

Arminianism Is The Greatest Scam Christianity Has Ever Known

Introduction

The things presented in this message today are said for the love of the truth of the Word of God and for the proper edification of the saints. Knowing Christ and being a part of his N.T. church we should continue in and *earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints*. (Read Jude vss. 1-3)

The topic today is Arminianism. It is a rare occasion that the time of the assembling together of the saints of this congregation is spent on the sole topic of Arminianism. While the subject of God's election of grace is *salted* in many messages, and that because it is salted throughout the Word of God, yet it is my observation, and correct me if I have misstated the truth before this assembly, that this topic has not received any more emphasis than other doctrines that are taught in this church.

It is notable that every brother who has risen to instruct this congregation has of his own accord chosen to apply a verse by verse method of Bible study to their lessons. On account of this it is true that doctrines are generally brought up as often as they appear in the Scriptures. Occasionally topical messages are presented for various reasons. This pattern of instruction became mine early on. In the late 1970's, and as I recall with some resistance from brethren, we began teaching the young adult Sunday School class and laid aside the use of all Sunday School literature. The studies were verse by verse, book by book. This was not the method that I grew up with from a child. This approach is the best method for studying the Bible.

Arminianism has permeated Christendom like leaven pervades a whole lump of dough, and it amazes me how influenced many so-called grace churches are still affected by it. Pastors of these tempered grace churches like to use the terms *balance* and *middle of the road*. They say that we must not veer too far to the left or too far to the right, but set a course down the middle of the road. We must avoid the ditch of extremes on either side. What that means is that we must strike a compromise between the will of man and the sovereignty of God. To that my response is, if the Word of teaches it we have an imperative to believe regardless of what this or that religious party might think. If it looks like a ditch, the ditch might be where the road used to lead. Some churches along the way have certainly been detoured another route. The truth is, if we dared to examine

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the Scriptures, we would discover that God is sovereign and in light of that sovereignty man has a free will. But if we do not interpret this by the Word of God we cannot come to a right conclusion.

Today I am not questioning the profession of one's faith in Christ or the validity of the organization any of the Lord's churches. The topic to be considered concerns the doctrine called Arminianism. Christians whose system of doctrine is influenced by Arminianism are called Arminians. They are not called Armenians. Armenians are people that live in Armenia. My focus is particularly upon the major error Arminian's have made regarding the *free will* of man. In Christianity there are two major divisions of thought regarding free will: Arminianism and Calvinism, and in each are many more variations. The persons of John Calvin and Jacob Arminius are not our concern, but we think the following remarks are helpful.

Arminianism is attributed to two prominent, historical figures named Pelagius (ca. 360-420) and Arminius (1560-1609). The question was, 'Was man to be saved by the divine power only, or was there a place in the process of salvation for the human will?' *A History of the Christian Church, Christianity through The Ages*, Earle E. Cairns, Ph.D., p.148.

'Pelagius believed that each man is created free as Adam was and that each man has the power to choose good or evil. Each soul is a separate creation of God and, therefore, uncontaminated by the sin of Adam.' *ibid.*, p.148

Arminius attempted 'to modify Calvinism so that, according to him, God might not be considered the author of sin, nor man an automaton¹ in the hands of God ...' *ibid.*, , p351.

automaton¹, a machine or control mechanism designed to follow automatically a predetermined sequence of operations or respond to encoded instruction; an individual who acts in a mechanical fashion.

These men of corrupt minds, Pelegius a Catholic monk and Arminius, a reformer of the Dutch state church, both of whom were never a part of the true and historical churches of our Lord Jesus Christ have produced in tandem a system of faith that is contrary to the Word of God. This system has been superimposed

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upon the Word of God so that it no longer freely speaks to the mind the thoughts of God. But, to be clear and lest I suffer proper criticism for not telling the whole story, John Calvin was not a part of the Lord's N.T. church, nor was he the author of the doctrine of predestination. John Calvin learned this doctrine of predestination from a man named William Farrell, an Anabaptist.

'William Farrell, a Waldensean Anabaptist taught John Calvin everything he knew and because Calvin was a brilliant mind, Calvin put it in his institutes. ... We repudiate John Calvin because he was a heretic.' R. Lawrence Crawford, *Crawford-Alexander Debate*, November 1979, Hayward, CA, p.196.

