

THE LAZY MAN'S GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING CALVINISM

The Five Points Say

The Scriptures Say

You must be...

Born again so you can believe.

Thus, faith is a *consequence* or *result* of regeneration.

You must...

Believe so that you can be born again.

Thus, faith is the *precondition* of or *requirement* for regeneration.

John 1:12,13

You are...

Elected by God *without* regard to faith in Christ.

You are...

Elected by God in accordance *with* faith in Christ.

John 3:16,17

Christ died *only* for the *elect*.

Christ died for *all* the lost.

John 3:16,17

God *appears* to offer salvation to all - i.e., the general and outward call - but only intends to save some (the elect), and insures that the some He intends to save will be saved - i.e., the efficacious or inner call - without regard to the faith or willingness of the elect. The elect cannot help but believe and be eventually saved, and the unelect cannot help but not believe and be ultimately damned.

God *truly* offers salvation to everyone on the condition they receive and believe in Jesus Christ. The saved can thank God for the provision of salvation (the cross), the offer of salvation (the gospel proclamation), the nature of the offer (a free gift), and the capacity to believe in Christ and thereby receive the free gift. Those ultimately lost will have only themselves to blame.

Rom.1:16

The saved *will* persevere in holiness and faith and faith to the end of their life on earth, thereby proving they are among the elect. Those who do not persevere in faith and holiness until the end have proved they were never saved and therefore not among the elect.

The saved *should* persevere in faith and holiness to the end of their life on earth, thereby proving their love for the Lord. The truly saved, to the degree they fail to persevere in faith and holiness, have to that same degree demonstrated a lack of love for the Lord. Although saved, they experience a loss of fellowship with the Lord in this life, and a loss of rewards in the next.

John 15:1-14