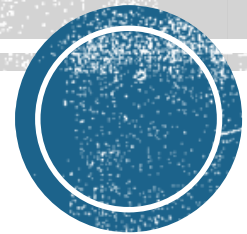


# WHAT IS REFORMED THEOLOGY?

**Basics of Our Faith**





# FIVE POINTS OF CALVINISM I

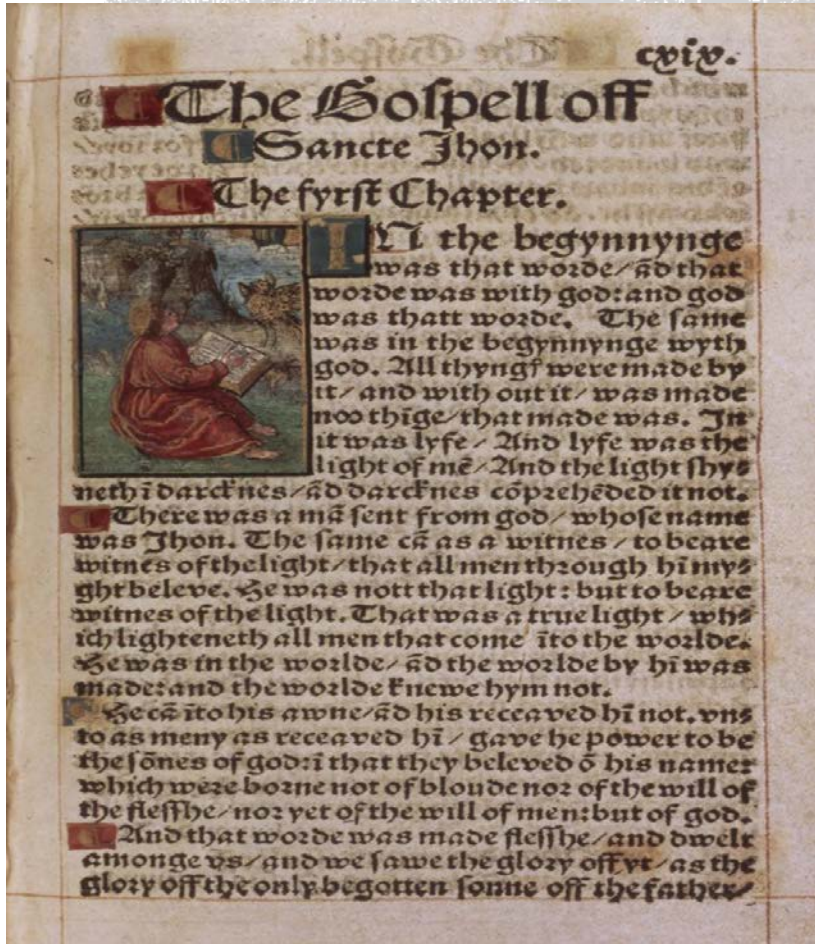
**Week 8**





# Outline

Class plan



- Definitions in Theology.
- Reformed theology is systematic
- Sola Scriptura
- Covenant Theology
- *Ordo salutis*
- Faith Alone
- **Five points of Calvinism I,II**
- The Church
- Worship
- Baptism
- The Lord's Supper



14 weeks plan

# REVIEW: SOLA FIDE

- The article with and by which the church stands, without which it falls. Luther
  - Our works complete salvation, or Jesus's atonement was not necessary
- **Justification is** “the acceptance with which God receives us into His favor as if we were righteous... (through) the forgiveness of sins and the imputation of the righteousness of Christ” **Calvin**



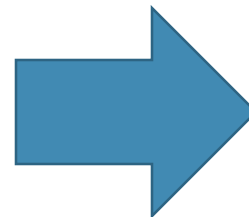
# REVIEW: SOLA FIDE

- *Simul iustus et peccator* . Luther (logic: happens in the same person at the same time, but not in the same relationship, Sproul)
- “*A believer must be just to be declared just*”... ok but how can we be just?
- Justice of Christ is the only justice God can see in man



# WHY FIVE POINT?

- 1610: Arminians in Holland (Remonstrance) against the Belgic Confession and the Heidelberg Catechism
- Five points or Arminianism against:
  - Free will vs. God sovereignty
  - Human inability
  - Election and predestination
  - Grace and redemption



