

## A Lord's Day Snippet!

### Biblical And Southern Studies

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O my God, what must I do?  
*Thou alone the way canst show;*  
*Thou canst save me in this hour;*  
I have neither will nor power:  
God, if over all thou art,  
Greater than my sinful heart,  
*All thy power on me be shown,*  
Take away the heart of stone.

Take away my darling sin,  
*Make me willing to be clean;*  
*Make me willing to receive*  
All thy goodness waits to give.  
*Force me, Lord, with all to part;*  
Tear these idols from my heart;  
Now thy love almighty show,  
Make even me a creature new.

Jesus, mighty to renew,  
*Work in me to will and do;*  
Turn my nature's rapid tide,  
Stem the torrent of my pride;  
*Stop the whirlwind of my will;*  
Speak, and bid the sun stand still;  
Now thy love almighty show,  
Make even me a creature new.

Arm of God, thy strength put on;  
Bow the heavens, and come down;  
All my unbelief o'erthrow;  
Lay th' aspiring mountain low:  
Conquer thy worst foe in me,  
*Get thyself the victory;*  
Save the vilest of the race;  
*Force me to be saved by grace.*

John Wesley (1707-1788)

### Five Points of Salvation

The Lord Jesus said, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent

me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day."

John 6:37-39

Paul and the other apostles, in conformity to Christ, tell us that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, and that not of ourselves it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast (Eph. 2:8-9). The five points of salvation (soteriology) are an assertion of the Bible Doctrine of Salvation. They are an abbreviated *ordo salutis* (order of salvation). Sometimes these points are identified by the acrostic TULIP which represents salvation as being all of grace with such nicknames as Paulinism or Calvinism or Spurgeonism or Augustinianism as opposed to the teachings of Arminianism or Semi-Pelagianism or Freewillism which teaches that man is the ultimate agent in salvation by their human will (in other words the dead can bring themselves to life). Paulinism is God-centered salvation which cannot be lost and Arminianism is man-centered religion which can be lost. The Five Points of Salvation are also known as the Quinquarticular Articles which were the five key doctrinal areas debated at the Synod of Dort in Holland. The Reformation gave us the *Five Solae*: [1] *Sola Scriptura* by Scripture alone, [2] *Sola Fide* by faith alone, [3] *Sola Gratia* by grace alone, [4] *Solus Christus* by Christ alone, [5] *Soli Deo Gloria* to the glory of God alone.

So, what does the acrostic TULIP stand for? **T**otal depravity, **U**nconditional election, **L**imited atonement, **I**rresistible grace, **P**erseverance of the saints. Generally, what we are talking about is man's lost condition, the Triune God's provision of salvation: God the Father's choice, God the Son's redemption, God the Spirit's giving spiritual life, and the result is eternal salvation for the redeemed.

Why does this doctrine start with man's condition—total depravity? "In Adam all died." Man sinned in Adam against God inheriting spiritual death, so sin separated man from God (Gen. 3). The doctrine of salvation begins with man's spiritual condition. God has been offended. Paul wrote, "We were dead in sins" (Eph. 2:5). Men who are dead in sin need spiritual life to be saved, because in hell they are eternally separated from the holy God. And the Bible says, "And as many as were ordained (or appointed) to eternal life believed" (Acts 13:48). Is it also true that "whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:15)? Yes, it is true! For him who comes to me I will in no wise cast out, said Jesus! Faith is God's gift. "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ ... to believe" (Phil. 1:29). Jesus said, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

Since men are dead spiritually, and needs to be reconciled to God to change that state. Thus, the Triune God acts in salvation to provide this reconciliation. What did the Triune

God do? “Blessed be the God and Father.... According as he hath chosen us in him (Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love” (Eph. 1:3-4). **God the Father** purposes salvation by choosing a people by unconditional election to salvation. God gave to His Son those He chose—“All that the Father giveth Me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.... No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:37, 44). If God the Father had not chosen to save some then none would or could be saved. **God the Son** left eternity and became human flesh to live and die a limited or definite atonement to save those the Father gave Him from the foundation of the world. “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep” (John 10:11). **God the Holy Spirit** in irresistible grace initiates the transformation of those the Father chose and the Son redeemed by regenerating them or providing a spiritual new birth. Jesus told Nicodemus, “Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit” (John 3:7-8).

What is the result of the office work of the Triune God relative to salvation? Those whom the Father chose, the Son redeemed, and the Spirit regenerated, these persevere to the end for they are kept by the power of God unto salvation ready to be revealed at the last time (1 Peter 1:5).

Charles H. Spurgeon declared, “You cannot vanquish a Calvinist. You may think you can, but you cannot. The stones of the great doctrines so fit into each other, that the more pressure there is applied to remove them the more strenuously do they adhere. And you may mark that you cannot receive one of these doctrines without believing all. Hold for instance that man is utterly depraved, and you draw the inference then that certainly if God has such a creature to deal with salvation must come from God alone, and if from him, the offended one, to an offending creature, then he has a right to give or withhold his mercy as he wills; you are thus forced upon election, and when you have gotten that you have all: the others must follow. Some by putting the strain upon their judgments may manage to hold two or three points and not the rest, but sound logic I take it requires a man to hold the whole or reject the whole; the doctrines stand like soldiers in a square, presenting on every side a line of defense which it is hazardous to attack, but easy to maintain. And mark you, in these times when error is so rife and neology strives to be so rampant, it is no little thing to put into the hands of a young man a weapon which can slay his foe, which he can easily learn to handle, which he may grasp tenaciously, wield readily, and carry without fatigue; a weapon, I may add, which no rust can corrode and no blows can break, trenchant, ... a true Jerusalem blade of a temper fit for deeds of renown. The coherency of the parts, though it be of course but a trifle in comparison with other things, is not unimportant. And then, I add,—but this is the point my brethren will take up—it has this excellency, that it is scriptural, and that it is consistent with the experience of believers. Men generally grow more Calvinistic as they advance in years. Is not that a sign that the doctrine is right.

As they are growing riper for heaven, as they are getting nearer to the rest that remaineth for the people of God, the soul longs to feed on the finest of the wheat, and abhors chaff and husks.”