

Christian Myth Busters We Are Provisionists Part 1

So far in our Christian Myth Busters Series we discussed the following:
Are the Offices of Apostles and Prophets for today?
Generational Curses
Ten Prophecy Corrections
Now: We are Provisionist, Not Calvinists or Arminianists, this is part 1

Around the 17th century two theological camps have dominated protestant Christendom
-Typically if a believer was NOT in one those camps they were automatically deemed to be in the other..
-.... Whether that was true or not.
-There was not a third option.
-But we will propose a third option that we believe is closer to the Scriptures,
-and closer to the heart of God toward sinful mankind.
-It is a **Christian Myth** to think that there is no other theological camp by which we can be called,..
-.... Other than Calvinist or Reform and Arminianist.
-Both of these camps are named after a past prominent pastor/theologian.
-Our focus will be on Calvinism, not Arminianism, which is known for our ability to lose our salvation.

We are proposing a new Theological Camp called, Provisionist

-Credit goes to Leighton Flowers from his teachings and his book, *God's Provision for All*
-.... For the designation: **Provisionist**

The word Provisionist is not in the Bible, but it is also not the name of a man from Christendom.....

-**But** one of its cognate words, 'provided' is in the Scriptures.
-It is used in the sense of the provision for salvation that concerns all of us in

Proverbs 16:6 reads,

In mercy and truth

Atonement is PROVIDED for iniquity;

And by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil.

-What do you get when you mix terror with Love?
-The Fear of the Lord!
-We, 'I' have never described myself as a Calvinist or Arminianist,
-.... only some of the teachings of both camps do we agree with.

Provisionist best describes Calvary Castle Rock's Theological position as reflected in the Scriptures,...

-...Especially when it comes to key buzz phrases and words like:

Sovereign Determinism

World

All

Total Depravity

Perseverance and Eternal Security

Election (aka Chosen)

Predestination

What drives the meanings and applications of these words with Calvinists and Provisionists?

- In Calvinism **God's Sovereign Determinism** drives forward all of God's attributes, including His love.
- In Provisionism **God's Love** drives all of His other attributes including His Sovereignty.
- God's 'heart-set' or His 'mind-set' towards mankind and mankind's need for Salvation,
- is driven by His love that provides His provision for our needed salvation.

Provisionists believe that God can love all and still have His sovereign will be done,....

- even with Hell deserving mankind!
- Calvinism teaches that mankind is sinful, depraved, utterly dead and therefore unable to choose....
- So dead to God that he or she cannot choose or accept or receive salvation without first being born again,
- being made alive in order to believe and be saved.
- Once they are born again, without their involvement or faith, they will be able to believe unto salvation.

Provisionists also believe that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God,

- and are disqualified to enter the Kingdom of God as we are, without Christ.
- BUT Jesus, the Apostles, and Provisionists never require a person to first be born again before they believe.
- Jesus, the Apostles and Provisionists teach that you must BELIEVE in order to be born again.
- Calvinists condemn Arminianists for teaching that one can lose their salvation,
- But Calvinists are no better when it comes to eternal security and never having salvation.
- They teach that the saints must persevere to the end to prove their election and salvation!
- and they will determine what not persevering means.
- We will dig into these differences later on.

In the NKJV N.T. the word English word 'provision' is used once in Romans 13:14

-Here is an expanded translation:

make no provision [ahead of time] for the flesh in order to fulfill the flesh's lust

-The Greek word for provision here is:

πρόνοια (pro-nia) a "provision by foresight"

- It means to think beforehand & in God's case to think & provide what we sinners need beforehand.
- In God's provision, thru His foresight He provided the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world.
- Which leads us to our key Provision Witnesses in Scripture: **1 John 2:1-2 and 1 Timothy 4:10-11**

1 John 2:1-2 reads as follows:

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate [lawyer] with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous [one].

And He Himself is the propitiation [satisfaction] for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the WHOLE WORLD.

And

1 Timothy 4:10-11

For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of ALL men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach.

We also add this witness from the Holy Spirit thru Paul in.....

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For the love of Christ compels us, [why?] because we judge thus [or in this way]: that if One died for ALL, then ALL died [or are died for]; and He died for ALL, that those who live should live [thru faith] no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

What drives His provision?

-Why would He do so?

-Provisionists believe that it is His love that drives His provision of salvation...

-..... and His provisions for life after salvation, let alone His general provisions of grace for all mankind.

We ask for two or three witnesses to establish truth

of course we have

John 3:16

God so loved [ALL of] the world [so much, that] He gave [the only thing He did not create] His Son that [whosoever out of the ALL] that believes shall possess everlasting LIFE.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

On a very personal level, just for me, we have my life verse. Read it out loud with me.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in this [dying] flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Amen!

