
Mission 119 Ministries

**DECONSTRUCTING CALVINISM
EPISODE 16: WHY DID PAUL SAY
THAT?**

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SERIES GOALS

- **Short, focused lessons**
 - **Explain Calvinism**
 - **Address claims of Calvinism**
 - **Exegetically**
 - **Historical**
 - **Philosophically**
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EPISODE GOAL

- **Consider how Paul wrote things that cannot be reconciled with TULIP**
 - **If TULIP is contradicts necessary implications of any verse in the Bible it must be discarded**
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PRELIMINARIES

- In Episode 6, I explored some of the irreconcilable inconsistencies between things Jesus said and the claims of Calvinism — in short, Jesus' teachings reject Calvinism
 - I just scratched the surface on things Jesus said that cannot be reconciled with Calvinism
 - I highly recommend you do this exercise for yourself — just read the Bible and consider the implications of what the writers are saying and you will find irreconcilable verses in the OT and NT
 - For an OT example, see Ezekiel 3:1-7 and the entire book of Jonah
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WHY DID PAUL SAY THAT?

- **Ephesians 6:4:** “Fathers, don’t stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

Total depravity means that man in his natural state is incapable of doing anything or desiring anything pleasing to God. Until he is “born again” of the Holy Spirit and given a living human spirit, man is the slave of Satan (“the Prince of the power of the air”) who drives man to fulfill the desires of the flesh that are in enmity with God. In the sight of God the “best hearted man” holds only evil thoughts because they are oriented to doing human good for the glory of himself or Satan but never for the glory of the Creator.... (Duane Edward Spencer)

WHY DID PAUL SAY THAT?

- **2 Corinthians 4:1:** Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; 2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.
 - But in the TULIP-VERSE the elect will be regenerated (irresistible grace) and then must believe — so blinding not possible
 - But the non-elect will never be regenerated and therefore can never comprehend the gospel or exercise faith in JC — so blinding those already blind?
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WHY DID PAUL SAY THAT?

➤ **Romans 1:18 ff.**

➤ **Romans 9:14:** What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? God forbid. 15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 16 So then *it is* not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. 17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. 18 Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will *have mercy*, and whom he will he hardeneth.

➤ **Romans 11:25:** For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

WHY DID PAUL SAY THAT?

- **Acts 17:26:** From one man He has made every nationality to live over the whole earth and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live. 27 He did this so they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. 28 For in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'...32 When they heard about resurrection of the dead, some began to ridicule him. But others said, "We'd like to hear from you again about this."
 - So who in this picture is capable of seeking God? In the TULIP framework, the non-elect (spiritual corpses) can't, and the elect don't seek — they just believe upon or after regeneration
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SUMMARY

- Like Jesus' teachings, Paul's writings repeatedly run counter to standard TULIP dogma
 - In attempting to build a systematic theology in any area (soteriology, ecclesiology, eschatology), it is incumbent upon us to test our conclusions against the whole of the Bible
 - TULIP doesn't get a free pass
 - These and numerous other examples demand answers but in my experience they are ignored because they don't fit the TULIP "narrative"
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