And to these facts I would give this as it relates specifically to Arminianism:

[You] 'cant find a Baptist church 200 [now, 240 years, added] years ago that preached this [Arminian, added] doctrine. ... [You cant, added] find a Confession of Faith that agrees with you [Alexander, the Arminian debater, add] 200 years ago ...' *ibid.*, p.252.

Most Baptists don't even realize what has taken place in the history of the true churches of Jesus Christ. All Baptist churches 240 years ago believed in the doctrines of grace, otherwise known as Calvinism. The phenomenal growth is understandable among the false religious systems of the world, but it's late introduction into the true churches and rapid spread among them is staggering. I believe it is attributable to two major factors. Not only:

- Satan, who distorts the truth of God's Word by casting doubt upon it (Ge. 3.1; 2Co.4.1-5, ...*For we **preach not ourselves** ...*, but that is what Arminianism is about ... man & his capability; 11.14, 15;), BUT,
- The profound ignorance of God's Word on the part of Christians (Eph.4.14; 1Co.14.20 ... *be not children in understanding ...*)

Jeremiah J. Johnston said,

'The Bible has become a moving target. One can strip it down, twist it, misread it, add to it, supplement it, and even overrule it, and, unfortunately, 95 percent of the congregation will not realize it.

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‘Why? Because Americans no longer *know* the Bible. The evidence is overpowering that contemporary Christianity is Bible-*ish*, at best, and at worst, in some cases, Bible-*less*.’ *Jeremiah J. Johnston*

So, whatever we may think of Arminius and Calvin at the moment, for good or for worse on both sides of this issue, we set it aside so that we can get to the substance of the error.

The Greatest Scam to Hit the Christian World

Arminianism is the greatest scam the Christian world has ever known. What is Arminianism? It is a system of doctrine which *has deified the will of man*. It must be first cousin to Deism, which says that God brought into existence everything that is, set an order of natural laws about it, and then watches over it as everything works itself out. The difference of Arminianism from Deism is that it has the pretense of *letting* God intervene whenever *any* man becomes *willing*.

Arminianism humanizes God using the Word of God as its pretext. Man has the choice, the judgment, the decision to make, and God, He waits patiently for man to let Him save. So, men have superimposed upon the Scriptures an interpretive system which foists the free will of man upon every page. For example, one man describes the salvation of the Lord in terms as if it were a football game. In this *game* he says that God fumbled the ball and Satan is now in possession. Now it is up to you and me to recover it by believing in Jesus Christ. Brethren, that is nothing short of blasphemy. This is the mentality of the Arminian to God. This is the kind of *teaching* that comes from Baptist pulpits. Arminianism rejects the Biblical truth on a number of points, but especially these two: God’s absolute sovereignty is rejected, and man’s free will is exploited. Under this system of doctrine God becomes a glorified, fallible man, and man’s free will may do what God cannot. It is not enough to *lip* the words that God is sovereign. This truth ought to reign supreme upon every page of Holy Writ, and it ought to reign supreme over the thoughts that think, and in everything that we do.

The Doctrine of Free Will and the Corruptible Seed:

The question that I would ask at this point is: Does man have a free will? Yes, he does. The Bible teaches that he does. But except we rely upon the Scriptures to

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explain the freeness of his will we will naturally *enhance* the Word of God with thoughts that are not His thoughts.

Isa 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

Man is free to do as his nature would have him do. As a cat is free to act as a cat, a fox as a fox, a horse as a horse, so fallen man is free to act according to his fallen nature. No cat acts like a dog. No fox acts like a rabbit, no horse like a lion, and no fallen man acts like a spiritual man. He cannot because it is not his nature. What is that nature of fallen man? He cannot, therefore he will not love God. He cannot and therefore he will not seek God. He cannot, therefore he will not hear the truth of God. He can no sooner cease with his animosity toward God in this state than a leopard could change his spots, or the Ethiopian his skin color. (Jer.13.23) Why? This is because it is his nature being of fallen, plunged into sin. This has proved true 100% of the time since Adam's sin. Not 99.9% of the time, not 99.99999%, but 100%. That is the absolute truth of God's Word concerning man in his fallen condition. Don't insert that *theological 'but'* here. There is no 'but' here that can be inserted in the truth of Scripture except that we pervert it from what it says. We have seen the display of fallen man play out in every single, precious infant born of man. There has never been a baby related to Adam that had to be instructed to sin. That infant will show the signs of sin's work because it was conceived *in* sin. The seed by which the conception came was corrupt.

