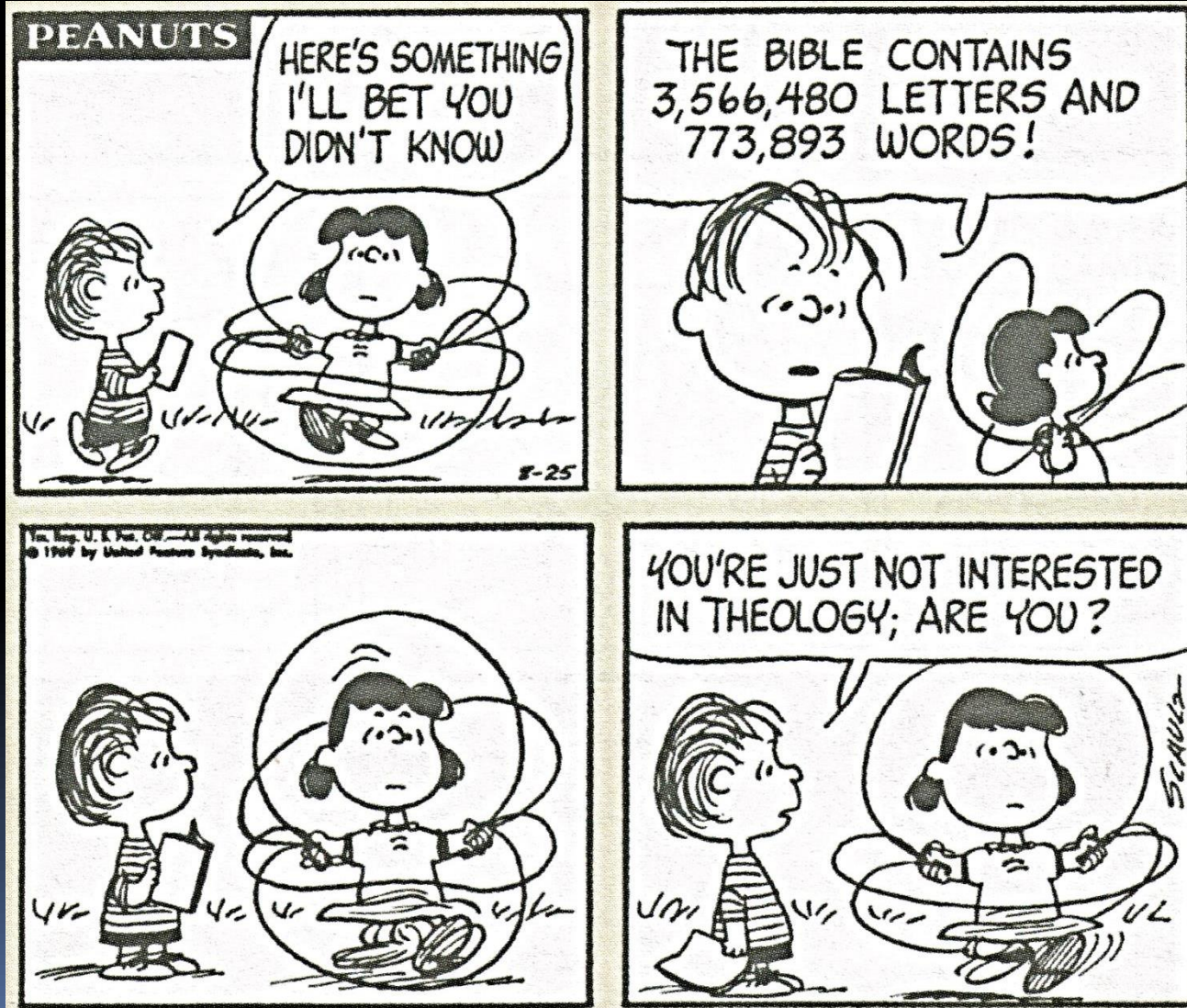


Part 1 - Theology



WHAT DO PRESBYTERIANS BELIEVE?

Do I Need to Know Theology?





What Kind of Church Is Journey?

- Theology:
 - the study of the nature of God and religious belief.
- Know God:
 - **John 6:39** - These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.
- Glorify God:
 - **1 Cor 10:31** - So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

God's Glory: Is your God too small?

