of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, let us hear what He said to the people :

***"O, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who killed the prophets, and stoned those who were sent unto you, how often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and you would not."***

Here again, we see that God's will, was to gather them several times. But , man's will, which was foreknown to God, was that they did not want to.

\* John 1:11 ***"He came unto His own, and His own received Him not "***

Here again, we see that God's will was that He came to His own. But man's will, which is foreknown to God, was that they received Him not.

\* John 6:64 ***"For Jesus knew from the beginning, who were they that believed not, and who should betray Him."***

Here, we see the foreknowledge of God and the will of man who believed not, and betrayed. Yet, He came because that is His will as it was manifested in John 1:11.

\* 1Tim. 2:3,4 ***"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our savior, Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of truth."***

And here we see, the ultimate love of God, where His will is for all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of truth.

But, did all men become saved and come to the knowledge of truth ?

Certainly **NOT**, and that is man's will, and it was in the foreknowledge of God.

From all what is mentioned above, we can see now, that **GOD'S WILL** and **HIS FOREKNOWLEDGE** are two completely different things.

When a father tells his son, not to put his hand in the fire, he says that because he knows the drastic effect of that. The father's will is that his son would not burn his hand, but the son refuses to listen to his father's advice and puts his hand in fire and burns it.

Now, did the father want this, or was it his will for this to happen ? Certainly **NOT.**

The father gives his advice because he foresees or foreknows what will happen, and because he loves his son, he gives him this advice (not order). And the son had absolute freedom to choose between taking and neglecting this advice.

What I actually want to say here, is that God does not give us orders, but He gives us advices for our good, because He loves us. And come to think of it, what we call commandments, are actually advices because He loves us and wants us all to have eternal life.

As I mentioned before, by our own absolute will, we sin. And when we gather the rotten fruits of sin, we then turn and say it is God's will !!

Brothers and sisters, does God actually want that, or was it His will ? Certainly **NOT.**

God always wants the good for us all, but by our own will, we do not listen to Him.

One Last Question : Do you think that God did not love Adam ? Certainly **NOT.**

Why did He create him then? How can God create something He hates or dislikes?

Look at Genesis Chapter one: God, at the end of every day of his creation, the Holy Bible tells us **“And God saw that it was GOOD”**, but at the end of the sixth day (after creating Adam) the Holy Bible tells us in verse 31 **“And God saw everything that He had made, and behold it was VERY GOOD”**

So, it is very obvious that God loved Adam, even after his fall and disobedience, God made cloths of skin for both Adam and Eve.

You also, my friend, God loves you in spite of all your trespasses. For He showed His love for us, **“For while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”** (Rom. 5:8)

**“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.”** (John 3:16)

Friend, do you still believe that you have no will or power of choice?

**NO.** You have every will and power, and I hope you can use it to serve God.

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Unconditioned, Unlimited Love.....

# Conditioned Salvation

No true believer can argue about the absolute, unconditioned, and unlimited love of God. But I guarantee that there will be thousands who argue and object about God's conditioned salvation, not only that, but they may consider it blasphemy and heresy, and may even call for excommunicating me.

But, it is me, I have not changed, and I say it as it is, even if some or even the majority does not like it.

Why do I stick to my guns? Because my guns are the Holy Scripture itself. All my life, I have trained myself not to talk about any subject, unless I study it well, and support what I say, with proves of its nature. So, if it is science, medicine, logic... etc, then my proves will be scientific, medical, logical.... Etc.

Now, since the present subject of discussion is theological, then what other reference can we consult, but the Holy Scripture which we know is true and infallible, because it is the word of God!!

One of the very famous verses of the Holy Bible, which is well known to, and probably recited by every Christian is John 3:16 which says ***“for God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.”***

This verse is very suitable for our discussion, since it contains the two elements of the title of our subject, namely love and salvation (everlasting life).

Here we see the unconditioned, unlimited love of God as in ***“So loved the world”***, and on the other hand, we see the conditioned salvation as in ***“Whosoever believes”***.