Ps 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

The Incorruptible Seed:

However, if the Sovereign were to plant within a man His incorruptible seed,

1Pe 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. (This is not Scripture and preaching; this is the command of God to bring forth life. cf. 2Ti.1.10; Ez.37.9; **Jn.5.25**)

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then a new life is imparted, and a new nature, which means a new will, a new inclination. Now the man will act in things pertaining to God. He responds to the gospel, believes in Christ, loves God, seeks Him with His whole heart, and has the will of God as his highest delight.

Jn.10.26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

2Pe 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

‘[R]egeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind.’ R. Lawrence Crawford, *Crawford-Alexander Debate*, November 1979, Hayward, CA, p.224.

Only the Power of God Can Change the Nature of Fallen Man, not Free Will:

The Scriptures, not opinions of men, teaches precisely that concerning *free will*. But Arminianism deviates from the truth. Therefore it is right to call it heresy. Listen, we can be a Christian and be a heretic. (1Co.15.12) So what do we find concerning free will? Free will is free only to do as its nature is. A change in nature requires the Sovereign act of God first.

Ps 80:3 Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

Ps 110:3 Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.

Jer 31:18 I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself thus; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art the LORD my God.

La 5:21 Turn thou us unto thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old.

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2Ti 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

*He.8.10 For **this is the covenant** that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:*

11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

Someone might object by saying that some or all of these Scriptures reference the Lord's people. First of all, in a sense that is true. But on the other, it is clear that not all of these were of the remnant of faith, or of Christ's *sheep*. But, even given the objection, if this be the case with the Lord's own, how much more then is it true for those who are not presently turned to the Lord? The truth is, Arminianism has assumed to do what the LORD alone must do: affect a change in the will of fallen man by implanting in him a new heart, a new mind, a new law; something he had not until the moment of the new birth. Then the Lord Himself brings about a whole new nature within. But for the grace of God, sin has raised an impenetrable wall so that man's free will is impotent to affect any change in Himself whatsoever. The Scriptures tell of our true state before grace:

*Ro.3.10 As it is written, There is **none righteous, no, not one:***

*11 There is **none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh** after God.*

*12 They are **all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.***

13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:

16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:

17 And the way of peace have they not known:

18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

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*Ro.5.8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners**, Christ died for us.*

...
*10 For if, **when we were enemies**, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

When and how does man's fallen nature change apart from the grace of God? The Arminian says, when they believe. From whence cometh this faith in the man described for us in Romans chapter 3 & 5? It is not said that Christ died for us when we began to amend just a little, when we showed hopeful sign of improvement, when we were righteous. It does not say that he reconciled us to God when we became his friends. The truth is, a dead man as soon raise himself from the grave as to produce a single fruit of the spirit, of which faith is a part. (Gal.5.22) And it is true that it takes a resurrection from the dead for a man to act contrary to his nature. Fallen man cannot produce the fruit of the Spirit. It is against his nature!

Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) **(It doesn't say because of faith! Brethren, faith is the living part of salvation once grace has brought forth life! Eph. 2.8)**

The Example of Adam and Eve's Transgression:

Arminianism wields a powerful influence over man, and yes, many, many Christians, because it appeals to his *fleshy, carnal, and proud* nature of men. The notion that the will of man can supersede the will of God is the lie of the Serpent.

Ge 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

And the idea is, 'and then you shall be able to do whatsoever *thou wilt for yourselves.*' And like that, what does this do? It sets God off to the side. We are the masters of our own destiny. In light of the Word of God that is blasphemy. No child of God should ever entertain such wicked thoughts. What did Adam and Eve discover then? Lucifer had lied to them. And that lie has continued in every form of religion to this day. And it has become *Christianized* and had gained a

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strong foothold in the true churches of Christ. Adam and Eve fell into the abyss of condemnation for sin that day. And but for the mercy of God, upon every soul is dependent, they had died in that condition. Yet, what does the Word of God reveal to us concerning the day of this terrible fall into sin? What did Adam and Eve do to attempt to recover themselves from their fall? There isn't anything that they did. There isn't any works of righteousness. There isn't any faith. They showed no remorse and no spirit of repentance. Here is what they did:

Sewed fig leaves together to cover their shameful nakedness;

Hid fearfully from the presence of the LORD;

Adam justified himself and blamed God for bringing Eve to him;

Eve blamed the serpent for her disobedience because he deceived her.
(Ge.3.7, 8, 12, 13)

That is the extent of their actions. But then we see what the LORD did. He, in light of their willful rebellion, against their blasphemy, lies, hatefulness and animosity, slew an animal, shed the blood, covered their nakedness, gave them standing and comforted them with the expectation of the coming of the woman's seed who would crush the dominion of the Serpent over the people of God. There was no Romans road; no sinner's prayer; no invitational hymn; no pleading Savior; no wooing Spirit; no lost opportunity; none of that. It was the Sovereign God saving according to His own, self-originated good pleasure.

The Purpose of God:

We need to consider God for a moment. God has only one all-encompassing purpose.

1. It is an eternal purpose:

Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

2. It is one, single purpose:

Job 23:13 But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth.

3. It is a self-originated purpose:

Eph.1.9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

3. It is an all-encompassing purpose:

Eph 1.4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

...

11 ... also (In Christ) we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will ...

Jas 1:18 Of his own will beqat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Everything created is absolutely fixed with God so that there is nothing of it which can deviate from His eternal purpose. The orbits of the planets in the universe, the position of the stars in the heavens, the days and the light, the nights and the darkness, the seas boundaries and the rivers' courses, every births and every death, every event, everything is fixed. Whereas the Arminian view, if he will be honest about his doctrine and consistent about its application, is that everything which God is by a sort of a Divine accident. The fall of Lucifer and the angels with him, the temptation in the garden and the fall of all humankind, and the saving of souls all along the way are portrayed as a string of accidents and happenstances, rather than God working all things according to His own will whether in heaven or on earth. (Dan.4.34, 35). How very contrary the doctrine of Arminianism is to the true grace and knowledge of God. Once again, consider the opening chapters of Genesis and consider the Sovereign purpose of Almighty God.

He created the man:

Ge 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

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The LORD plants a garden on the east side of Eden

8a ¶ And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden;

The LORD puts the man that He created in this garden:

8b ... and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Man and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil are place in the same vicinity:

9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

It makes no difference whatsoever if the man was placed in the garden first, then the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; or, if the tree of the knowledge of good and evil preceded the placement of man. The fact remains the same, that the LORD's purpose, which is one, which originated alone from His own will, with which he is pleased to do puts both the man and this tree of the knowledge of good and evil together in the garden. Do we understand all of this a the act of the sovereign God, or as an act of a god who couldn't have known or done any better? This is a glorious display of the God's predetermination of the fall of man into sin, by which He will receive all of the glory in the salvation of His own elect. It is utter folly, unbelief, and heresy for anyone to suggest that God did not know beforehand what the outcome of the convergence of these two elements, even three, in that Satan was allowed to come into the garden of God and work His deceit. Satan cannot do anything but what the LORD directs him to do. (Job 1.8; 2.3) What is the testimony of Scripture?

Ac 15:18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

Is.46.9 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

*10 **Declaring the end from the beginning**, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure ...*

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The conclusion that we derive from God's Holy Word is that all things work according to the eternal purpose of God. It is impossible for it to be otherwise. God isn't just mostly in control. He isn't just partly in control. He is absolutely in control. ...*whose dominion is an everlasting dominion.* (Da.4.35) **This constitutes the middle of the road where every child of God should stand.** This is not an extreme left or right position. This is the highway, the narrow path, through a strait gate. We are constrained to this place by the Word of God.

Arminianism has gained a strong foothold among the people and churches of Christ because of, not just its appeal to our pride, but because of poor instruction. By poor instruction I certainly do not mean that those of this persuasion not intelligent. But for such a doctrine to stand we have to conclude that too many are not seeking for the truth of God's Word, but rather, truth as it agrees with our preconceived notions. All Christians are prone to delusions from truth. And we are warned to watch against it.

Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

2Pe 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

The Confluence of Religions about This Doctrine:

Another issue which should cause every child of God and the churches of Christ to question the validity of this doctrine is the unholy union of both unregenerate and regenerate men, and of faiths which should be diametrically opposed to one another. Both natural men and spiritual men agree on the point of the *free will* of man. Furthermore, Catholics and Protestants, Mormons, Pentecostals and many Baptists today agree concerning the *free will* of men in salvation. Though the Word of God tells us that Jesus Christ is the captain of our salvation (He.2.10), the truth is that Arminianism directly and actively contradicts it. Instead of man being conformed and transformed in our lives *and minds* into the image of the blessed Son of God (Ro.8.29; 12.2), our Lord is refashioned into a fallible, fickle, and weak man, though, to a limited extent, glorified.

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The Doctrine of Arminianism Has Replaced the God of the Bible:

Arminianism has fabricated for itself another god. We said earlier that God has been humanized. What this doctrine has done is to make God into the image of man. The fickleness of man is transferred to God instead. Think about this. Today the Arminian's God might hate those that He loves tomorrow. Or, depending on the degree of a person's Arminianism, God might love today those that He will hate tomorrow. How does that harmonize with the eternal purpose and love of God for His people? It doesn't harmonize with it at all.

*Jer 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an **everlasting love**: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.*

*Joh 15:9 **As** the Father hath loved me, **so** have I loved you: continue ye in my love.*

*Eph.2.4 ¶ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,
5 Even **when** we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) ...*

*1Jo 4:10 Herein is love, **not that we loved God**, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

*1Jo 4:19 We love him, **because he first loved us**.*

The Word of God, and a proper discernment of its truths teaches us that He has a people that He put into Christ *before the foundation of the world*. And it is all of these upon whom He put His *everlasting love*. When? In eternity.

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love ...

(Again, Jn.10.25-29, *ye are not of my sheep*)

Joh 13:1 Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father,

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having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.
(Implies a love which preceded their coming into the world.)

Joh 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

The love of God for his elect originated in eternity. God's love is eternal and is so for His own. And each one of those that He has chosen and put into the keeping of His dear Son shall every one of them come in faith to Christ at the hearing to the gospel: Christ died to save sinners, and raised again the third day, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Father, and shall come again one day soon. And it is these, the same in number chosen from the foundation of the world that shall be manifested before all the earth as the sons of God: no more and no less.

God, under the teaching of the Arminian is an impotent God. He is powerless under this system to affect any change in men until they allow Him to do so. He cannot save *whom He will*, but *those who will* for Him to do.

Church services are built around the scheme of Arminianism. There the Sinner's Prayer, The Roman's Road, instructions about *how to be born again*, songs filled with untruths, mourner's benches and prayer altars, and invitations to *accept* Christ. Churches have been turned into results oriented organizations. There's a new program to help the churches keep their numbers growing, bolster giving, and entertain everyone. John MacArthur said of the gathering of the church body,

'We don't collect to preach over, and over, and over, and over the simple gospel to figure out a way how to entertain unbelievers. That is not the purpose of the church gathering.'

But that is what the churches have morphed into under the Arminian message; and some grace churches too. Call it what they will, Arminianism has changed the true grace of God into a condition of salvation which says ... if you will God can save you. I am persuaded it is the Arminian mind-set that is the root to all of the versions of the Bible. If we can just get the folks to understand what it says they

can believe if they want to. The problem is, that it isn't the way that the Bible is written that obstructs the understanding. It is the unbelief. The new birth corrects this problem instantaneously!

Consider the Eternal Character of God: Let Us Reason Together the Facts

In closing, I ask this question: What is the character of the God of the Bible? The God of the Bible is holy, just, and true. He is so pure, so holy, that He cannot behold iniquity. He glows white hot in anger against all that is corrupt, sinful, and imperfect. He consumes all that is such. He hates sin and the wicked with an unyielding, all-consuming vengeance. He cannot tolerate unbelief and absolute devotion to any but He. One infraction of His holy law demands death. His justice must punish every evildoer. There is no middle ground.

Since Jesus Christ is the Son of God, Second Person of the Trinity, one with God and God come in human flesh, then His attitude is one and the same as that of God. God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are of the same mind. In Him there cannot be the slightest difference. God has a singular regard for sin. Remember, His purpose is eternal, one, self-originated, and with which He is pleased.