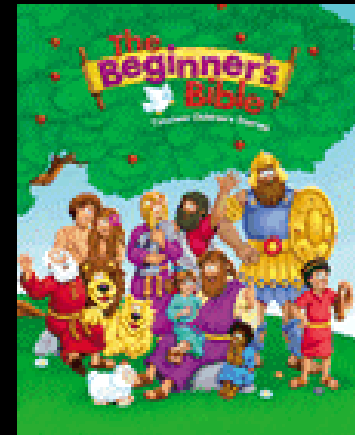
- **Romans 8:28-30** - We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

God's Glory: "Big" God



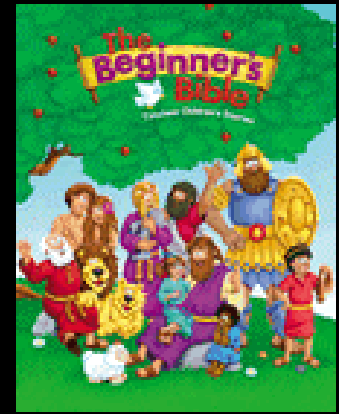
- **2 Timothy 1:9** – who has saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

Study of the Bible



- **1 Cor 2:13** – This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.
- **1 Cor 14:20** – Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.
- **1 Cor 13:12** – Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

Study of the Bible, 2...



- **Deuteronomy 29:29** – The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.
- **Psalms 133:1-3** – How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes. It is if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.



Presbyterian Church Denomination

- Number: ~75 million worldwide
- Founding: John Calvin, 1536
- Governing Body: Elders & Minister
- Sacred or Distinguishing Texts:
 - Bible
 - The Book of Confessions (Nicene Creed, Apostles' Creed, Heidelberg Catechism, Westminster Confession of Faith)



Presbyterian Church

Major Beliefs

- Trinity
- Jesus Christ Is God
- The Authority of Scripture
- Justification by Grace Through Faith
- The Priesthood of All Believers
- The Sovereignty of God
- Sin
- Baptism
- The Mission of the Church

John Calvin (1509-1564)



- French theologian, pastor and reformer
- “Institutes of the Christian Religion” relying on writings of St. Augustine (4th C)
- Broke with Roman Catholic Church ~1530
- System of Theology: doctrines of predestination, sovereignty of God in salvation, eternal damnation
- Influence: Congregational, Reformed and Presbyterian churches

Jacobus Arminius (1560-1609)



- Dutch Reformed theologian
- Teachings held to five solae of Reformation
- Distinct from other reformers (Martin Luther, John Calvin)
- Reclaim early church theological consensus
- Supporters know as Remonstrants
- Influence: Baptists, Methodist, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Universalists, Unitarians

CALVINISM VS ARMINIANISM

PREDESTINATION VS FREE WILL



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JOHN CALVIN (1509-1564)



JACOBUS ARMINIUS (1560-1609)

Calvinism: Five Points (TULIP)



- Total Depravity
- Unconditional Election
- Limited Atonement
- Irresistible Grace
- Perseverance of the Saints

Arminianism: Five Articles of Remonstrance



- Total Depravity
- Conditional Election
- Unlimited Atonement
- Prevenient Grace
- Conditional Preservation of the Saints

TOTAL DEPRAVITY

- **Romans 3:23** – For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- **Romans 9:16** – It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

TOTAL DEPRAVITY, 2...

- **John 3:19-21** – This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.

Calvinism: Total Depravity



- Man is totally depraved and dead in sin.
- Man is unable to save himself and, therefore, God must initiate salvation.
- God extends his common grace to all mankind, it is not sufficient to save anyone.

Arminianism: Total Depravity



- Man unable to do will of God
- Cannot save himself apart from grace of God

GOD'S ELECTION

- **Ephesians 1:4-6** – For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.
- **Acts 13:48** – When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

GOD'S ELECTION, 2...

- **John 6:37** – All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.
- **John 10:26-27** – But you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
- **1 Timothy 2:3-4** - This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Calvinism: Unconditional Election



- Before the foundation of the world, God unconditionally chose some to be saved.
- Election has nothing to do with man's future response.
- God saves and acts in complete freedom for his glory

Arminianism: Conditional Election



- Conditional upon faith in Christ.
- God elects to salvation those He knows beforehand will have faith in Him.
- Self determination based on man's free-will

CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

- **2 Corinthians 5:21** – God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- **Romans 5:9-10** – Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

CHRIST'S ATONEMENT, 2...

- **Luke 22:20** – In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.
- **Ezekiel 36:26-27** – I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Calvinism: Limited Atonement



- Particular Redemption: purchase all blessings of salvation for particular people.
- Christ died to save only those who were elected.
- God extends his common grace to all mankind, it is not sufficient to save anyone.
- Christ's blood of the new covenant obtained the grace of faith for salvation.

Arminianism: Unlimited Atonement



- Universal Redemption
- Christ died for everyone
- Savior's atoning death provided the means of salvation for all.
- Christ's atonement (salvation), however, is effective only for those who believe.

GOD'S GRACE

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** – For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.
- **Romans 9:15-16** – “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

GOD'S GRACE, 2...

