

Calvinism's Inability to Correctly Interpret Scripture



The 5 Points of Calvinism

- T – Total Depravity
- U – Unconditional Salvation
- L – Limited Atonement
- I – Irresistible Grace
- P – Perseverance of the Saints



Calvinism's rejection of Simon's Salvation

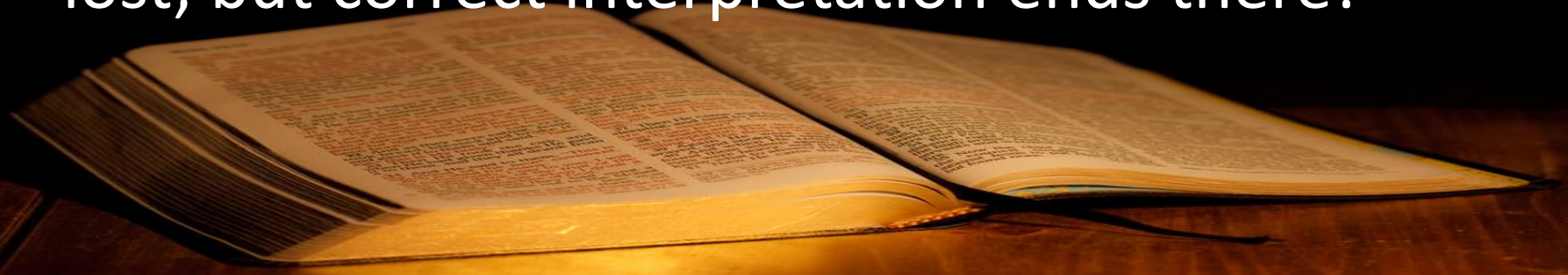
Acts 8:5-24



Calvinism's Truth:

Simon was Lost

- This is determined by Peter's description of Simon – Acts 8:20-23
 - His money would **perish** with him – 8:20
 - His **heart was not right** with God – 8:21
 - He was **wicked** and needed forgiveness – 8:22
 - He was **poisoned** by/in the gall of bitterness and **bound** by/in the bondage of iniquity – 8:23
- Calvinists **correctly** interpret that Simon was lost; but correct interpretation ends there!



Calvinism's Error:

Simon was Never Saved

- Simon's salvation – Acts 8:9-13
- Why? "Once saved, always saved"
- John Gill, a Baptist, on Acts 8:13: "**Then Simon himself believed also**,....With an historical and **temporary faith**, as that Jesus was the Messiah, or **at least he pretended, to believe this**, and professed that he did believe, what others did, and Philip preached: **and when he was baptized**; upon profession of his faith, **which he so artfully made**, that **Philip could not discover his hypocrisy**: but taking him to be a sincere believer, admitted him to baptism."



Calvinism's Error:

Denies the Plain Teaching of Acts 8:5-13

- The Samaritan's conversion = They **heard** the gospel, **believed**, were **baptized**, resulting in their salvation – 8:5-6, 12; Mk. 16:16
- Simon's conversion = He heard, **also believed**, and was **baptized** – 8:5-6, 13
 - He did the exact same thing the Samaritans did.
 - This is inspired history, researched and written after the fact!
- When deception/hypocrisy is present, inspired history points this out – Jn. 12:4-6



The Truth

- Both descriptions of Simon must be accepted as true.
- First part: Simon **also believed**, and was **baptized**, saving him as it did the Samaritans – 8:12-13
- Second part: Simon **allowed avarice back into his life**, putting his soul in jeopardy and binding him in sin again – 8:20-23; 2 Peter 2:18-22



Calvinism Rejects the Salvation of the Enlightened

Hebrews 6:4-6



Calvinism's Truth:

The Enlightened Who Fall Away are Lost

- Hebrew 6:6 speaks of people who “**have fallen away,**” or “**if they fall away.**”
- Calvinists **correctly** interpret this to mean that they are **lost**.
- Calvinism's correct interpretation of the passage ends there!



Calvinism's Error:

Misinterpretation of Hebrews 6:4-5

- “Once saved, always saved” forces Calvinists to claim that those who “have fallen away” **were never saved** – Heb. 6:4-5
- Yet, these people...
 - Were **enlightened**
 - Had **tasted the heavenly gift**
 - **Became/were made partakers of the Holy Spirit**
 - Had **tasted of the good word of God and the powers of the age to come.**



Calvinism's Error:

Misinterpreting Hebrews 6:4-5

- Roy Hamilton, a Baptist preacher, states that Hebrews 6:4-6 “presents the case of Jewish professed believers who **halt short of faith** in Christ after **advancing to the very threshold of salvation**, even **going along with the Holy Spirit in His Word of enlightenment and conviction**...On the other hand, the passage nowhere states they were saved. They were **enlightened, awakened and at the turning point**, but they had **never yielded** themselves to God. The **joys of salvation they had never experienced.**” **(The Baptist Examiner)**



Calvinism's Error:

Misinterpreting Hebrews 6:4-5

- Calvinism's error: These only "tasted" salvation, never actually swallowing it, never fully taking it in.
- If this description was given in any other context, Calvinists would say these are **saved**.
 - Calvinism's **total depravity** necessitates that **the Holy Spirit act on the sinner** to open their heart to the truth, to save them, to allow them to do any good whatsoever.
 - So, the fact of them being **enlightened, partakers of the Holy Spirit**, and having **tasted the heavenly gift and the good word of God** necessitates that that Calvinists accept that they are saved!



The Truth: These Are Christians

- Hebrews' description of those who can “fall away” proves they are Christians.
- Proof: Why would the Spirit say (Heb. 6:6)...
 - These “have fallen away,” or “if they fall away,” **if they have always been “away”?**
 - It is impossible to “**renew them again to repentance,**” if they **had never been renewed?**



These are Christians:

More Proof: Their Experiences – Heb. 6:4-5

- **Enlightened** means they were **Christians** – Hebrews 10:32-36
- **Tasting the heavenly gift and the good word of God** means they **deeply experienced** these things in **salvation** – Heb. 2:9
- **Becoming partakers of the Holy Spirit** shows they were **Christians**.
 - They were recipients of the **blessings of the Spirit** at **salvation** – Acts 2:38; 5:32
 - They had **shared** in the **Spirit**, being **saved** – Heb. 3:1
- Calvinism will not allow correct interpretation of conditional salvation passages!

