



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **Calvanism explained.**
 - **If you want it;
you haven't got it;**
 - **If you want it,
you can't get it;**
 - **If you get it,
you can't lose it**
 - **If you lose it,
you never had it.”**
- (Zachary - Smith Debate, title page)

- Calvinism is a ridiculous doctrine.
- Easily disproven by a few simple scriptures.
- However, our study of Calvinism shows to what absurd lengths one will go to prove their point.

The fourth basic doctrine

of Calvinism is

Irresistible Grace.

It is also called:

Invincible Grace.

Irresistible Grace

is the idea that the elect,
those who Calvinists believe
have been unconditionally elected
to eternal life,

cannot resist the grace of God

and heaven's determination
to save them.

The grace of God
overwhelms them
in such a way
that even if
they wanted to
they could not repel it.

Calvin believed that
only a direct operation
of the Holy Spirit
could make one who is
“*dead in sin*”
hear the gospel and believe.

This means that
the gospel would not be sufficient
to convict and convert
the heart of the sinner.
(**Romans 1:16**)

Proof Texts Used to Support Irresistible Grace

Acts 16:14 (ASV)

**And a certain woman named Lydia,
a seller of purple
of the city of Thyatira,
one that worshipped God,
heard us:**

**whose heart the Lord opened
to give heed unto the things
which were spoken by Paul.**

- **Romans 8:7** (ASV)
- **The mind of the flesh is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be:**

The argument:

The “**carnal mind,**”

possessed by those who are depraved,

cannot understand,

believe or obey

the spiritual law of God.

Calvinists will actually argue
that they do not
have a free will
to choose anything.

Man becomes a puppet.

"God made me do it"

God forced me
into becoming a Christian
although I was having fun
as a sinner

- Without free will,
many of Bible statements
make no sense:

- **"Why do you call me Lord
and don't do what I say"**

Luke 6:46

- **Why?**

- **God** willed it that way!

Deuteronomy 30:15-18 (GW)

30:15 Today I offer you **life** and **prosperity** or **death** and **destruction**.

30:16 This is what I'm commanding you today: **Love** the LORD your God, **follow** his directions, and **obey** his commands, laws, and rules. Then you will live, your population will increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you're about to enter and take possession of.

Deuteronomy 30:15-18 (GW)

30:17 Your hearts might **turn** away, and you might **not** listen. You might be tempted to bow down to other gods and worship them.

30:18 **If you do**, I tell you today that you will certainly **be destroyed**. You will not live for a long time in the land that you're going to take possession of when you cross the Jordan River.

How can man be held
accountable to God
for his actions in judgment
without freewill?

**"We must all appear
before the judgment
that each may be repaid
for his deeds in the body,
according to what he has done,
whether good or bad."**

2 Corinthians 5:10

- It contradicts the parable of talents where man is held accountable for his actions.

Matthew 25:19

"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them."

(GW)

Irresistible Grace actually destroys faith in God!

Many a faith has been destroyed
by waiting for the
"better felt than told feeling" call.

Many never get this feeling
and conclude they are
not on the "saved list"
and give up on God.

Many are deceived
into a false sense of salvation
by thinking they have
received the call of God
through feelings.

Subsequent efforts to show them
they are deceived
bring replies like.

"I know I'm saved...I got the feeling!"

Pentecostalism provides a similar barrier,
when men falsely claim
to speak in tongues etc.

• **Galatians 3:24**

**Wherefore the
law was our schoolmaster
to bring us unto Christ,
that we might be justified
by faith.**

3:25 **But after that faith is come, we
are
no longer
under a schoolmaster.**

- **Chosen but Not Automatically Saved**

- **Deuteronomy 7:6-8**

**"For thou art an holy people
unto the LORD thy God:
the LORD thy God
has chosen you
to be a special people
unto himself,
above all people
that are upon
the face of the earth.**

Those verses say that
God chose the nation of Israel
to be His special people
over all the other nations.

But that did not mean that

He chose to exercise
His absolute control
over all of their
actions and decisions.

For example,

His choosing them
did not cause them

to live more righteously.

It did not cause them

to choose Him back.

