

# 4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;  
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."  
~ Matthew 16:18



April 24, 2016

## Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801  
325-646-7102  
www.4thstreetcoc.org  
office@4thstreetcoc.org

## Meeting Times:

### Sunday:

Bible Study.....9:45 AM  
Worship.....10:40 AM  
Care, Inc. Service .... 2:30 PM  
Worship..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class.10:00 AM  
Bible Study..... 7:00 PM

## Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

## Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

James Thomas

## Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

## Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children  
Gospel Broadcast Network  
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)  
House to House, Heart to Heart  
Mission Printing  
Rohan Jones, Africa  
The Truth in Love  
World Bible School

Let us know if you want to study  
the Bible to know more about  
Christ and His Church.

## Calvinism I: An Introduction to Calvinism

Calvinism is basic to nearly all the religious questions that the Christian will answer when talking to those who are in denominations because it permeates almost all denominations. Whenever someone contends that faith is a gift from God; affirms that he has been saved by faith only; embraces false teachings about the direct operation of the Holy Spirit in the conviction and conversion of sinners; or believes it is impossible for a child of God to sin and be eternally lost; he has fallen victim to the Calvinist system of doctrine.

Calvinism is also found in most cults, even those which claim to avoid denominational doctrines. The Jehovah's Witnesses, for example, embrace the doctrine of inherited sin, the foundation doctrine of Calvinism.

Calvinism has also become a danger and threat to the church of the Lord. Decades ago, preachers used to preach upon it frequently but now it is rare to hear an entire sermon on it. Many members of the church think it is wrong because it "sounds" wrong or because Mom, Dad or the preacher said it was wrong. They cannot begin to tell anyone why it is wrong.

In this article, we will develop the historical background of Calvinism and then examine its fundamental tenets by comparing them to the standard of plain, Biblical teaching.

### "Pre-Calvin" Calvinism

Many of the fundamental concepts of Calvinism existed before John Calvin. The fundamental tenet of total hereditary depravity was not original to Calvin.

The Roman Catholic philosopher Augustine taught it in the fifth century A.D. The Reformation had already begun and the leading reformers taught doctrines similar to those of Calvin.

Martin Luther, the first great reformer, was born in Eisleben, Germany, in 1483. He entered a monastery at age 22 in the year 1505. Two years later he was ordained a priest. During the winter of 1512-13 he began to see some errors in the Catholic Church. In 1517 he nailed his famous 95 theses to the door of the church building in Wittenburg, Germany, in which he proclaimed the errors of the Catholic Church.

Luther's three greatest objections to Catholicism were the selling of indulgences, the authority of the Pope and the doctrine of transubstantiation. After much criticism and church trials, he was excommunicated from the church but he continued to preach against the errors which he had found.

The greatest error in his teachings was justification by "faith only." This doctrine teaches that men are saved at the point of faith in Christ without further acts of obedience. This doctrine stands as one of the basic tenets of Calvinism.

### John Calvin

John Calvin was born in Noyon, France, July 10, 1509. He began the study of the classics in Paris in 1523 at the age of fourteen. Because of his skill at disputation, his father sent him to study law at the University of Orleans in 1528 and later in Bourges. After his father's death in 1531, he returned to Paris to study the classics and Hebrew. It was at that

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"Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."  
**Psalm 90:1-2**



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time he became interested in the principles of the Reformation.

After experiencing what he later termed a "sudden conversion," variously dated from 1529 to 1534, he began preaching Reformation doctrines in Paris. To avoid government persecution, he traveled from place to place. In 1536 he settled in Switzerland.

In Basel, Switzerland in 1536 he completed the first version of his Institutes of the Christian Religion. He intended it to be only a brief manual stating the doctrines of the Protestants. In reality it contained a complete outline of his system of theology. This work was based on the principle that the Scriptures are the sole source of truth in religion. It was later revised and enlarged.

In 1536, at the request of religious reformer Guillaume Farel (1489-1565), he settled in Geneva, Switzerland. He acquired a large following and was elected preacher by the city magistrates. He compiled a systematic Protestant confession of faith of 21 articles which the citizens were required to profess under oath. He wrote the first Geneva Catechism (1536) for use in religious instruction. The reforms he advocated were so extreme that he alienated many of his adherents and provoked strong political opposition.

