



## Do We Really Have a Choice?

1. What is Calvinism? What is Arminianism? What is Traditionalism?
  - a. Calvinism and Arminianism are two systems of \_\_\_\_\_ that attempt to explain the relationship between God's sovereignty and man's responsibility in the matter of salvation.
  - b. The "Five Points of Calvinism" are often referred to in discussions of Calvinism and whether or not one is a Calvinist.

### 2. T.U.L.I.P.

## 4 Questions Christians Should Ask About Salvation

1. What is \_\_\_\_\_ & Predestination?
  - a. What is the difference? They are very similar, yet related.
  - b. *Election* is about...
    - Choosing.
    - who.
    - the \_\_\_\_\_.*Predestination* is about...
    - what future one might have.
    - \_\_\_\_\_.
    - the destiny of the person.
2. Does God know who will become a Christian and who will not?
  - a. Foreknowledge is knowing things/events before they exist/happen. *1 Peter 1:2*
  - b. Nothing in the future is hidden from God's eyes. *Isa. 41:23; 44:6-8*
3. Do I have the ability to reject or accept Jesus Christ?  
*John 1:29, Acts 13:46, John 5:39-40*
  - a. God has given us \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. The Bible is clear that we not only have the ability to choose, we also have the responsibility to choose \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. God is Sovereign - The sovereignty of God refers to the fact that God is in complete control of the universe.
4. Am I \_\_\_\_\_? *Ephesians 1:1-6; Romans 8:28-30*
  - a. The Father chose us, and we chose Him.
  - b. In God's mind, however, the past, present, and future are swallowed up in the all-embracing present.
  - c. The Father predestined believers to maturity & \_\_\_\_\_.

# Food for Thought for the Week of January 30, 2022

## Questions and Scriptures for further study

---

1. Have you ever heard of Calvinism? Arminianism? Traditionalism? What ideas, sermon points, Bible passages from last Sunday made you think or ask questions?
2. What was the main idea stressed by Calvinism?
3. Regarding the Parable of the Sower (*Luke 8:4-18*), is the Calvinistic doctrine of Irresistible Grace compatible with Satan actively stealing away the Word of God (the 'seed') from people to prevent them from believing (*Luke 8:12*)?  
In other words, wouldn't it be pointless for Satan to steal the Word from people when these very people, whom he is attempting to prevent believing, cannot believe anyway due to Total Depravity, and indeed cannot believe until after they are already regenerated?
4. If God wanted to convey in the Scriptures the idea that Christ died for the elect and no one else, is there anything He could have done to make the message clearer? If so, what?  
Conversely, if God wanted to convey the idea that Christ died provisionally for the whole world, is there anything He could have done to make the message clearer, and if so, what?  
*John 1:29, Acts 13:46, John 5:39-40, John 3:16-17*
5. Does it comfort you or scare you that God knows the future?
6. God has predestined every believer to mature and be more like His Son Jesus Christ. In what ways is God shaping, nurturing, or maybe even pruning you to be more like Jesus?
7. Pastor Lucas said, "In God's mind, the past, present, and future are swallowed up in the all-embracing present." Since God lives in the present tense, there is to Him no time difference between the moment He chose me and the moment I chose Him. What do you think? *Ephesians 1:1-6*
8. Pastor Lucas mentioned *Fatalism*. It's the belief that "what will be will be," since all past, present, and future events have already been predetermined by God or another all-powerful force, such as "Fate." In religion, fatalism may sometimes be confused with predestination. The Bible does not teach fatalism. Have you ever had that mindset? If so, how did God help you realize you are responsible for your choices?  
*Galatians 6:5-10, Ephesians 4:31-32, 2 Corinthians 5:10*