Ephesians 2:1-7 gives us the details of our sinfulness, His restraint due to His love and our great salvation

Ephesians 2:1-3 is the greatest detailed indictment of mankind ever written in the church age, it reads:

1 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world [or this Age in which we live], according to the [direction of the] prince of the power of the air

[Satan], the spirit who now works in [energizes] the sons of disobedience.

[Who are the sons of disobedience?],

3 among whom also WE ALL once conducted ourselves in the [sphere of our] lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the [the two spheres of the] desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as [all] the others.

-there is no escaping that indictment on our own.

-All are indicted.

-There is no escaping the title 'Children of Wrath', on our own,

-All are children deserving of wrath!

But what follows verse 3?

-obviously Verses 4-7 where we see God's provision and the driving force of His provision: His love

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, [Why is He rich in mercy?]

BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE with which He [actively, continuously] loved us,

5 [He] even [loved us] when we were [spiritually] dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved [thru faith according to v. 8]),

6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

His love for us, Drives Everything He Does

-His love is the motive-engine that drives His sovereignty & His will until the consummation of the Ages.

Not so with Calvinists!

-What drives God according to Calvinists?

-Sovereign Determinism drives God

Sovereign Determinism is the Fundamental Problem in Calvinist Thought

-Calvinist **James Montgomery Boice**, the late pastor of Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia,

-Stated emphatically that,

“We can never exaggerate the importance of God’s sovereignty, for God is the greatest of all realities, indeed, the very ground of reality, and SOVEREIGNTY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT CAN BE SAID ABOUT HIM. The other attributes of God are also important. But if in our minds we ignore, distort, or deny God’s sovereignty, meaning the absolute determination and rule by God of all his works and creatures, God will no longer be God for us. His decrees and acts will be determined by something else, either by mere human beings or by circumstances or by some other cosmic power, and these other things (or nothing) will be our actual God. In order to be sovereign, God must also be all-knowing, all-powerful, and absolutely free. If he were limited in any one of these areas, he would not be truly sovereign. Yet the sovereignty of God is greater than any one of these attributes.”

-We couldn’t disagree more!

-Provisionists believe that God can drive His sovereignty and accomplished His will,

-..... through His love for everyone!

-God is big enough, creative enough, powerful enough....

-.... to accomplish His will by using the free will of man which is a part of man’s image bearing,....

-..... and end up with His will being done on earth as it is in Heaven.

-The God of determinism is not big enough or creative enough or wise enough....

-..... to allow mankind to have total free will ...

-.... and still have God’s will be accomplished on earth as it is in heaven.

Ephesians 1:11 is a key verse that describes our larger, wiser, loving God:

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him WHO WORKS ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO THE COUNSEL OF HIS WILL,

-My God can work all things, all choices of mankind and use them in the fulfilling ‘the counsel of His will’,

-He is free, He is able, He is not restrained, He works all things to accomplish His will!

Sovereign Determinism

-How does Reformed Calvinism make Sovereign Determinism work Scripturally?

Determinism Requires Biblical Grammar Gymnastics

-Calvinists have changed the basic meaning of Biblical words to fit their Theology.

-The only way Calvinists can support their theory from the Bible....

-... is to alter the meaning of Bible words or take them out of context.

-When a Calvinist teaches “whosoever will come,” he means “whosoever God wills to come.”

Calvinist A. W. Pink (1886-1952),

-who "sparked a renewed interest in the exposition of Calvinism," wrote,

"The fact is, the love of God is a truth for the saints only." He said:

The "world" in John 3:16 must, in the final analysis, refer to the world of God's people only."

-When a Calvinist talks about "the sovereignty" of God, he has his own definition of the word sovereignty
-as he does with the word depravity.

-Easton's Illustrated Bible Dictionary says that the sovereignty of God is "His absolute right to do all things according to his own good pleasure."

-God, in His sovereignty has established some laws for mankind.

-For example, the Bible says in Luke 13:3, "except you repent you shall all likewise perish".

-God, in His sovereignty, has determined that the sinner who does not repent will not gain eternal life.

-we see as Provisionist that God is no less sovereign because He, according to His own good pleasure,

-gives mankind a free will making him capable of repenting of his sin and receiving Christ as his Savior.

The word: World

-The English word "world" is found 209 times in the New Testament

-A few times, the Greek word obviously reveals different meanings; however,

-the word "world" never equals Calvin's so-called elect. Never!

-The only reason for rejecting the obvious simple-to-understand meaning of the words,...

