

Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church
Foundations Class
Week 4 – March 28, 2021, T.U.L.I.P.

Resources:

- *Westminster Standards*
- *Canons of Dort*
- *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* by John Murray
- *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination* by Loraine Boettner

1. The Synod of Dort (November 1618 – May 1619)

- Controversy in the Dutch Reformed Churches: The Arminianism-Calvinism Conflict
 - Jacob Arminius and the Remonstrance of 1610
 - 1) Election based on foreseen faith
 - 2) The universal merits of Christ
 - 3) The free will of man due to only partial depravity
 - 4) The resistibility of grace
 - 5) The possibility of a lapse from grace
 - Synod of the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands called in 1617
 - 1) 62 Dutch delegates
 - 2) 27 foreign delegates representing eight countries
 - 3) Met in the city of Dordrecht
 - The Canons of Dort
 - 1) Reject the Remonstrance of 1610 and Scripturally set forth Reformed doctrine on the points raised by the Remonstrance, i.e., Calvinism's five answers to the five errors of Arminianism
 - 2) These five answers, while not setting out the full scope of Calvinism, lie at the heart of the Reformed faith and flow out of the principle of absolute divine sovereignty.
 - 3) Pastoral Implications

2. TULIP (Definitions from the Westminster Confession of Faith)(1646-1647)

Total Depravity: Man, by his fall into a state of sin, hath wholly lost all ability of will to any spiritual good accompanying salvation: so as, a natural man, being altogether averse from that good, and dead in sin, is not able, by his own strength, to convert himself, or to prepare himself thereunto. (WCF IX.3)

Unconditional Election: By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life; and others foreordained to everlasting death. (WCF III.3)

Limited Atonement (Or Particular Redemption): The Lord Jesus, by his perfect obedience, and sacrifice of himself, which he, through the eternal Spirit, once offered up unto God, hath fully satisfied the justice of his Father; and purchased, not only reconciliation, but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father hath given unto him. (WCF VIII.5)

Irresistible Grace: All those whom God hath predestined unto life, and those only, He is pleased, in His appointed time, effectually to call, by His Word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death, in which they are by nature to grace and salvation, by Jesus Christ... (WCF X.1)

Perseverance of the Saints: They, whom God hath accepted in His Beloved, effectually called, and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally, nor finally, fall away from the state of grace: but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved. (WCF 17:1)

3. Total Depravity -- Scriptural Explanation

Genesis 6:5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Jeremiah 17:1 "The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron; with a point of diamond it is engraved on the tablet of their heart, and on the horns of their altars...

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

Romans 3:10-11 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God.

Romans 8:7-8 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Ephesians 2:1-3 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

4. Unconditional Election -- Scriptural Explanation

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

Ephesians 1:4, 5, 11 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will... In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

5. Limited Atonement (or Particular Atonement) – Scriptural Explanation

John 10:10-11 I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Acts 20:28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

John 11:52 and [die] not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.

Hebrews 10:14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Romans 8:32-33 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?"

6. Irresistible Grace – Scriptural Explanation

Ezekiel 36:26-27 - And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

John 3:5 8- ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Titus 3:5 - he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

Romans 9:16 - So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 - I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

7. Perseverance of the Saints – Scriptural Explanation

Romans 6:14 - For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Romans 7:19-25 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Matthew 7:22-23 - On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

John 10:27-29 -- My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (28) I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (29) My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Romans 8:35-39 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? (36) As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." (37) No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (38) For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, (39) nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.