–Save This Page as a PDF–

My Position on T.U.L.I.P. or Calvinism

Total Depravity: We are **all** born with a disease called **sin**, **"For all have sinned and come short of earning God's glory" (Romans 3:23). David** said: **I was born guilty, and a sinner from the moment my mother conceived me (Psalm 51:5).** We inherited our **sin** nature from **Adam** (**to see link click Bm – The Consequences of Adam**)**.**

Unconditional Election: While I agree that "**God** does not foresee an action or condition on our part that induces **Him** to save us," I also believe that we have a choice in the matter (see **Irresistible Grace** below). Those who believe that we have no choice point to **Romans** and **Jacob** and **Esau**. While it is undeniable that **Jacob** was **loved (chosen)** and **Esau** was **hated (not chosen)**, I don't believe this applies to salvation in general, but rather through whom would **the Seed of the Messiah** come. **ADONAI chose** that the line of **the Messiah** would come through **Jacob** and not come through the line of **Esau**.

Limited Atonement: Calvinism teaches that **Yeshua** died only for the sins of **the saved**, but the Bible teaches that **God is the Savior of all mankind (1 Tim 4:10)**. While it is true that believers were **chosen in Messiah before the creation of the world (Eph 1:4),** and that **God foreknew, predestined, and called the elect (Rom 8:29; Jude 1)**, it is also true that **God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16 NIV).** I believe this is an antinomy. An antinomy in the Bible is two seemingly contradictory statements that are both true. For example, **the Trinity** is an antinomy. **God is one (Deut 6:4)** and is reflected in three **Persons**. We don't have to choose if **God is one** or **God** is reflected in three **Persons**. I also believe we don't have to choose on this issue. The Bible teaches both, it doesn't make sense to our finite minds, but **the Lord** will explain it all to us when we get to heaven.

Irresistible Grace: We cannot save ourselves. Because of our sin nature, we are spiritually dead. It is as if we have drowned in our sin and are lying dead at the bottom of a lake. We are dead. We cannot possibly bring ourselves back to life. It is **Yeshua** who takes the first step in our salvation process . . . and reaches down to **pull** us **out** from the bottom **of the lake**. Like **David** said: **He sent from on high; He took me and pulled me out of deep water (Second Samuel 22:17).** Through **His grace, God** reveals **Himself** to **us (Romans 1:18-20) so that we are without excuse. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is *the* gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast (Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV).** Therefore, I believe that **faith** precedes regeneration, but **ADONAI** gives us the **faith**.

Perseverance of the Saints: Since we can do no **works** to gain our salvation, we can do no **works** to lose our salvation. When we are **saved** there is a union with **Messiah** (see my commentary on **The Life of Christ Bw – What God Does For Us at the Moment of Faith?**) where there is the actual uniting of the believer to **Messiah** in such a manner that what is true of **Messiah** is true of the believer, minus **His** deity. We are in **Messiah** and **the Ruach Ha'Kodesh** is in us. This union cannot be broken. Therefore, we are eternally secure (see my commentary on **The Life of Christ Ms – The Eternal Security of the Believer**).