-"whosoever" or "world" in John 3:16 is to support Calvin's heresy.

The word: All

-Nobody argues that "all" means "all" in Romans 5:12 when it says, "... all have sinned."

-The only reason to suggest "all" means something else.....

---- as in Acts 17:30, when God commands "all men everywhere to repent,"

-is because Calvinists need to change this to provide a "solution" to support their view.

-Listen to the doubletalk of **A. W. Pink** when he says:

"That God commanded "all men" to repent is but the enforcing of His righteous claims as the moral Governor of the world."

-What Pink is saying here is that God is not sincere when He says, "all men everywhere are to repent,"

-but only saying it to show how righteous and moral He is.

Then Pink uses **Acts 5:31** to say:

"This Scripture (Acts 5:31) does not declare that it is God's pleasure to "give repentance" to all men everywhere."

Let's see what Acts 5:31 actually says:

Him [Jesus] has God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

-In this passage of Scripture, Peter and the apostles declared to the High Priest and the Council...

---- that God had made Jesus a Prince and Savior, bringing repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.

-Their audience was Jewish, and therefore, their speech pertained to the Jews they were addressing;

-however, they were not saying that the Jews were the only ones to be saved and forgiven.

-But Pink uses this verse to support his theory that it is not God's pleasure to "give repentance" to all men everywhere.

-In taking Acts 5:31 completely out of context,

---- perhaps Pink did not realize that by trying to use this verse to fit his own theology,....

---- he was actually saying that only Jewish people will ever get saved.

- Hence, all Gentiles will end up in Hell.
- That would include A.W. Pink himself.
- And because there is ultimately no free will in Calvinism, there is nothing anyone can do about it.

More Calvinist double talk is found with...

1 John 2:2 which says, **“And He [Jesus] is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”**

“The Calvinist Solution”—And He is the propitiation for the sins of the elect: and not for the elect only, but also for the sins of the elect.

Hmmmp!

Total Depravity

- It is another favorite term of Calvinists.
- It is true that all people have depraved and sinful natures, and no person merits salvation.
- However, the word “total” means, “entirely, to the full.”
- The word “depraved” means “morally corrupt.”
- To suggest that all people in the world are “totally immoral and corrupt” is ridiculous.
- Few of my neighbors on my street where I live confess to being saved,
- ... but that does not make them totally immoral and corrupt.
- We must not forget that God has put a conscience in all people so that all have a sense of right & wrong.
- Even an unsaved person can feel remorse and regret when they have done something wrong.
- If they were totally depraved, they would not have the capability to regret and have remorse.

The Bible speaks again and again of some people who are **more** morally corrupt than others.

Ezekiel 16:47 says, “You were corrupted more than they in all your ways.”

Judges 2:19 says that “they corrupted themselves more than their fathers.”

1 Kings 16:25 says, “Omri . . . did worse than all that were before him.”

Jeremiah 7:26 says, “They did worse than their fathers.”

However, we must remember that Calvinists have their own special meaning for words.

To a Calvinist total depravity means “total inability.”

-The common dictionary meaning of inability is, “not having the quality or state of being to be able to do something.”

Calvinism says, “that because all mankind is so dead in trespasses and sins no one can respond in any way to receive Christ as their Savior.”

Quotes From Well-Known Calvinists

“A [spiritually] dead man . . . cannot exercise faith in Jesus Christ.”—Gordon H. Clark

“The sinner . . . is utterly incapable of willing anything.”—A. W. Pink

“A corpse does not cry out for help.”—Arthur Cushman

“We have no more to do with our spiritual birth than we had with our natural birth.”—A.W. Pink

“Even if what he or she does is simply to repent and believe the gospel, God’s grace is seriously, albeit unwittingly, compromised.”—Sam Storms

“The sinner is of himself neither capable nor willing to receive that salvation.”—Herman Hoeksema

“The Bible stresses the total inability of fallen man to respond positively to the law of God.”—Kenneth Talbot and Gary Crampton

“The sinner, of himself, cannot repent and believe.”—A.W. Pink

Provisionists believe that all are Spiritually Dead but able to understand and believe versus

Calvinists believe the totally Depraved and Spiritually Dead need to be rebirthed before believing

- Every person in this world has a God-given responsibility to repent, believe and be saved,
- and one day every person will be held accountable for those responsibilities.
- Jesus said in Luke 13:3, “Except you repent, you shall all likewise perish.”
- There is not a group of non-believers who will be able to say,
- “Lord, I did not repent and trust Christ as Savior because I was totally depraved and unable to believe.”
- 2 Peter 3:9 says the Lord is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”
- God holds us responsible for our life on Earth, we are commanded to repent and believe in Christ.

