

**Why do we study soteriology points of view from these verses below?**

2 Peter 1:10

Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble.

1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Calvinism as a system was developed further by subsequent Reformed theologians, after the special formulation at the synod of DORT (1618-19) from where we get the Five Points of Calvinism: (1) Total Depravity, (2) Unconditional Election, (3) Limited Atonement (Particular Redemption), (4) Irresistible Grace, and (5) the Preservation/Perseverance of the Saints (TULIP).

A **trinitarian view of election** states that each of the three persons of the Trinity had a different role in salvation of the sinner, from calling to glorification (Rom. 8:28-33).

- The Father elected the sinner to salvation before the creation of the world;
- The Son redeemed the sinner to salvation;
- The Holy Spirit called and convicted the sinner to salvation.

The “sticky wicket” of Calvinism for many people is the is the third point, Limited Atonement or Particular Redemption, since many verses including John 3:16 indicate a non-limited atonement and others seem to refer to a particular group. How do you view this point of Calvinism in view of God’s character and a trinitarian view of election?

John Calvin's Legacy to us today is his single minded focus in his pastoral duties on exposition in Scripture. This was the ministry unleashed by seeing the majesty of God in Scripture. The Scriptures were absolutely central to him, because they were absolutely the Word of God to him and had as their purpose the majesty and glory of God, which he tried to convey through his writings and sermons. John Calvin centered his ministry in sequential expository preaching.<sup>1</sup> One of his biographers, sees three central reasons for that in his ministry.<sup>2</sup>

- (1) The Word of God is the lamp that must not be taken away from the church (Ps. 119:105).
- (2) By expounding the Scriptures as a whole, Calvin felt like the pastor must be forced to deal with all that God wanted to say, not just what he might want to say (Hebrews 4:12; Rev. 22:18-19).
- (3) All of the word of God is inspired and profitable and radiant with the light of the glory of God. (II Tim. 3:16).

Why are these things important in keeping the church from error and apostasy in our day?

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<sup>1</sup> Piper, John. 2018. *21 Servants of Sovereign Joy*. Crossway. Pp. 110-111

<sup>2</sup> Parker, T.H.L. 1992. *Calvin's Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Know, pp. 60-63