How then can God hate the sinner and love him at the same time? How we go about to answer this question is very important. Will we resort to the Word of God or to some predisposed or superimposed thoughts of men? Why would and how could God send His only begotten Son into the world to save those that He hates with an eternal vengeance? This is the great contradiction that Arminianism cannot answer because they have erred from the truth. The Word of God states beyond question that He does not love everyone. Conversely, Arminian says, God loves everyone. Here is the record of God's eternal, and therefore unchangeable Word:

*Ps 7:11 God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked **every day.***

Pr 15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

Pr 16:4 The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

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Mal 1:2 I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob, 3 And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.

*Heb 10:39 But we are not **of them** who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*

1Pe 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

Arminianism expresses that the Son of God came to sinners (that's true), that He is the very expression of the everlasting love of God (that's true), and that as sinners He hates them, and when they believe He loves them. That is the problem. This flies against the truth of God's Word. He has an everlasting love for some, and all others He hates. These shall suffer the vengeance of eternal fire. (Jude v.7) From one end of eternity to the other, by the Word of God, He changes not in His disposition toward any. He doesn't vacillate up and down, back and forth, in his attributes from love to hate, and from mercy to justice.

Ps.102.25 Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.

26 They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed:

*27 But **thou art the same**, and thy years shall have no end.*

28 The children of thy servants shall continue, and their seed shall be established before thee.

*Mal 3:6 For I am the LORD, **I change not**; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

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Jas 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

*2Pe 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the **same word are kept in store**, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

Romans chapter nine reveals to us the eternal choice of God.

Ro.9.21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

Don't miss the point. This question is an objection to the man that disagrees with the facts that God has a right (ἐξουσία) to do what He will with whom He will. Arminianism rejects the truth that God has this right. But God has the *right* to show mercy to some as much as He has the *right* to harden others. Look at Ro.9.21 again, but let's change it from a question into a statement. 'The potter has the *right* over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor.' And the answer is, *What if God willing to show his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction ...* In reality what the doctrine of Arminianism has done is confused and changed the Word of God so that the omnipotent, free will of man has preeminence.

The truth is that, when God so loved the world He sent His Son to positively affect in them the salvation of the Lord.

Mt 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Joh 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

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Christ's coming was not to condemn men, because all men in Adam were condemned already. But He came expressly to save those whom the Father had given to Him in eternity, because, being related to Adam they had fallen **with all others** in his transgression. These were the seed of Christ *sown in the earth* among whom the tares grew. The phrase *sown in the earth* marks out for us the truth that His knowledge of us preceded our being sown in the earth.

Mt.13.24 ¶ Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

*28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. **(What men became in the transgression is attributed to the Enemy, not the Lord. This does not change to truth of the election of grace which preceded the fall.)** The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?*

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Mt.13.38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

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The parables of our Lord declare the eternal purpose of God to save some, and leave all others. Salvation is not a random, disorganized, haphazard string of events that might or might not work for some. It is of the Lord. It is perfect. It is the Lord's work.

God, created the heavens and the earth in six literal days (Ge. 1.1, 31), keeps the order of the universe (Ps.148.3-5), designs the fall of every little bird to the earth (Mt.10.26), has all of our members written in a book before there were any of them in the womb (Ps.139.16), has numbered the very hairs of our heads (Mt.10.30), knows each one of the elect (Jn.10.27; Ro.8.29), calls every one of them by name (Jn.10.3), has also designed perfectly this great salvation from one end of eternity to the other for those the Father gave to Him? The truth is, it simply cannot be otherwise.

The Arminians doctrine, which has crept into the true churches of Jesus Christ, let alone all Christendom, has split the fellowship of otherwise good churches, fine brethren, and Christian families because it is a false doctrine. Where do we stand in relation to the truth of God's Word? Will we believe the record of God, or the opinions of men? We must answer these questions. Which teaching gives all of the glory to God? Which teaching agrees with an eternal purpose of God? Do you believe that the Word of teaches that God is ambivalent and changing in His purpose, and that based on what you do or don't do? Which teaching upholds God's eternal attributes? Is He always holy, righteous, and true? Does He hate some today and then love them tomorrow? The truth of the matter is: God is God. If we believe the gospel concerning the Son of God then He has shown to us his eternal mercy. He has bestowed his grace on us. And for this alone, we have eternal life. This proves the everlasting love of God for us in Christ Jesus. It is a wonderful truth to be confirmed in, that there was never a time when He did not love us. If any man has an ear to hear, let him hear.

Christ died to save sinners of whom I am chief.