Calvinists Teach that Believing the Gospel Requires a New Birth First

- Calvinists teach that mankind cannot repent or believe the Gospel until he or she is born again.
- They teach that this new birth is brought about by God who chooses certain elect individuals, and regenerates them making them capable of believing.
- They say man does not have a free will by which he or she is able to come to Christ for salvation.

The Bible Always Puts “Believing” First with Life as the Result

John 3:15 Whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 Whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:36 He that believes on the Son has everlasting life.

John 5:24 He that hears my word, and believes on Him that sent me, has everlasting life is passed from death unto life.

John 20:31 But these [many signs] are written [in order] that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you might [then] have life through his name.

- Life in these verses is Zoe and it only comes from God
- Our life before Christ is Pscuche life, Zoe life comes only after we believe.

True Calvinists would read these verses like this:

Whosoever is born again and is now eternally alive and then believes will not perish

Perseverance and Eternal Security

Is Perseverance Eternal Security?

- Many Christians wrongly assume that the Calvinist theory of “the perseverance of the saints”
- is synonymous with the doctrine of eternal security.
- The biblical doctrine of eternal security teaches that one who has been truly saved by God’s grace,
- is kept eternally saved by God’s grace.
- God has not left our eternal destiny in our ability to persevere.
- For God to do that would result in a salvation by works.

Citing Augustine, Calvin wrote, “Those who do not persevere unto the end do not belong to the calling of God.”

Calvin also stated: “What they [the Christians at Corinth] had attained so far is nothing, unless they keep steadily on; because it is not enough that they once started off on the way of the Lord, if they do not make an effort to reach the goal.”

In A. W. Pink’s book Practical Christianity, Pink taught, “If there is a reserve in your obedience, you are on the road to hell.”

Pink also said: “Something more than believing in Christ is necessary to ensure the soul’s reaching Heaven.”

Calvinist theologian and co-founder of the Westminster Theological Seminary, Dr. John Murray states: “Let us appreciate the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints and recognize that we may entertain the faith of our security in Christ only as we persevere in faith and holiness to the end.”

We will leave off here.... and continue another with part 2

Are we Misrepresenting Calvinists?

- There are some Calvinists who will argue that we have misrepresented Calvinism.
- One problem is some people are ‘Calvin Calvinists’,....
- others are Thomas Fuller Calvinists, or Arthur W. Pink Calvinists, or Presbyterian Calvinists,...
- or Baptist Calvinists, or MacArthur Calvinists, and so forth.
- It would not be difficult to misrepresent somebody’s version of Calvinism.
- Many people who call themselves Calvinists have never read ‘Calvin’s Institutes of Christian Religion’ for themselves.
- They are merely following someone who taught them something about his own brand of Calvinism.
- Some preachers have taken a few classes on Calvinism in a Bible college and
- then spend the rest of their lives supporting it because they liked the professor who presented it.
- The results are that there are churches that teach parts of Calvinism.
- Many pastors will shy away from teaching the whole council of Calvinism to their congregations,
- Though they may believe all the tenants of Calvin.
- We here at CCR will not shun to give you the whole council of God what we secretly believe,....
- we openly teach!

Determinism, Reformed Theology, aka Calvinism has trained us to dislike certain Biblical words

- None more so than the words **Election and Predestination** which we will take up in Part 2

Here’s a little teaser:

Determining if You Are Elect Involves Your Believing

Then show:

Pre DESTINATION is only a Household Term for God’s DESTINATION for Believers Only

- These statements are so contrary to what Sovereign Determinism teaches

Let’s close here

What drives God?

- His train of provision is driven by His love

- His sovereignty is driven by His Love
 - His incredible attributes enable Him to accomplish all of His will on earth as in Heaven,
 - While allowing His image bearing creation, Mankind, to have free will
 - His love provides His mercy of restraint while His grace is drawing all mankind unto Christ Crucified.
- What drives me? What drives you?**

What drives the teaching of the truth around here?

What drives your faith, which is what you believe?

- Do we realize that **faith** and **love** are found together in 21 verses all in the Epistles?
 - And generally they are found working together in these verses.
 - Work** and **love** are linked together in three verses.
 - Labor** and **love** are found together in two verses.
 - Believe** and **love** one time.
 - Love** and **do** are used together in the N.T. 12 times.
 - Love** and **God** are used together 33 times in the NT.
 - Love and who we are, who God is works together in whatever we do or say!
- Amen!

What drives you, love or fatalistic determinism?

We are Provisionists!

Let's Pray