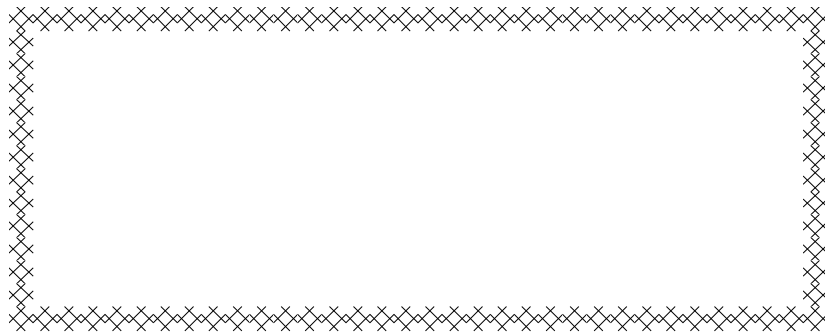
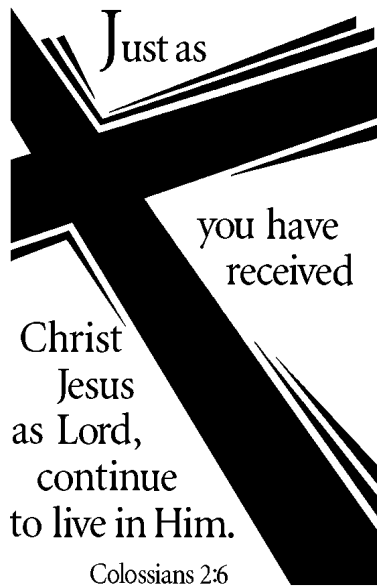


**For HIS Glory
Prison Ministry
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Pray for your chaplain/pastor.

October, 2018

In this little issue, and Lord willing, *every* issue, our *only* purpose is to honor Jesus Christ.

Arminians declare that belief in the doctrine of predestination and election unto salvation will preclude one from evangelism. They therefore accuse Calvinists of being unevangelistic.

The example of Paul the Apostle, among others, proves Arminians wrong. No man ever expressed a stronger and clearer belief in the sovereignty of God, and the doctrine of predestination and election than Paul in, for example, the eighth and ninth chapters of his Epistle to the Romans, and the first chapter of his Epistle to the Ephesians. And yet this same man evangelized a vast portion of Asia Minor, and the Greek peninsula, and eventually in Rome.

Arminians manifest a lack of understanding as to what true evangelism is. Our English word derives from the Greek noun *euangelion*, "good news," and verb *euangelizomai*, "to announce or proclaim good news." Biblical evangelism is "the proclamation of the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ with a

CALVINISM: ITS PLACE IN EVANGELISM

By DANIEL E. PARKS

view to bringing about the reconciliation of the sinner to God the Father through the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit" (*Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*). A Biblical evangelist is one who obeys the mandate of Jesus Christ to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15), relying solely upon the saving work of the Holy Spirit to use that preached gospel to regenerate sinners, and bring them to Christ (1 Cor. 1:21; 1 Peter 1:22f).

The evangelism of Arminians is not Biblical. They do not believe preaching, alone, is sufficient for bringing the lost to Christ. Arminians, therefore, have invented what is never found in Scriptures—an "invitation" or "altar call" after their sermons in which verse after verse of some invitational hymn is sung while the preacher tries to elicit from sinners the response which the Holy Spirit has not worked.

In these invitations Arminians deny the

omnipotence of God by telling sinners, "God has done all He can to save you, but He is helpless to do so unless you let Him. Please! Let God save you!" Arminians are content with a mere "decision for Christ," and pronounce him who makes one a Christian even though he may never live the holy life of a disciple of Christ. They often employ this method in what they call "child evangelism," in which very young children, incapable of understanding the gospel, are pronounced "saved" if they will but give the right answer to Arminian evangelists, or recite the prayer they are taught.