Yes, God's love is unconditioned and unlimited, for it is not limited to a certain race, age, gender, religion, good, bad, ugly, sinner, or righteous. The word (World) is very clear, and no matter which dictionary you look at, it carries in it all races, nations, old, young, male, female, babies, elders, Jews, Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, even atheists, saints, wicked, liars, murderers, adulterers, thieves, cheaters, evil doers, and every kind of person. And of course the Holy Scripture is full of verses which prove that, and I shall mention some now:-

\*“Suffer little children, and forbid them not to come unto me.” (Mat. 19:14)

\*“Come unto Me, all you who labor, and heavily laden, and I will give you rest.”  
(Mat. 11:28)

\*“I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (Mat. 9:13)

\*“Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” (1Tim. 2:4)

\*“Greater love has no man than this that a man lays down his life for his friends.”  
(John 15:13)

\*“That the love wherewith, You have loved Me, may be in them.” (John 17:26)

\*“Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.” (1John 3:1)

\*“We love Him, because He first loved us.” (1John 4:19)

\*“Not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for

our sins.” (1John 4:10)

\*”In His love, and in His pity, He redeemed them, and He bare them, and carried them all

the days of old.” (Is. 63:9)

\*”As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you.” (John 15:9)

\*”But God commends His love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died

for us.” (Rom. 5:8)

\*”But God, Who is rich in mercy, for His great love, wherewith He loved us, even when

we were dead in sins, has quickened us together with Christ.” (Eph. 2:4,5)

\*”And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us.” (Eph. 5:2)

\*”Our Father Who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation.” (2Thes. 2:16)

\*”Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God.” (1John 4:7)

\*”He who loves not, knows not God, for God is love.” (1John 4:8)

\*”Greater love has no man than this, that a man lays down his life for his friends.”

(John 15:13)

\*”Be you therefore followers of God as dear children.” (Eph. 5:1)

\*”Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.” (1John 4:11)

\*”Having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end.”

(John 13:1)

\*”We are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us.” (Rom. 8:37)

\*”I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me.” (Gal 2:20)

\*”Unto Him Who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.” (Rev. 1:5)

\*”I have loved you, says the Lord.” (Mal. 1:2)

\*”That the world may know that You has sent Me, and that You have loved them, as You

have loved Me.” (John 17:23)

\*”I have loved you with an everlasting love.” (Jer. 31:3)

\*”A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another, as I loved you.”

(John 13:34)

\*”For the Father Himself loves you.” (John 16:27)

\*”I will love them freely.” (Hos. 14:4)

\*”There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” (Prov. 18:24)

\*”A friend of publicans and sinners.” (Mat. 11:19)

These are but few verses about God’s absolute, unlimited, unconditioned love, which are self evident, and need no more explanation. Now, since we have finished with the first of the two elements of our discussion,

we now turn to the conditioned salvation:-

One fact I should mention here and stress upon. I am not discussing, that salvation is the complete work of Jesus that has been finished on the cross, or that salvation being the only road to everlasting life, or that the works have nothing to do with salvation, because this is the core of our faith, I believe in that, and every Christian should believe in it also. And the Holy Scripture says that **“Jesus Christ is the author of eternal salvation unto all them who obey Him.”** (Heb. 5:9) which means there is no other way.

But what I am discussing here is that salvation is not for all the world as most of us believe or think. Please do not panic or rush into conclusion and criticism.

Let us go back to the same verse John 3:16, and let us concentrate on the phrase **“Whosoever believes”**. The verse **does not** say “For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, so that every body (the world) should not perish, but have everlasting life.” You see, there is a condition here that must be fulfilled first. And that is

**“Whosoever believes”**. “To make it more clear, let us ask, what about “Whosoever **DOES NOT** believe ? Will he have everlasting life ? If your answer is **NO**, then you are quite correct. But if your answer is **YES**, then my question will be : Then, what is the use of belief (or faith) mentioned in the verse ? And if you still feel you are correct, then what is the use of Jesus coming in the flesh, and offering Himself as a living sacrifice for our sins?! He should have not have come at all, since whether one believes or not, he will have everlasting life anyway. And in a way that is what Calvinism calls for. I said **IN A WAY**, because they believe that God before creation had chosen certain people (His elect), to have everlasting life, and the rest of the world, tough, they have no share in eternity!!

So, the same question applies ”Why did Jesus bother to come, much less why would He sacrifice Himself for our sins?! Oh, I am sorry, I should have not said **OUR SINS**, because if we are not of the elect (and according to them, no body knows who are they except God), then in that case one can say that Jesus did not die for us (you and me), because we do not know if we are of the elect or not, **AND** that of course is **BLASPHEMY**, because the Holy Scripture in so many ways and places **ASSURED US OF OUR SALVATION**, provided that we **should believe** , and this is the conditioned salvation I am talking about.

