

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:1-3

4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy
may be full.

1 John 1:4

- 5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.
- 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:
- 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1 John 1:5-7

- 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 1:8-10



1st John

THE FIRST EPISTLE GENERAL OF JOHN.

CHAPTER 2

CHAPTER I.

He describeth the person of Christ, in whom we have eternal life, by a communion with God, 1-4; to which we must adjoin holiness of life, to testify that our communion and profession of faith, as also to assure us of the forgiveness of our sins by Christ's death, 5-10.

THAT which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have touched upon, and our hands have felt, that Word of life;

CHAPTER I.
1. The epistle begins thus
as if to say, It is not
possible
to have a more full
assurance from hear-
ing him, both before
his death, and after
his resurrection, than
we have present
unto you Jesus Christ,
as ch. 2. 12; 1y. 4, 21-23;
1y. 3. 2; John 1. 1-3;
1y. 14; Act. 1. 8, 4, 23;
2 John 26, 27;
1y. 3. 3; John 1. 14, 5.

...I declare unto you, that
you may have fellowship with
the Father, and truly our fellowship is with
Christ.

4 And these things write we unto
you, that your joy may be full.

5 This then is the message which
we have heard of him, and declare
unto you, that God is light, and in
him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship
with him, and walk in darkness, and do not

...a verse by verse study

1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

1 John 2:1

- ‘my darlings’
- ‘properly, to miss the mark (and so not share in the prize)’
 - Sin not only indicates a lack of trust in God, it is an act of defiance against Him and can disqualify us from future rewards

1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

1 John 2:1

- It is not a foregone conclusion!
 - but provision has been made none the less
- Gr. '*Parakletos*'
 - One who pleads another's cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defense, legal assistant, an advocate
 - Used as 'Comforter' of the Holy Spirit in John 14:16,26



Judge of all the Earth

Gen 18:25

Defense

1 John 2:1

The Advocate

Prosecution

Rev 12:10

The Accuser

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:2

- 'Payment in full'
- A Roman prisoner would have nailed to the prison door a list of their crimes
- Once they had served their sentence it would be stamped:

TETELESTAI

- Jesus' last word (John 19:30)

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:2

- *Why would a God of love send someone to hell?*
- God will not 'send' anyone to hell
- Hell was not made for man – Matt 25:41
- God has made a way for *all* to escape hell
 - The ones who end up in hell will do so because they rejected the payment that had been made on their behalf to atone & forgive their sin
- If you reject Christ, there remains no other way

Calvinism?

- John Calvin was a Bible scholar
 - famed for his 'Institutes of the Christian Religion'
- He rose to prominence during the Reformation in Europe (b.1509 - d.1564)
- Eventually 'pastoring' the church in Geneva
- 'Calvinism' has grown out of his teachings...
 - and the teachings of those who followed him
 - Much of which is rooted in Greek Humanism & Roman Catholicism
- T.U.L.I.P.
 - Total Depravity
 - Unconditional Election
 - Limited Atonement
 - Irresistible Grace
 - Perseverance of the Saints

