

“IS SAVING FAITH GOD’S GIFT TO THE ELECT?”

A. INTRODUCTION TO GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY & MAN’S RESPONSIBILITY

B. IS MANKIND TOTALLY DEPRAVED?

C. IS SAVING FAITH GOD’S GIFT TO THE ELECT?

1. Does Total Depravity Mean Total Inability?

a) Man’s depravity (“corruption”) before God is _____ because of the _____ of our sin. (Rom. 3:9-20, 23; 5:12)

b) Though the will or volition of man is not completely _____, it is still _____ to respond to God’s pre-salvation, drawing work, making all people _____ to God. (John 16:8-11; Rom. 2:4)

2. Does Regeneration Precede Faith?

a) According to Calvinism, a person must be _____ in order to believe in Christ.

b) According to the Bible, _____ precedes regeneration and salvation. (Acts 16:30-31; John 1:12-13; 3:14-16; 20:31; Acts 11:17-18; Gal. 3:2, 26; Eph. 1:13-14)

** What strange corollary doctrine does this lead to with some prominent Calvinists?*

** What practical problem does the doctrine of regeneration-before-faith lead to?*

3. Does the Bible Teach that Faith Itself Is the Gift of God?

a) According to Calvinism, since mankind is totally unable to believe in God without being regenerated first, God must give _____ to the elect at the time of regeneration.

- John 6:29

- Acts 5:31; 11:18

- Phil. 1:29

- 2 Tim. 2:25

- 2 Peter 1:1

- Rom. 12:3, 6; 1 Cor. 12:9

- Eph. 2:8

b) According to the Bible, _____ is the gift of God, not personal faith. (John 4:10; Rom. 5:15-17; 6:23; James 1:17-18)

** What practical problem results when faith itself is made the gift?*

4. Is Personal Faith in Christ a Work?

a) Both Arminianism and Calvinism effectively make _____ a meritorious _____.

b) According to the Bible, _____ is the only response to God that is consistent with _____.
(Rom. 3:27-28; 4:4-5, 16)

** Does all of this depreciate God's sovereign grace?*

** What can you learn from all of this?*