We Calvinists, without reservation, reprobate *Arminian* evangelism. But the history of Calvinists proves that *Biblical* evangelism is a very important aspect of our ministry. And Church History reveals that the paragons of Christian evangelism were Calvinists. Consider a few:

(Turn page over to continue).

TELL SOMEONE TODAY HOW MUCH YOU LOVE JESUS CHRIST.

CALVINISM: ITS PLACE IN EVANGELISM

By Daniel E. Parks, Pastor
Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, 74 Estate Cane Carlton, Frederiksted, Virgin Islands, USA, 0084

(Continued from other side).

John Calvin (1509-64) was very influential in the evangelism of Europe and Britain. Arminians portray him as devoid of the evangelistic spirit. The facts prove otherwise. He taught many refugees of various lands in his school in Geneva and instilled in them the desire to evangelize their countrymen. These schooled refugees did so upon returning to their homelands, delivering their countrymen from the darkness of Romanism.

Their evangelism resulted in John Calvin becoming the spiritual father of the Covenanters of Scotland, the Puritans of England, the Burghers of The Netherlands, the Huguenots of France, eventually the Pilgrim Fathers of America, and others. He may therefore be called the most fruitful teacher of evangelism since the apostles.

The 17th Century Puritans of England and Covenanters of Scotland were Calvinists, and most exemplary in evangelism. They realized from reading the Second Psalm that God has given all the nations of the earth as an inheritance to Jesus Christ, and required those nations to submit to Him. They therefore obligated themselves to publish this Word from God. Their devotion to evangelism was exemplified in the Reformer John Knox, who prayed to God, "Give me Scotland, or I die!" Their sermons are rich in exhortations to all men to believe the gospel.

The 17th Century Pilgrim Fathers of New England were Calvinists, and most exemplary in missions. We here speak particularly of those Englishmen, mostly Puritans, who emigrated to Massachusetts in 1629. They viewed New England as a new Canaan, and their duty to evangelize its inhabitants, the American Indians. One of their pastors, a Mr. Higginson, expressed their evangelistic desire when he declared upon leaving England, "...we go...to propagate the gospel in America."

The first missionaries to the American Indians were Calvinists. The desire of the Pilgrim Fathers to propagate the gospel to the American Indians resulted in the ministry of John Eliot in the latter-1600's, who lived to see 1,100 Indian converts worshipping Christ in six churches pastored by Indians. He was followed by David Brainerd, who died of tuberculosis at age 29 in 1747 after only four years as a missionary. But he baptized 78 Indian converts in that short time. His autobiography has been an inspiration to many missionaries. He was followed shortly after 1750 by Jonathan Edwards.

The first missionaries to foreign fields were Calvinists. The afore-mentioned missionary society in 1793 sent to India, William Carey and John Thomas, who had surrendered his medical career to be a missionary. They were joined in 1799 by four others—Joshua Marshman, William Ward, and two others who died shortly after their arrival.

The accomplishments of these missionaries are sterling, in spite of the travails they faced which would have overwhelmed lesser men. Carey and Marshman were exceptionally gifted linguists, and mastered various Indian languages and dialects. William Ward was a master printer. Carey supervised the team in translating and publishing six complete translations of the Holy Bible, and 24 additional partial translations.

The first American missionary to foreign fields was a Calvinist. He was Adoniram Judson, sent by Congregationalists to India in 1812. Anticipating his meeting with the Baptist, William Carey, he and his wife studied the doctrine of baptism en route, and became Baptists themselves before reaching India. Judson ministered but briefly in India before moving to Burma in 1813 where he ministered until his death in 1850. Although he ministered seven years before baptizing his first convert, his perseverance was later rewarded by many thousands of converts.

All these, and hosts of others like they, are the paragons of Christian evangelism. And they were all Calvinists. Divine sovereignty and human responsibility was no paradox to them. They believed in predestination and election because God reveals them. They evangelized the world because God requires it. Let us pray the Head of the Church will raise many more to follow in their steps.

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"HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES, EVEN
AS CHRIST ALSO LOVED THE CHURCH,
AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR IT."
(EPH. 5:25 KJV)