Exiled from Geneva in 1538, he went to Strasbourg, France, and became a pastor and professor of theology. In Geneva, irreligion and disorder became prevalent during his absence. He was persuaded to return to Geneva in 1541.

After returning to Geneva, he revised the laws of the city. He organized a theocratic form of government for the control of both the social and religious life of its citizens. His second Geneva Catechism (1542) became the standard of doctrines for most of the Reformed churches in Europe.

His rigid dogmatism and severe discipline led to more controversies. Not only were they with Roman Catholicism but also with other religious reformers. His differences with Martin Luther about the nature of the Lord's Supper resulted in the splitting of the evangelical churches into the Lutheran and Reformed groups. One of the most acrimonious disputes of this period was with Spanish theologian Michael Servetus on the nature of the Godhead. Through Calvin's influence, Servetus was burned at the stake in 1553. His strictness gave rise to discontent even among his followers in Geneva.

His political foes, known as the "Libertines," were expelled from Geneva in 1555. For the next six years he deepened and extended his influence and that of Protestantism throughout Europe. He systemized the doctrines of Protestantism and organized its ecclesiastical discipline. He constructed and made a new church organization that consolidated the scattered forces of the Reformation

### The Basis of Calvinism

The central idea of Calvinism is the sovereignty of God. "The one rock upon which Calvinism builds is that of the absolute and unlimited sovereignty of the eternal and self-existent Jehovah." (Ben A. Warburton, Calvinism, p. 169) Calvin did not discover the sovereignty of God. He isolated it as idea. His isolation of it is the problem. He exalted the sovereignty of God to the exclusion of other truths of Scripture.

All of the five points of Calvinism flow from this basic premise. "These other doctrines are an expression of this one central theme. Thus if God is absolutely sovereign—the Alpha and Omega—then it follows that salvation depends entirely on him and not on man." (Edwin H. Palmer, The Five Points of Calvinism, p. 74)

This basis is set forth in the Westminster Confession of Faith. Written by the Westminster Association from July, 1643 to February, 1649, it is the doctrinal foundation of English and American Presbyterianism. It states, "God from all eternity did by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass." (Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter III) It also says, "By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestined unto everlasting life, and others fore-ordained to everlasting death, are particularly and unchangeably designed; and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or diminished."

### The Five Basic Tenets of Calvinism

The five basic doctrines of Calvinism are represented by the acronym T-U-L-I-P. These doctrines are:

T = Total Hereditary Depravity. At birth all men are depraved wholly and totally. They are in this sinful condition because they have inherited it from their parents.

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#### Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord's Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:30am on KTAB

#### Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

#### Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

#### God's Plan for Redeeming Man

**Hear** Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

**Believe** Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

**Confess** Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

**Repent** of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)

Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

**Live faithfully** (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

#### Bible Reading Schedule

**April 24** Luke 22-24

**April 25** John 1-3

**April 26** John 4-6

**April 27** John 7-9

**April 28** John 10-12

**April 29** John 13-15

**April 30** John 15-18

**May 1** John 19-21

*"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*

(2 Timothy 2:15)



### Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **19 contacts** were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ **The carpet installation has been moved up to this week!** They plan to begin tomorrow morning with the auditorium, and should have it finished by Wednesday evening. The classrooms may be unavailable Wednesday evening, depending on their progress.

- ◆ Ladies—If you plan to attend the **Ladies Day in Comanche Saturday**, let Cindy McCaghren know by Wednesday evening.

- ◆ From the Elders—**Children’s Library.**

*We have several things beginning this summer in our Children’s Education Department. One thing that is very exciting is the Children’s Library. It will be located in the front part of Room 6. We hope to have it ready for use in June. The library will have books for children and teens. There will also be incentives for the children to read this summer. More information to come.*

*If you have any books that are suitable for children or teens, and would like to donate them, we would appreciate it. We want books that are true to the Bible stories, or teach a good moral lesson (for example: The Beren-stein Bears have a book that teaches the importance of telling the truth). A committee will approve the books before they are placed in the library (no bad language, inappropriate pictures, etc.).*

*If you would like to donate books, contribute money to purchase books, or be a “READING DETECTIVE”, please see Cindy Proud.*

### Upcoming Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ August 9—We host area Summer Youth Series.
- ◆ October 16-19—Fall Gospel Meeting with Jacob Rutledge.

### Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ **April 24-27—Gospel Meeting @ Gordon with Jessie Dickison (flyer on board)**
- ◆ **April 30—Ladies Day @ Comanche (flyer on board)**
- ◆ April 30-May 5—Focal Point—San Marcos, TX.
- ◆ May 1-4—Gospel Meeting @ Hamilton (Rick Popejoy)
- ◆ May 7—Cherokee Day 2016—Cherokee Home for Children

- ◆ May 14—Men’s Day @ Hamlin (Mike Bonner)
- ◆ May 21—Ladies Day @ Hamlin (Evelyn Bonner)
- ◆ June 26-30—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 17-22—Senior Camp
- ◆ August 5-7—Discipleship University—Dripping Springs, TX.
- ◆ August 19-25—Polishing The Pulpit—Sevierville, TN.
- ◆ Sept. 16-18—5th & Grape Lectureship
- ◆ Oct. 6-8—Texas Ladies for Christ Retreat [Brady]
- ◆ Oct. 9-12—Lubbock Lectures
- ◆ Oct. 27-29—ACS Class: “The Bible and Archae-ology” (Dewayne Bryant)—Dripping Springs, TX

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U = Unconditional Election. God, before the foundation of the world, arbitrarily chose to save some people and destroy others and nothing can be done to change God's sovereign decree.

L = Limited Atonement. Christ died only for the ones God had unconditionally chosen to save.

I = Irresistible Grace. An unregenerate person cannot voluntarily believe in God but once God determines to save him, that same individual cannot overcome or resist the power of God no matter what he may desire.

P = Perseverance of the Saints. Since man can do nothing but evil on his own, God's unconditional election is required to save him. Consequently, one needs to do nothing to remain saved. If one's salvation depended on himself in any way, the miraculous work of God in saving him would be overthrown.

### Conclusion

Calvinism presents a false chain of reasoning. Instead of supporting the Truth of Scripture, it stands opposed to it. A further analysis of each tenet will show how far this system of doctrine is from the inspired word of God.

**Gene Taylor** ([www.centervilleroad.com/articles/calvinism-1.html](http://www.centervilleroad.com/articles/calvinism-1.html))

## Celebrate

*“Rejoice with those who rejoice...” (Romans 12:15)*

**April Birthdays:** Vickie Tallent (4), Lasha Dennis (6), Sarah Rudloff (6), Ginger King (8), Kristi Maninger (9), Darlene Smith (10), **Caroline Dennis (30).**

**April Anniversaries:** John & Tina Barnum (8).

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...*



## Records

	Apr. 10, 2016	Apr. 17, 2016
Bible Class	45	44
AM Worship	60	59
PM Worship	46	46
Wednesday PM	43	45
Contribution	\$2,056	\$1,606

	This Week: 4/24/16	Next Week: 5/1/16		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<b>April 2016</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> James Fuller <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Allen & Linda Griffith <b>Clean Building:</b> M&P Bannister / Greer <b>Hostess Committee:</b> Jessica Stultz's group  <b>May 2016</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Don Smith <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Joe Dennis Family <b>Clean Building:</b> John Barnum Family <b>Hostess Committee:</b> Jessica Stultz's group	
<b>Greeters</b>	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich	John Barnum Family		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Fuller	Gene Bannister		
<b>Communion</b>	Allen Griffith*, Ryan Rudloff Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis	Don Smith*, Allen Bland Hank Wheeler, James Fuller		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Randy Huckaby		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell	Caleb Dennis		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Don Smith	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Hank Wheeler	Allen Griffith		
<b>Communion</b>	Allen Griffith	Don Smith		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	John Barnum	Joe Dennis		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	April 27 Joe Dennis	May 4 Allen Griffith	May 11 Prayer Night	May 18 Tom Wilcox