**ONE FACT I SHOULD STRESS UPON HERE, IS THAT CHRISTIANITY IS THE ONLY RELIGION THAT ASSURES ITS FOLLOWERS ABOUT THEIR FUTURE EVERLASTING LIFE. THAT IS WHY WE ARE UNIQUE !!**

Let us now list the verses that show this conditioned salvation :-

\*“He who believes and is baptized, shall be saved.” (Mark 16:16)

\*“But he who believes not, shall be damned.” (Mark 16:16)

\*“He who believes on Me, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:38)

\*“He who believes in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.” (John 11:25)

\*“And whosoever lives and believes in Me, shall never die.” (John 11:26)

\*“Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.” (Rom. 4:3)

And (Gal.

3:6)

\*"Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed." (John 20:29)

\*"If you would believe, you should see the glory of God." (John 11:40)

\*"But these are written, that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,

and that believing you might have life through His name." (John 20:31)

\*"That if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your

heart, that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved." (Rom. 10:9)

\*"By which also you are saved, if you keep in memory, what I preached unto you, unless

you have believed in vain." (1Cor. 15:2)

\*"Whosoever believes in Him, should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:15)

\*"In Whom also, after you believed, you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise."

(Eph. 1:13)

\*"He who believes on Him, is not condemned, but he who believes not is condemned."

(John 3:18)

\*"He who believes on the Son, has everlasting life, and he who believes not the Son, shall

not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:36)

\*"Every one who believes on Him, shall have everlasting life." (John 6:40)

\*"He who hears My word, and believes on Him Who sent Me, has everlasting life, and

shall not come into condemnation, but has passed from death unto life." (John 5:24)

\*"I am the bread of life, he who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes on

Me shall never thirst." (John 6:35)

\*"Whosoever believes in Him, shall receive remission of sins." (Acts 10:43)

\*"And by Him, all who believe are justified from all things." (Acts 13:39)

\*"For it is the power of God (the Gospel) unto salvation to everyone who believes."

(Rom. 1:16)

\*"But to him who believes on Him, his faith is counted for righteousness." (Rom. 4:5)

\*"And whosoever believes on Him shall not be ashamed." (Rom. 9:33 ; 10:11 ; 1Pet. 2:6)

\*"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.  
(Rom.10:4)

\*"Whosoever believes that Jesus is the Christ, is born of God." (1John 5:1)

\*"Afterward destroyed them who believed not." (Jude :5)

\*"To them who should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting." (1Tim. 1:16)

\*"For if you believe not that I am He, you shall die in your sins." (John 8:24)

\*"Now, if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live ith Him."  
(Rom. 6:8)

\*"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also who sleep  
in Jesus,

will God bring with Him." (1Thes. 4:14)

\*"Believe in the Lord your God, so shall you be established, believe His prophets,  
so

shall you prosper." (2Chro. 20:20)

\*"Wherein also, you are risen with Him through faith." (Col. 2:12)

\*"To make you wise unto salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus."  
(2Tim. 3:15)

\*"But the word preached, did not profit them, not being mixed with faith." (Heb.  
4:2)

\*"For we who have believed, do enter into rest, as He said." (Heb. 4:3)

\*"And they to whom it was first preached, entered not in, because of their  
unbelief."

(Heb. 4:6)

\*"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation." (1Peter 1:5)

\*"Daughter, be of good comfort, your faith has made you whole." (Luke 8:48)

\*"Fear not, believe only, and she shall be made whole." (Luke 8:50)

\*"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved, and your house."  
(Acts 16:31)

\*"And the righteous, lives by his faith." (Hab. 2:4 ; Heb. 10:38)

\*"That they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them who  
are

sanctified by faith that is in Me." (Acts 26:18)

\*"The just shall live by faith." (Rom. 1:17)

\*"Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and  
upon all

them who believe." (Rom. 3:22)

\*"Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God." (Rom. 5:1)

\*"By Whom also, we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand."  
(Rom. 5:2)

\*"Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds opf the  
law."

(Rom. 3:28)

\*"That the Gentiles who followed not after righteousness, have attained to  
righteousness,

even the righteousness which is of faith." (Rom. 9:30)

\*"Because of unbelief, they were broken off, and you stand by faith." (Rom. 11:20)

\*"For, by faith you stand." (2Cor. 1:24)

\*"For we walk by faith, not by sight." (2Cor. 5:7)

\*"For you are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." (Gal. 3:26)

\*"For by grace you are saved through faith." (Eph. 2:8)

\*"Not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith."(Phil. 3:9)

\*"So, we see that they could not enter in, because of unbelief." (Heb. 3:19)

\*"And the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." (Gal. 2:20)

\*"But to him who works not, but believes on Him Who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." (Rom. 4:5)

\*"Know you therefore that those who are of faith, they are the children of Abraham."