Five points of Calvinism are a response to Arminians



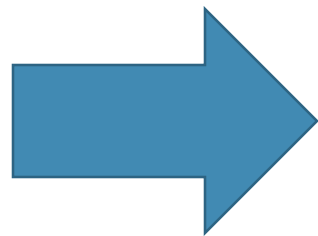
# REMONSTRANCE'S POINTS

1. God foresees and saves according to man's choice to believe (faith is a work)
2. Christ died for all man but only believers are saved
3. Grace is necessary for faith and good deeds
4. Man can resist grace
5. They don't know if truly regenerated will persevere (they can lose their faith and salvation) – this point has been controversial



# PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS (J.I. PACKER)

- They say...God' sovereignty is not compatible with human freedom: faith is a free and responsible act (not a gift), not caused by God
- Ability limits obligation: Faith ability must be universal if is required in the Bible



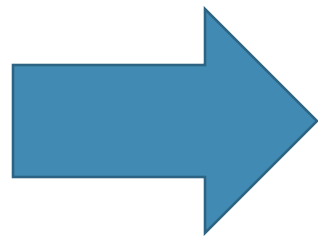
**Man centered!**





# PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS (J.I. PACKER)

- Man can believe and reject the gospel
- God election depends on what He foresees (God is an spectator and a judge)
- Christ death does not ensure salvation to anyone nor faith, only the possibility

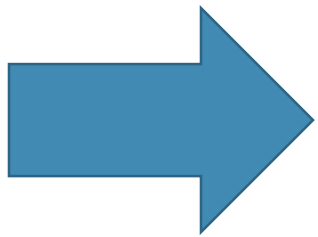


**Man saves himself!**



# SYNOD OF DORT – THE RESPONSE

1. 1618-19: 84 Dutch delegated + 27 delegates from Germany, Switzerland, England and Scotland
2. Rejected the five points as heretical



**Most Protestants are Arminians!  
Ignorance of real Calvinism!**

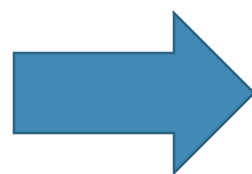




Portrait attributed to Hans Holbein the Younger

# FIVE POINT OF CALVINISM

1. **Total Depravity**
2. **Unconditional Election**
3. **Limited Atonement**
4. **Irresistible Grace**
5. **Perseverance of the Saints**



**TULIP vs. Daisy**



Bailly, David (1620), *Jacobus Arminius*.

# FIRST POINT OF ARMINIANISM

## 1. Free will and human ability:

- Man nature is affected by sin, but God graciously enables sinners to repent and believe.
- Eternal destiny depends on how man uses free will
- Man can choose good over evil
- Sinner can cooperate with the Spirit and be regenerated
- Faith precedes new birth. Faith is a gift, but from the sinner to God!





Bailly, David (1620), *Jacobus Arminius*.

# FIRST POINT OF ARMINIANISM

## 1. Summary:

- Man is born good and has the ability to choose God.
- God choice does not depend on Him (so God does not make a choice, just man)







Portrait attributed to Hans Holbein the Younger

# FIRST POINT OF CALVINISM

## 1. Total Depravity:

- Man's nature is fallen and is unable to believe in the gospel. Man is dead, blind and deaf to God.
- Man's will is free to sin, not for the things of God, which he does not desire.
- It takes regeneration to have faith
- Faith is a gift from God to man





Portrait attributed to Hans Holbein the Younger

# FIRST POINT OF CALVINISM

## 1. Summary:

- Man is born dead in sin and not able to respond to God.
- Man's depravity is total in extent, not in degree
- Man has not the moral ability to incline himself to good, spiritual things without being regenerated first
- Gen. 2:16,17; Job 14:4; Ps. 51:5; John 3:5-7; John 6:44; Rom. 3:10-12; Rom. 8:7-8; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 2:1-3; Col. 2:13



Bailly, David (1620), *Jacobus Arminius*.

# SECOND POINT OF ARMINIANISM

## 1. Conditional Election:

- God selected only those he foresaw and knew would themselves freely believe in the gospel.
- Election is therefore conditioned upon what man would do.
- God's choice is a result of man will. Sinner choice is the ultimate cause of salvation





Baily, David (1620), *Jacobus Arminius*.

# SECOND POINT OF ARMINIANISM

## 1. Summary:

- God does not control a thing; He just watches man and judges him.
- Man can lose grace and election, but can believe again.