## Search the Scriptures

*Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)*

### Studies for the week of April 24, 2016

Sunday Class ..... Acts 26:9ff: Paul in the Hands of Enemies  
Wed. Class ..... Man's Problem—Sin; God's Solution—Jesus Christ

<u>God is Infinite &amp; Self-Existing</u>	<u>Commonly Held False Doctrines – Calvinism</u>
<p>There are two categories of God's infinity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God is infinite in respect to time.</li> <li>• God is infinite in respect to space.</li> <li>• God is immeasurable.</li> </ul> <p>With regard to God's person and being, there is no past or future, no here or there, only an unchanging IS.</p> <p><b>I. Does "Nothing" Exist?</b></p> <p>A. There is really no such thing as nothing – because God IS – there is never any place where there is nothing because there is no place where God is not present.</p> <p>B. To be infinite is to be unlimited.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There's no end to God's being or perfection - He has no boundaries.</li> <li>C. God fills everything, but that does not mean God is everything (Pantheism).</li> <li>D. God was aware of what the false prophets taught (Jer. 23).</li> <li>E. God is not only everywhere but is everywhere in the fullness of his being.</li> <li>F. We have the ability to pray to God anytime, anywhere because of God's omnipresence.</li> </ol> <p><b>II. Where Did God Come From?</b></p> <p>A. The quality that sets God apart from everything else is his aseity (from the Latin a se, meaning "from himself") – God does not need any part of creation.</p> <p>B. God's self-existence is seen in His description of Himself – "I AM".</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jesus' claim of the same title provoked hostility toward Him.</li> <li>2. God exists in an eternal state of IS and self-existence with no need of help or support.</li> <li>3. The existence of everything else is derived from – and is dependent upon – Him</li> <li>4. If there ever was a time when there was absolutely nothing – there would be nothing now.</li> </ol> <p>C. Where did God come from?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. He could not have made Himself – nothing can create itself, not even God.</li> <li>2. We must simply admit that God is eternal and everything else exists because of Him.</li> </ol>	<p><b>I. Total hereditary depravity.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Was Jesus a sinner? "...was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15)</li> <li>B. Was Jesus tempted in all points as we are?</li> <li>C. Were Adam and Eve persons who inherited sin?</li> <li>D. Were Adam and Eve tempted in the same fashion as we?</li> <li>E. Is Adam's sin and its consequences more far reaching than Christ's sacrifice and its blessings? (Rom. 5)</li> <li>F. What does Ezekiel 18:20 mean?</li> <li>G. Can a totally depraved person understand the Bible? (Eph. 3:1-5; 1 Cor. 3:1-3)</li> </ol> <p><b>II. Unconditional election.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Does God show partiality? (Acts 10:34-35)</li> <li>B. Can one disobey God and be saved? (2 Thess. 1:6-9; Heb. 5:8-9)</li> <li>C. Can one believe they are among the elect and still be lost? (Matt. 7:21-23)</li> <li>D. If I am lost, whose fault is it?</li> <li>E. Can I change from a lost state to a saved state, or visa versa? (Col. 1:13; John 17:12)</li> <li>F. Does God want everyone to be saved? (2 Peter 3:9)</li> <li>G. Does God hate some people even before they are capable of doing good? (Rom. 9:13)</li> </ol> <p><b>III. Limited atonement.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Did Jesus die for all men? (Heb. 2:9; Titus 2:11; Acts 17:30; Jn. 3:16)</li> <li>B. Why did the Lord extend an invitation to all people? (Matt. 11:28-30)</li> </ol> <p><b>IV. Irresistible grace.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Is there a connection between God's grace and doing something to acquire it? (Titus 2:11-12)</li> <li>B. Where is the grace of God located? (2 Tim. 2:1)</li> <li>C. What does Galatians 5:4 mean?</li> </ol> <p><b>V. Perseverance of the saints.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Can the elect "hate" God and be saved? (Rom. 11:28)</li> <li>B. Can one's name be removed from the Lamb's book of life? (Rev. 22:18)</li> <li>C. What does James 5:19,20 mean?</li> <li>D. What does 2 Peter 2:20-22 mean?</li> <li>E. What does 1 Corinthians 9:27 mean? Cf. Luke 9:25.</li> </ol>