(Gal. 3:7)

\*"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith." (Heb. 10:22)

\*"Daughter, be of good comfort, your faith has made you whole, go in peace." (Mat. 9:22 ; Mark 5:34 ; Luke 8:48)

\*"And Jesus said unto him, receive your sight, your faith has saved you." (Luke 18:42)

\*"Arise, go your way, your faith has made you whole." (Luke 17:19)

\*"And He said to the woman, your faith has saved you, go in peace." (Luke 7:50)

These are but few of the many references mentioned in the Holy Scripture about this subject. And it is quite obvious, that all are conditioned, and if you are in any doubt about any of these verses, just ask yourself, "**And what if not?**" and you will soon realize that it is conditioned.

Then, one would ask, Where is the source of confusion ? And my answer would be, because they like to confuse the issues :- Calvin and his followers say that the sinner is dead in his sins, and a dead person cannot save himself, neither could he have faith on his own, faith is given to him by God. And since it is given by God, then he is elected by God. And he cannot do anything about it.

Sure, he can do everything about it. They are completely ignoring the Holy Scripture Which says : "**How then shall they call on Him Whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? And how they hear without a preacher?**" (Rom. 10:14), Then He concludes by

saying **“So then, Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”**  
(Rom. 10:17)

Here is the confusion. Sure, a dead person cannot save himself, and this is the core of our faith, because while we are yet sinners, Christ died for us. But are they talking about physical or spiritual death ?!

Either way, they are wrong and confused!! Because if it is physical death, then true he cannot do anything about his sins, neither can God!! (See the parable of Lazarus and the rich man in Luke 16:19-31)

But if it is spiritual death, then I would ask them, what is their understanding of spiritual death ? It means, if they do not know, being away from God. But they are still physically alive ; and that is why Jesus said **“I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”** (Mat. 9:13 ; Mark2:17 ; Luke 5:32) and He also said **“those who are whole, have no need of the physician but those who are sick”** (Mat. 9:12 ; Mark 2:17 ; Luke 5:31) Now notice, God is talking about the sinners who are erroneously considered dead by the Calvinists Whom they claim that they cannot hear Him because

they are dead. See how they are confusing the issues? And if they cannot hear Him, how can He call them? And to call someone to repentance as the verse says, means to invite him to recognize his sins, confess it to God, feel guilty and remorseful about it, promising to abandon it, and never to do it again. Now remember that it is an invitation, and the sinner as a human being having the complete freedom and will as we explained before, may regard or disregard this invitation, it is his choice, and he should not blame God for the consequences. And if he is wise He should do as the thief on the right did on the cross and say “Remember me Lord when You come to your kingdom” And Did God disappoint him? No, He didn’t. On the contrary, He assured him of being with Him the same day in paradise. Now let us see what happened to the thief on the left who ignored this invitation. The Holy Bible did not talk about him, but believe me it is not pleasant, because if it was, then the Holy Bible would have mentioned it ; because the gospel is the good news.

And the sinner is alive enough to ask for the physician’s help. And the physician will give him help, so long as the sick asks for it. And if the physician has healed certain number of people before creation, then why did He come? And why did He say I came for the sinners? Is God Lying? Certainly NOT. Don’t you see that they are undermining the core of His incarnation?

But they support their belief by what Paul said in Rom. (8:29,30).” **For whom He (God) did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom He did predestinate, them He also called ; and whom He called, them He also justified, and whom He justified, He also glorified.”**

And I am afraid to say that these verses which they take as the cornerstone of their belief, is actually against them. Because when we look closely at these verses, we find that they are the product of a **Chain of Five Events** starting by the **Foreknowledge** of God, then His **Predestination**, then His **Calling**, then His **Justifying**, then His **Glorifying**. So as we see, the whole chain of events, starts by the **Foreknowledge** of God. And this is absolutely true, because God is

omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient as I have mentioned earlier in this discussion.

All what is needed from the sinner (and we all are), is to hear the good news as mentioned above (as in Rom. 10:14,17 mentioned above), and believe that Jesus Christ, came and died to save he who have perished, and the references are numerous as mentioned above.

But when you sit and discuss the Foreknowledge with them, they try to get out of it, by the usual well known trick :”In the Greek origin, the word foreknowledge means intimacy like the knowledge of a husband to his wife“ !!, This of course is nonsense, but even if we agree, and I strongly agree, because it is the Holy justice of God, because ,He would not condemn anyone to eternal death, unless He had known every bit of him!!