He Could Have Forced Them to Live Right

His choosing Israel
to be His special people,
one might expect that
a holy, controlling deity
would have forced His people
to behave more righteously
than other people.

But O.T. scripture clearly shows
that not to be true.

Note the following examples:

- Isaiah 1:4

A sinful nation,

- **a people laden with iniquity,**
 - **a seed of evildoers,**
 - **children that are corrupters:**
 - **they have forsaken the LORD,**
 - **they have provoked**
- the Holy One of Israel unto anger,**²⁴

Note the following examples:

Judges 2:11

"And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim."

Judges 3:12

"And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD:

While God is sovereign and holy and while He could have forced His people to live any way that He wanted, many Bible passages show that **He simply did not do that.**

He often punished them because of their disobedience.

But He never forced them to be obedient.

He Could Have Forced Them to Choose Him Back

His choosing them
did not mean that

He would make them

choose Him back.

A sovereign deity

could have done that, too.

But He obviously did **not**.

Hosea 10:12

**"Sow to yourselves in righteousness,
reap in mercy;
break up your fallow ground:
for it is time to
seek the LORD,
till he come
and rain righteousness upon you."**

**That tells us
that they had
been allowed
to turn away.**

Ezekiel 2:3

**"And he said unto me,
Son of man,
I send thee to the
children of Israel,**

to a rebellious nation

**that hath rebelled against me:
they and their fathers have
transgressed against me,
even unto this very day."**

Jeremiah 5:23

"But this people has
a revolting and a rebellious heart;
they are revolted and gone."

Like Hosea,
both Ezekiel and Jeremiah
also wrote about
Israel's rebellious heart
and sinful ways.

1 Samuel 8:7

The LORD told Samuel,
"Listen to everything the people
are saying to you.

They haven't rejected you;
they've rejected me.

8:8 They're doing just what
they've done since I took them
out of Egypt-leaving me and
serving other gods.

Calvinists do not think
that a person is free to choose
about their salvation relationship
with the Lord

because

that would go against God's sovereignty.

But the nation of Israel,
God's own chosen people,
was not prevented by God's sovereignty
from constantly failing to seek Him,
from rebelling against Him,
or from rejecting Him.

God Could Have Forced Them to Be Saved

His choosing them did not mean that they would automatically be guaranteed an eternity with Him in heaven.

Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved.

10:10 For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

According to the Apostle Paul
the Lord does not view

non-Jewish people

any differently than Jewish people

when it comes to matters of salvation.

So the children of Israel,

God's own chosen people,

would have only been saved

by seeking the Lord with all their heart

just like everyone else.

Jeremiah 29:13

And you shall seek me, and
find me, when you shall
search for me
with all your heart.

The point being that

everyone must

call upon the Lord for salvation.

Jesus further confirmed
in His Sermon on the Mount

that the Jewish people
were not automatically saved

Matthew 5:27-30

When speaking to a Jewish crowd,

He told them that

plucking out an eye

or cutting off a hand
was better than dying lost. .

Mark 9:44

He warned them about the place where the *worm does not die.*

Matthew 22:13

He warned them about a place of outer darkness where there *will be gnashing of teeth.*

If not salvation

why were the chosen people chosen?

The answer is that they were chosen
for a variety of blessings in this life.

Joshua 2:9

**"And she {Rahab}
said unto the men,
I know that the LORD
has given you the land,
and that your terror
is fallen upon us,
and that all the inhabitants of the land
faint because of you."**

God blessed them by
sometimes making their enemies
afraid of them.

Psalms 1:3

**"And he shall be like a tree planted by the
rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit
in his season; his leaf also shall not
wither; and whatsoever he does
shall prosper."**

Even though they did not often meet the
qualifications for obtaining it,
He blessed them by making prosperity
potentially available to them.

- **Joshua 24:13**

I have given you a **land** for which you did not labor, and **cities** which you built not, and you dwell in them; of the **vineyards** and **olive** yards which you planted not ...

Genesis 49:10

"The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."

The greatest blessing
was bringing
a Savior into the world
through them.