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Limited Atonement

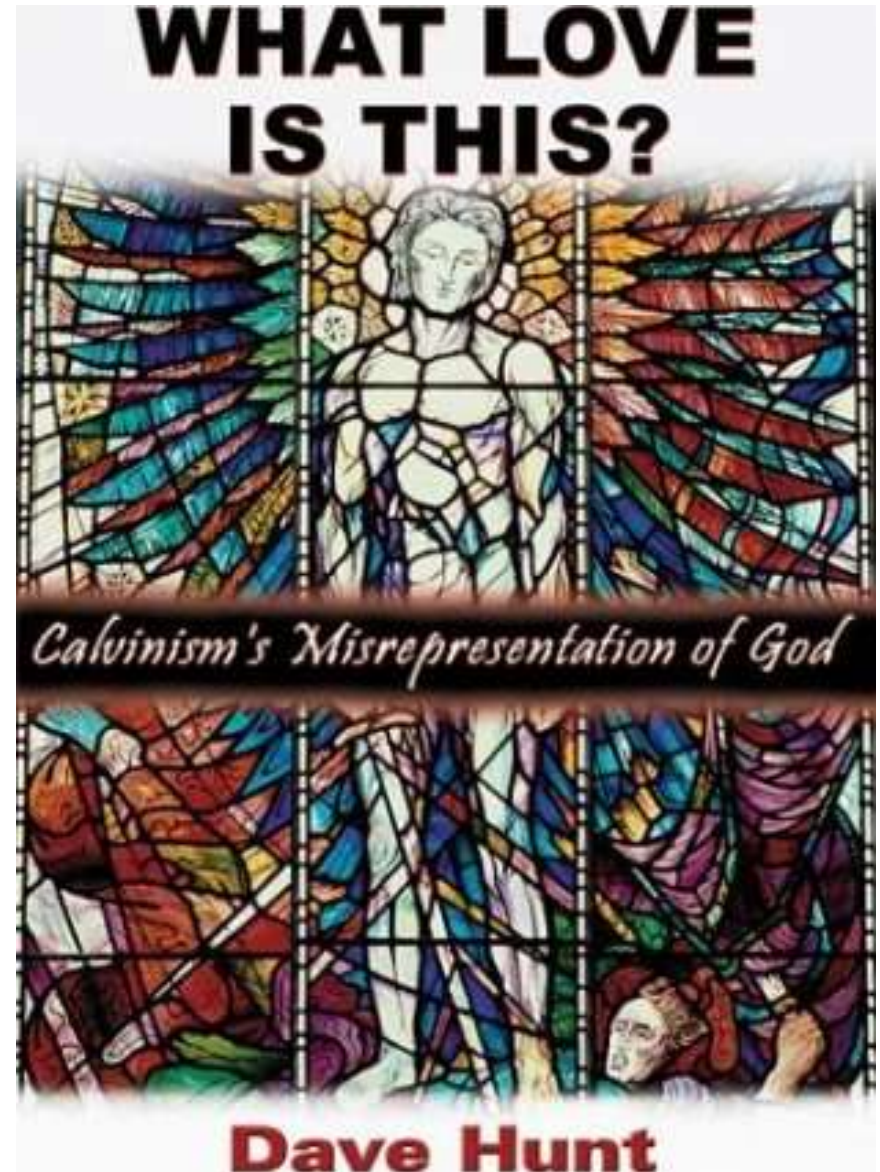
The “L” in TULIP represents one more integral theory in Calvin’s scheme of salvation: “the doctrine which limits the atonement to . . . the elect.”¹ This concept follows directly from the limitation Calvinists place upon God’s love in spite of the fact that it, like every facet of His Being, is infinite. One of their prominent apologists declares, “. . . the Bible teaches again and again that God does not love all people with the same love . . . ‘loved by God’ is not applied to the world but only to the saints . . . (Romans 1:7).”² Calvin himself declared, “All are not created on equal terms, but some are preordained to eternal life, others to eternal damnation”³

- - *“I follow no man and no man should follow me!”*
Warren Wiersbe

Recommended Reading

"By now it should be clear that Calvinism is founded upon the premise that God does not love everyone, is not merciful to all, does not want all to be saved, but in fact is pleased to damn billions whom, by sovereign regeneration, He could have saved had He so desired. If that is the God of the Bible, Calvinism is true. **If that is not the God of the Bible, who "is love" (1 John 4:8), Calvinism is false. The central issue is God's love and character** in relation to mankind, as presented in Scripture. The very title of this book, *What Love Is This?*, asks of Calvinism a question to which it has no answer."

Dave Hunt, "What Love Is This? Calvinism's Misrepresentation of God" p. 123



3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

1 John 2:3

- All the world may not receive His love...
- But for those who do, this is how we know we know Him!
- We keep His commandments!
 - There are many commandments for believers in the NT
- His commandments are not grievous 1 John 5:3
- If we don't keep His commandments, do we really know Him?