- **1 Corinthians 15:10** – But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them – yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

Calvinism: Irresistible Grace



- Only God's irresistible grace can draw the elect to salvation and make a person willing to respond.
- This grace cannot be obstructed or resisted

Arminianism: Prevenient Grace



- Resistible Grace
- Prevenient grace – mankind has free will to resist grace of God
- Through the preparatory (prevenient) grace given to all by the Holy Spirit, man is able to cooperate with God and respond in faith to salvation
- Through prevenient grace, God removed the effects of Adam's sin

PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS

- **1 Cor 15:1-2** – Now brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.
- **2 Tim 2:11-13** – If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS, 2...

- **John 10:27-28** – My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.
- **Ephesians 1:13-14** - And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked with him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of his glory.

PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS, 3...

- **1 Cor 15:1-2** – Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.
- **1 John 2:19** – They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS, 4...

- **2 Peter 1:10-11** - Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- **2 Timothy 4:7-8** – I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store 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 longed for his appearing.

Calvinism: Perseverance of the Saints



- Believers will persevere in salvation because God will see to it that none will be lost.
- Believers are secure in the faith because God will finish the work he began.

Arminianism: Conditional Preservation of the Saints



- Salvation can potentially be lost
- Conditional upon believer remaining in Christ. Capable of falling away from faith and perishing as unbeliever
- Because prevenient grace is given to all men by the Holy Spirit, and this grace extends to the entire person, all people have free will.
- By the exercise of free will, believers can turn away or fall away from grace and lose their salvation.

God's Sovereignty

Calvinism



God's sovereignty is unconditional, unlimited, and absolute. All things are predetermined by the good pleasure of God's will. God foreknew because of his own planning.

Arminianism



God has limited his control in correspondence with man's freedom and response. God's decrees are associated with his foreknowledge of man's response.

Man's Depravity

Calvinism



- Because of the Fall, man is totally depraved and dead in his sin. Man is unable to save himself and, therefore, God must initiate salvation.

Arminianism



- Because of the Fall, man has inherited a corrupted, depraved nature. Through "prevenient grace," God removed the guilt of Adam's sin. Prevenient grace is defined as the preparatory work of the Holy Spirit, given to all, enabling a person to respond to God's call of salvation.

Election

Calvinism



Before the foundation of the world, God unconditionally chose some to be saved. Election has nothing to do with man's future response.

Arminianism



Election is based on God's foreknowledge of those who would believe in him through faith. In other words, God elected those who would choose him of their own free will. Conditional election is based on man's response.

Christ's Atonement

Calvinism



Jesus Christ died to save only those who were given to him (elected) by the Father in eternity past. Since Christ did not die for everyone, but only for the elect, his atonement is wholly successful.

Arminianism



Christ died for everyone. The Savior's atoning death provided the means of salvation for the entire human race. Christ's atonement, however, is effective only for those who believe.

Grace

Calvinism



While God extends his common grace to all mankind, it is not sufficient to save anyone. Only God's irresistible grace can draw the elect to salvation and make a person willing to respond. This grace cannot be obstructed or resisted.

Arminianism



Through the preparatory (prevenient) grace given to all by the Holy Spirit, man is able to cooperate with God and respond in faith to salvation. Through prevenient grace, God removed the effects of Adam's sin. Because of "free will" men are also able to resist God's grace.



I Believe.....

A

B

Christ died only for
some

Christ died for
everyone

I Believe.....

A

Salvation is only available to those God has chosen

B

Salvation is available to everyone

I Believe.....

A

God's irresistible grace cannot be obstructed or resisted

B

Man's "free-will" allows man to resist/reject God's grace.

I Believe.....

A

Except for God's irresistible grace, men are entirely incapable of responding to God on their own.

B

Because grace has been given to all men/women, man is able to respond in faith to salvation

I Believe.....

A

God decreed to save and damn certain persons not based on foreknowledge of how the person would respond to grace

B

God decreed to save and damn certain persons based on foreknowledge of who would believe or not believe

I Believe.....

A

Believers will persevere in salvation because God will see to it that none will be lost.

B

By the exercise of free will, believers can turn away or fall away from grace and lose their salvation.

I Believe.....

John Calvin



- Christ died only for some
- Salvation is only available to those God has chosen
- God's irresistible grace cannot be obstructed or resisted
- Except for God's irresistible grace, men are entirely incapable of responding to God on their own.
- God decreed to save and damn certain persons not based on foreknowledge of how the person would respond to grace
- Believers will persevere in salvation because God will see to it that none will be lost.

Jacobus Arminius



- Christ died for everyone
- Salvation is available to everyone
- Man's "free-will" allows man to resist/reject God's grace.
- Because grace has been given to all men/women, man is able to respond in faith to salvation
- God decreed to save and damn certain persons based on foreknowledge of who would believe or not believe
- By the exercise of free will, believers can turn away or fall away from grace and lose their salvation.



all spiritual blessing

EPHESIANS 1:1-3

- **Ephesians 1:3-6** - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

All Life Relates To God



- **1 Cor 10:31** – So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
- **Isaiah 46:9-10** – Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.