Portrait attributed to Hans Holbein the Younger

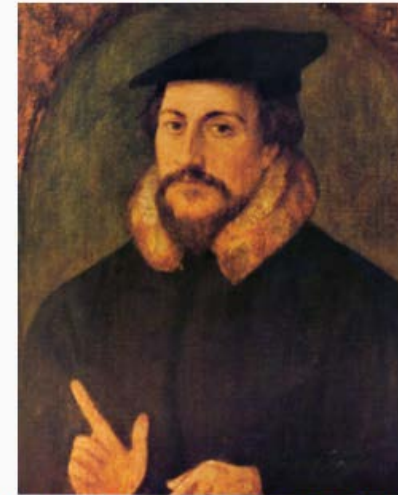
# SECOND POINT OF CALVINISM

## 1. Unconditional Election:

- God's choice rests upon His own sovereign will
- God does not make a choice in foreseeing (even when He can foresee it all) but in His own will.
- Faith and repentance are a consequence of election.
- Election is not determined by man's works.
- God's choice of the sinner is the ultimate cause of salvation.







Portrait attributed to Hans Holbein the Younger

# SECOND POINT OF CALVINISM

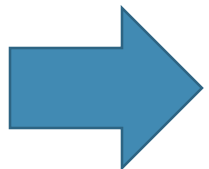
## 1. Summary:

- God elect some individuals for salvation and others for reprobation.
- God election is based solely upon God's will and His good purpose.
- God choses the sinner, not the sinner God.
- God gives faith and repentance to the elect.
- Ex. 33:19; Ps. 33:12, 115:3; Matt. 11:27, 22:14; Mark 13:20; John 13:18, 15:16; Act 13:48; Rom 8:28-29, 9:11-13; 16, 18; Eph. 1:4-5; 2 Thes. 2:13-14; Titus 1:1; Rev. 3:8; and many others...



# CONCLUSION (PACKER, AGAIN)

- Only one point of Calvinism: God saves sinners
- Three persons working together in sovereign wisdom power and love to achieve the salvation of a chosen people
- Father elects, Son fulfills redemption, Spirit executes by renewing



Saving means everything, from first to last, from death to life, from dust to glory (Sproul), AMEN!!!



# POINTS...

## ARMINIANISM: DAISY\*

**D:** *Diminished depravity* – Humanity is depraved, but God uses prevenient grace to restore man's ability to respond to Him.

**A:** *Abrogated election* – God bases His election on His foreknowledge of those who freely choose Him.

**I:** *Impersonal atonement* – Christ died for everyone, making salvation possible for everyone.

**S:** *Sedentary grace* – God calls everyone to salvation, but many freely reject it.

**Y:** *Yieldable justification* – The saved can fall from grace and lose their salvation.

\*The DAISY acronym is much harder to pin down as there are several different versions (I'll discuss another when analyzing Arminianism). Also, many Arminians do not like the acrostic. Several versions of DAISY have been pushed by Calvinists as caricatures of Arminian theology. Many Calvinists seem to also enjoy making the lame joke that the Arminian flower is a daisy because they pull the petals off saying, "God loves me. He loves me not."

<http://thewardrobedoor.com/2010/08/theological-flower-bed-tulip-daisy-roses.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molinism>

## Luis de Molina, Jesuit priest, 1535-1600

### MOLINISM: ROSES\*

**R:** *Radical depravity* – Every aspect of humanity is depraved, but we are not always as bad as we could be.

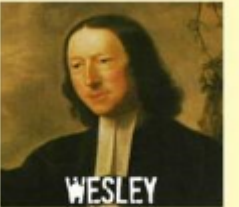
**O:** *Overcoming grace* – God's grace is persistent in the life of the believer, but it can be resisted.

**S:** *Sovereign election* – God desires the salvation of all, but our salvation is based on His choice not ours.

**E:** *Eternal life* – God grants believers eternal security in their salvation.

**S:** *Singular redemption* – Christ died sufficiently for all people, but efficiently only for the saved.

\*Timothy George, a Calvinist Baptist, uses the same acrostic as Kenneth Keathley, a Molinist. The differences lie in the way the terms are defined. I will focus on the Molinist understanding as we will discuss the various forms and moderations of Calvinism with the TULIP.



# ACURA

All Are Sinful  
Conditional Election  
Unlimited Atonement  
Resistible Grace  
Assurance of Salvation

# NEXT WEEK:

- Five points of Calvinism II  
*(you ain't seen nothing yet)*

