

## The “5 Truths” of the Gospel

**Truth #1: Already Forgiven** – all of your sins were forgiven on the Cross of Christ, except the sin of unbelief. Mark 3:28; Romans 5:10a; John 16:8-9

**Truth #2: Made Clean** – when you trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God takes out your old sinful spirit (heart) and gives you a brand, new clean heart. Romans 6:6; Romans 6:17-18; John 3:3,7

**Truth #3: Made Righteous** – as a Christian, you are now righteous in your spirit because Jesus, in the form of the Holy Spirit, lives in you. 2 Peter 1:4

**Truth #4: In Union** – you are “in Christ” because Jesus joins as one with you in your spirit. John 14:20; 1 Corinthians 6:17; Colossians 1:27

**Truth #5: By Faith** – you are righteous on the inside but your body is still dead to sin. Follow by faith the inner life of Christ so that you can live a righteous life. Romans 8:10; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:3b

## The “5 Keys” to Understanding the New Testament

**Key #1: Teaching of the Holy Spirit** - only the Holy Spirit can make the Bible come alive since your human mind is incapable of understanding God's spiritual truths. 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

**Key #2: Proper Context** - the New Testament must be understood in its proper Jewish context. Otherwise, the message gets misinterpreted and is dramatically changed. Romans 9:4; John 4:22b

**Key #3: Spiritual Beings** - all people have an inner spirit and an outer mortal body. Christians have a “born again” spirit that is righteous, but they still live in their not-yet-redeemed mortal bodies. 2 Corinthians 4:16, 5:1-6; Ephesians 4:24

**Key #4: Jesus Emptied Himself** - Jesus lived by the power of the Holy Spirit that He received at His baptism. Jesus lived by faith and not by His own power. Therefore, He is your model for a life of faith. John 14:10b; Matthew 12:28; Matthew 12:18

**Key #5: Hebrew Law** - God gave the Law only to the Jews; the Gentiles have never been under the Law. Romans 2:14; Hebrews 7:18, 28; Hebrews 8:13

All of these verses are referring to the Jews:

Ephesians 1:5 **He predestined us to adoption** as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

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Ephesians 1:11 also we have obtained an inheritance, **having been predestined according to His purpose** who works all things after the counsel of His will,

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Titus 1:1 Paul, a servant of God, and **an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect,**

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Romans 11:28 From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, **but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers;**

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## True Tracts

# “Calvinism”: Is It Really True?

“Calvinism,” from the writings of John Calvin, is a dominant system of theology in Christianity today. Most people use the terms “Calvinism” and “Reformed Theology” to mean pretty much the same thing.

Reformed Theology grew out of the sixteenth-century revolt against the Roman church. John Calvin is considered as the greatest theologian of this tradition.

Does “Calvinism” offer a true interpretation of the “theology” of the Apostles?

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Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;** and **the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God,** who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.

## T-U-L-I-P

Calvinism, the mainstay of Reformed Theology, is often described using the T-U-L-I-P acronym:

**Total Depravity** – original sin, all are sinners

**Unconditional Election** – God chooses the “elect”

**Limited Atonement** – not all sins forgiven on the Cross, only the sins of some

**Irresistible Grace** – when God calls, you come

**Perseverance of the Saints** – once saved, always saved

**Total Depravity** – the Bible says that Adam learned “good” and “evil.” Because of his sin, all became sinners. Since people are dead because of sin, how do they have any capacity to choose God?

**Unconditional Election** – states that God’s choice is not based on the person, but on God’s own will. From this comes the controversy of predestination vs. free will. The problem here is that most of the Scripture verses related to God’s election, foreknowledge and predestination are referring to the Jews only (see back panel).

Romans 11:2 God has not rejected **His people whom He foreknew.**

**Limited Atonement** – all the other elements of Calvin’s TULIP may be partly or mostly true, but limited atonement is so completely false that the entire theology should be discarded. Scholars historically have interpreted the letters of the Apostles outside their proper Jewish context. Thus, issues related to the Hebrew Law and to transgressing the Law were misapplied to the Gentiles. The Cross of Christ forgave all sins of all people (not just some) for all time, except for the single sin of unbelief.

## T-U-L-I-P, Cont.

Most believe that your sins will be forgiven when you trust Jesus Christ as your Savior. This has always been wrong. Salvation is not based on the forgiveness of sins; rather, it is being “born again” that saves you.

Upon faith in Christ as Savior, when that last sin of unbelief is turned into belief, God removes your old sinful spirit and replaces it with a brand new, clean heart. The Holy Spirit then comes to live in your spirit to make you literally righteous by His indwelling presence. This is what saves you. Your sins were forgiven 2,000 years ago. The notion that the Cross of Christ forgave some sins but not others is utterly false.

**Irresistible Grace** – who God calls will come. This is true according to Scripture but probably beyond the understanding of any mortal.

**Perseverance of the Saints** – also known popularly as “once saved, always saved.” This is absolutely true because it is your inner spirit that is saved upon faith in Christ as Savior. You cannot sin in your spirit because Jesus in you cannot sin. Therefore, there can never be a reason why your righteous spirit will ever be lost.

## A True Story

There is a Reformed theologian who agreed that when believers are born again: [1] God removes their old sinful nature, [2] God gives them a new heart and [3] they are literally righteous in their spirit because of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. He then said, “So what?” He understood, in a way, the mechanics of being born again but completely missed the significance of it. Being born again *is* salvation; it is why God transfers you out of the kingdom of darkness into His Kingdom; it is why you are “in Christ”; it is why you will go to heaven one day.

## The True Gospel of Jesus Christ

The truth that the Cross of Christ accomplished forgiveness for all people is blocked by popular theological formulas like Calvin’s TULIP. Christ’s Cross and resurrection defeated sin and death. As will be seen in the following definition of the Gospel, sin is still an issue in your not-yet-redeemed mortal flesh. However, your born again spirit has been redeemed fully and forever; it is righteous and perfect.

### The Gospel That the Apostles Taught

All sins of all people were forgiven for all time on the Cross of Jesus Christ, except for the sin of unbelief that Christ is Savior. This single sin of rejecting Christ is the barrier that people place before God and His free offer of salvation unto eternal life through faith in Christ Jesus.

When you do trust in Christ as Savior, God removes your old sinful spirit and replaces it with a brand new, clean heart. Then, the Holy Spirit comes to live in your new heart to make you literally righteous by His indwelling presence as He joins as one with you in spirit. Whereas your inner spirit is redeemed and righteous, your outer mortal body has not yet been redeemed. Thus, your spirit is alive because of righteousness but your body is still dead because of sin. This means that the Christian life is living in union with Christ in your spirit and following Him by faith in your mortal body and human soul. Christ lives His righteous life through you, and you trust Him and follow Him in faith.