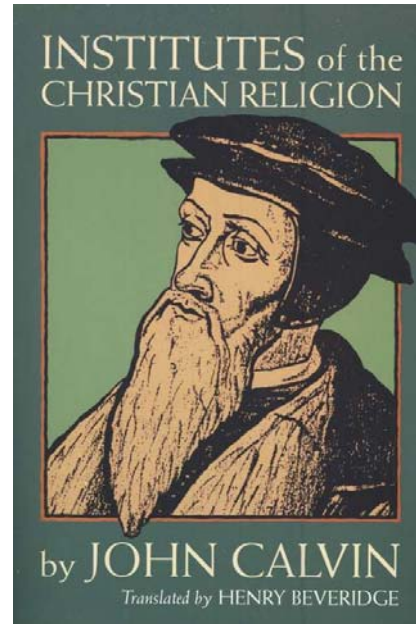


#937 Deceiving the Elect – Calvinism vs. Arminianism, part 1

The subject of the *elect* has long been historically related to controversy and arguments surrounding the doctrines of John Calvin and *Calvinism*. One of the most potentially divisive doctrinal debates in the history of the church centers around the opposing doctrines of salvation known as *Calvinism* and *Arminianism*.

Calvinism is founded upon the beliefs and teachings of **John Calvin** (born July 10, 1509, in Noyon, France; died May 27, 1564, in Geneva, Switzerland), mostly based upon his work called *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Calvinism is often called Reformed theology, as distinct from Lutheran or Anabaptist theology. What are called the “five points of Calvinism” – (i) total depravity, (ii) unconditional election, (iii) limited atonement, (iv) irresistible grace, (v) the saints will persevere, or eternal security – were not taught by John Calvin, but instead are implied by those who carried his teachings to what are considered to be their logical conclusions.



Arminianism was started by Dutch theologian **Jacobus Arminius** (born October 10, 1560, in Oudewater, Netherlands; died October 19, 1609, in Leiden, Netherlands). Arminius studied theology at the University of Leiden from 1576 to 1582. His teachers in theology, including Johann Kolmann, opposed certain parts of the dominant Reformed theology of John Calvin. Under the influence of these men, Arminius had seeds planted that were the start of what would develop into a theology that would later compete with Calvinism. Arminius began studying under Theodore Beza at Geneva in 1582. He was called to pastor at Amsterdam and was ordained in 1588. In 1603, Arminius became a professor of theology at Leiden, and remained there for the rest of his life. He became the founder of the movement which resisted some of the tenets of Calvinism. The theology of Arminianism was not fully developed during Arminius’s time, but was systematized after his death and formalized in the *Five articles of the Remonstrants* in 1610. This was a document containing five points of disagreement with classic Calvinism. The works of Arminius were published at Leiden in 1629, and at Frankfort in 1631 and 1635. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, embraced Arminian theology.

Key Understanding: *Calvinism* and *Arminianism* opposed/oppose one another over the doctrine of the *elect*.

1 Peter 1:1-2 (KJV) Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

*2 **ELECT ACCORDING TO THE FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD THE FATHER**, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*

*2 Peter 1:10 (KJV) Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to **MAKE YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE**: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:*

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