4 He that saith, I know him, and **keepeth** not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 2:4

- to attend to carefully, take care of
- to guard
- to observe
- Lit, to show respect to
- What is your attitude to God's commandments?
 - You would have to question your salvation if your attitude to God's commandments is one of indifference

5 But whoso keepeth his **word**, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

1 John 2:5

- Gr. 'Logos':
- This is the title John gives to Jesus in John 1
- Paraphrase: *'Whose has respect to and guards his relationship with Jesus...'*
- *"But those who do what Christ tells them to will learn to love God more and more. That is the way to know whether or not you are a Christian."*

- The Living Bible

'Perfected'

- A perfected (the idea is mature) love for God will show itself in obedience, and the presence of this obedience and love gives us assurance that we are in Jesus
- When one becomes a Christian, there is a change in his relationship with sin. Sin is not eliminated in the believer until he comes to glory, but his relationship to sin is changed when he truly become a Christian. – David Guzik

'Perfected'

- A Christian no longer *loves* sin as he once did.
- A Christian no longer *brags* about his sin as he once did.
- A Christian no longer *plans* to sin as he once did.
- A Christian no longer *fondly remembers* his sin as he once did.
- A Christian never fully *enjoys* his sin as he once did.
- A Christian no longer is *comfortable* in habitual sin as he once was.
- *“The Christian no longer loves sin; it is the object of his sternest horror: he no longer regards it as a mere trifle, plays with it, or talks of it with unconcern... Sin is dejected in the Christian’s heart, though it is not ejected. Sin may enter the heart, and fight for dominion, but it cannot sit upon the throne.”*
(Spurgeon)

6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

1 John 2:6

- *“Follow God’s example in everything you do just as a much-loved child imitates his father. Be full of love for others, following the example of Christ who loved you and gave himself to God as a sacrifice to take away your sins”.* – Ephesians 5:1-2 TLB

- 7 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.
- 8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. **1 John 2:7-8**

- So is it new or not?
- The Greeks had two different words for 'new'
- Neos (new in time) / Kainos (new in quality)
- The commandment to "love one another" is not new in time, but it is new in character

A New Commandment

- *“Christ was the perfect example. He never showed hatred or malice. He hated sin and disobedience, but he never hated the people who committed such sins. He was patient with Peter’s impulsiveness; Thomas’ unbelief, and even Judas’ treachery. Even at the cross, He prayed for those that crucified him: “Father forgive them for they know not what they do”* - *Chuck Missler*

- 9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.
- 10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.
- 11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

1 John 2:9-11

John's Reason for Writing

- John now writes to 4 distinct 'groups'
- In effect he is addressing 4 stages of Christian maturity
- 1# Little Children - 'Born ones' new converts
- 2# Fathers - Mature saints
- 3# Young Men - Young adults
- 4# Young Children - 'Teenage' Believers

12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins
are forgiven you for his name's sake **1 John 2:12**

- New converts need assurance

13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning.

1 John 2:13a

- Mature saints are capable of reproduction

13 I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one.

1 John 2:13b

- The zeal of spiritual youth – not afraid of spiritual combat
- *For this reason, many have sought to stay in spiritual childhood as long as possible. This is wrong. It is like being a draft-dodger or a vagrant. We expect children to not fight in wars and to be supported by others, but we don't expect it of adults. – David Guzik*

13b I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

1 John 2:13b

14 I have written unto you fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning.

I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

1 John 2:14

- *“And so I say to you fathers who know the eternal God, and to you young men who are strong with God’s Word in your hearts, and have won your struggle against Satan: 15 Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you, for when you love these things you show that you do not really love God” – TLB*

- 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.
- 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:15-17



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chapel
portsmouth

www.calvaryportsmouth.co.uk