

## CALVINISM AND ARMINIANISM #7 - IRRESISTABLE GRACE

### JOHN 3:14-21

Calvinists teach that grace only extends to the "elect" and not the non-elect. They believe no one can resist God's calling and all called will convert. Now called "Efficacious Grace."

#### I. INTERTWINED WITH SO-CALLED "TOTAL INABILITY"

- A. Man CANNOT believe - so God must bestow new capacity
  - 1. They ask: "How can a dead man receive a gift?"
  - 2. "Chicken-and-Egg" (not author of confusion)
    - a. Be saved before being saved
    - b. They say: No one asks for birth (first time)
- B. Context with Nicodemus is voluntary - JOHN 3:5,14-21
  - 1. Water does not mean baptism but physical birth
  - 2. Jesus describes choices (look and live)

#### II. INCORRECT INTERPRETATION

- A. Calvinists take verses out-of-context: 1 COR. 2:14
  - 1. They say: Natural man unable to receive Grace
  - 2. Verses show benefits not barriers to Salvation
  - 3. Compare vs.9 with vs.10 (natural/spiritual)
- B. Would Not or Could Not? It matters - MATT. 23:37
- C. Why command something that can't be done? ACTS 17:30

#### III. INEFFICIENT STRIVING

- A. Why would Jesus preach? To what purpose?
  - 1. Teaching delivers information.
  - 2. Preaching demands decisions.
  - 3. People reject the Gospel all the time (I did)
  - 4. Woman at the well - JOHN 4:15-16
- B. The story of Achan - JOSHUA 7:1,10-11,14
  - 1. How much time went by? Never repented
  - 2. What was the point? An example to others? Why?
- C. God will not ALWAYS strive with men - GEN. 6:3
  - 1. Why strive at all?
  - 2. Calvinists hand-wave: "Not for us to understand"

#### IV. INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE BIBLE

- A. Judgment with no choice - 2 COR. 5:10 / MATT. 25:19
- B. Negates the importance of obedience - ECC. 12:13

Conclusion: If God's grace was truly "irresistible" He is the author of much pain and needless confusion in the interim.