Lastly He blessed them by allowing them to be the first to hear the good news of the gospel.

Matthew 10:5-7

"These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand."

The Jewish people truly were God's chosen people.

But the Bible does not support the idea that they would have been saved

any differently than anyone else.

While they might have been chosen for earthly blessings, they still would have been required to make

the same choices
about their own salvation
as everyone else.

One should note, however, that the Lord's choosing to let His chosen people make many of their own choices, especially about their own salvation, **did not demonstrate any weakness on His part because He is omnipotent.**⁴⁴

If He had wanted, He could have
made them do whatever

He wanted them to do.

But the simple fact is that
**He chose to not control
everything about them.**

That same decision to let people
be free to choose or reject Him
is still true today.

His desire is for people to come to Him because:

They love Him,

And want to be in a salvation relationship with Him,

Not because they have been programmed or forced to do so.

He was longsuffering with His chosen people.

By giving them choices
He even put Himself at risk
of being rejected by them.

But He did so because
He loved them with
an everlasting love
(**Deuteronomy 7:8**).

It was because of that love
that He still does not
force people either
to be saved or
to NOT be saved.

Free Will to Sin

but

Not to be Saved

But the Bible is clear
when it says that the Lord
gives people the free will to sin.

2 Peter 3:9

**"The Lord is not slack
concerning his promise,
as some men count slackness;
but is longsuffering to us-ward,
not willing that any should perish,
but that all should come to repentance."** 48

The fact that God
is longsuffering
and wants everyone to
come to repentance
suggests that He wants them
to repent or change their ways
about something.

That something is sin
because He hates sin.

Psalms 119:11

**"Thy word have
I hid in mine heart,
that I might not sin against thee."**

Romans 3:23 says,
"For all have sinned,
and come short of the glory of God."

If Calvinists are correct about
God's sovereignty and about
an individual's not being free
to choose salvation for themselves,

then God would be
giving people the free will
to do the sin that He hates

while not giving them
the free will to enter
into the salvation relationship
with Him that He desires.

That conclusion is **illogical** and **ridiculous**.

The sensible conclusion
is that

He gives people free will.

Because God is sovereign

He can choose to
NOT control everything.

How God exercises His sovereignty concerning a person's choice about salvation might also be similar to the **kenosis**, {G_2758} which is based on **Philippians 2:6-7**

"Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, {G_2758} and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men."

- The Greek word that was translated "of no reputation" in those verses is kenoo.
 - From it comes the word "kenosis {G_2758}."

When the Apostle Paul wrote that Jesus emptied Himself, he was talking about those attributes of deity that He had voluntarily given up when He was incarnated.

As God and man,
He voluntarily gave up use
of His divine attributes.

That meant that
He did not allow Himself
to always know everything
(omniscience),

To always be
everywhere at the same time
(omnipresence),

Or to always be able
to do anything
(omnipotence).

While in the body of a man,
He was still God.

But He voluntarily
chose to limit Himself.

In the *kenosis*,
He voluntarily gave up
the free use of
His divine attributes.

But He still possessed them.

He was still
omniscient,
omnipotent,
and omnipresent.

But as a human being,
He just did not
let Himself use
those attributes freely.

In like manner,
in the context of
God's sovereignty,
the Lord could voluntarily
give up His sovereignty
so that people would
be able to make
their own choices
about entering into
a salvation relationship with Him.

The Lord can be absolutely sovereign
and still let people make a choice.

He was sovereign when

He let His chosen people
live in sin and rebellion.

He was sovereign when

He let them reject Him.

He was sovereign when

He gave people the free will to sin
even though He hates sin.

Protecting God's sovereignty
may be the feeble
attempt of Calvinist to protect God
from the apparent failure
caused by repeated rejection.

It could also be to keep Him from
appearing weak and vulnerable.

However, those issues
do not concern
or affect the Lord.

Jesus said it all in
Matthew 23:37

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you that kill the prophets, and stones them which are 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!"

**Those words do not reflect a God
that is worried about
being rejected or appearing weak
that He has predetermined
some people to be saved
and some people to be lost.**

- ***Think on these things***
Philippians 4:8

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17