Moreover, do you want me to believe that God Knows some intimately and others not? Or He cares for some and not for others? If it is so, then you are accusing God of lying or double talk, meaning He says something and means another, And God forbid, He is not like that. And in this case how can you explain His saying that He loved the whole world, which as we have seen earlier that it is unlimited and unconditioned !!

Now since we are not confused anymore, the matter is so simple :- God because He is Omnipotent, omnipresent , and omniscient, everything is quite open and clear in His sight even before we are born, or yet even before creation, He foreknew

that you and me and everybody will be born on that day, from those parents, in that country, will behave as such, and will repent and confess his sins and ask for forgiveness, on that day, believing in the trinity and the redeeming work of the **Second Hypostasis**, and so his name was written in the book of life even before he was born or yet even before creation as the Holy Scripture tells us :-

\*”Whose names are in the book of life.” (Phil 4:3)

\*”He who overcomes, shall be clothed in white raiments, and I will not blot out his name

out of the book of life.” (Rev. 3:5)

\*”Whose names are written in the book of life of the slain Lamb, from the foundation of

the world.” (Rev. 13:8)

\*”Whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world.”

(Rev. 17:8)

\*”But those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” (Rev. 21:27)

One more important point, God is not limited by time like humans, because the Holy Scripture tells us that He is not affected by the shadow of turning (James 1:17), which means that God is not limited by past or future, and what seems to us as yesterday, yesteryear, yester century, or yester time, is actually present in God’s eye.

Now what is left is to know how this heresee came about. It was initiated by a French "theologian" called John Calvin. (Please consult any encyclopedia or internet). But before going any further, I would like to say :- Do not be intimidated by the word theologian. Because theologians are human beings like you and me. And being a theologian does not put him at a rank higher than others in Faith, much less and certainly does not make him Pious. A theologian is simply a person who is interested in, and not necessarily studying theology. And theology according to the unabridged Webster's third new international dictionary, is the science of interpretation of religious beliefs in relation to contemporary thought and life.. So as you see, it has nothing to do with Piety or Faith. Not only that, but theologians cannot add or remove anything from the Holy Scripture, since it was Inspired by the Holy Spirit : ***"Knowing this first, that no prophesy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation, for the prophesy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."*** (2Peter 1:20,21) and ***"If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him, the plagues that are written in this book, and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophesy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life."*** (Rev. 22:18,19)

And so, you find theologians in every religion that came into existence. And usually they are influenced by those who tutored them , and biased to their teachings and beliefs. Or if they are not tutored by anybody, then they become obsessed by a certain thought or theory and dedicate their life to prove and defend it. Or they may have heard about a theory or teaching that they did not like, and again dedicate their life to attack it and prove that it is wrong. Or lastly but not least is a personal vendetta fighting for a post or recognition. And the church history in particular is full of such people. Many a theologian in the early church and even in our contemporary churches, have come up with unacceptable views and theories that do not conform at all with the biblical teachings. Even, many theologian nowadays, deny or question the deity of Jesus Christ !! John Calvin is not any different from those so called theologians. He came up with his famous five points of Calvinism (**TULIP**), to oppose and contradict another contemporary theologian of his time called Armenius, who came up with his own five point doctrine before Calvin, and the Calvinists openly admit it, and cannot deny it.. I am not defending Armenius at all, and truly I do not care for either, because what they argue about is self evident by the numerous Biblical verses some of which I previously mentioned, and they are clear in black and white with no gray area in between.

One more historical fact, that still adheres as great stigma to John Calvin, where in a certain way, he became so influential that in 1537, he established his own theocracy, ordering that communion should be done four times per year, set spies on delinquents, established a moral censorship, and excommunicated several hundreds, but the worse is yet to come : He killed or caused to kill 58, exiled 76, and put numerous citizens in prison.

A history that speaks for itself. And I can assure you that such a history is neither fluttering nor honoring, and certainly **NOT** Christian, because Jesus Himself rebuked Peter in Gethsemane when he used the sword and attacked the servant of the high priest and cut his ear telling him, ***“Put up again your sword into its place, for all who take the sword, shall perish with the sword.”*** (Mat. 26:52)

One last word, you are invited my friend to believe in Jesus Christ, that He is the incarnated Son of God, Who died for your sins so that you may have eternal life, as He promised in the numerous verses mentioned above. And he assured this invitation in the last book of the Holy Scripture by repeating it as a **seal** to His precious word : ***“Behold, I stand at the door and knock, if any man hears my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”*** (Rev. 3:20) As you see it is, a quite clear open invitation to any person to accept, please be that person, and tastes the mercy and goodness of God.

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