



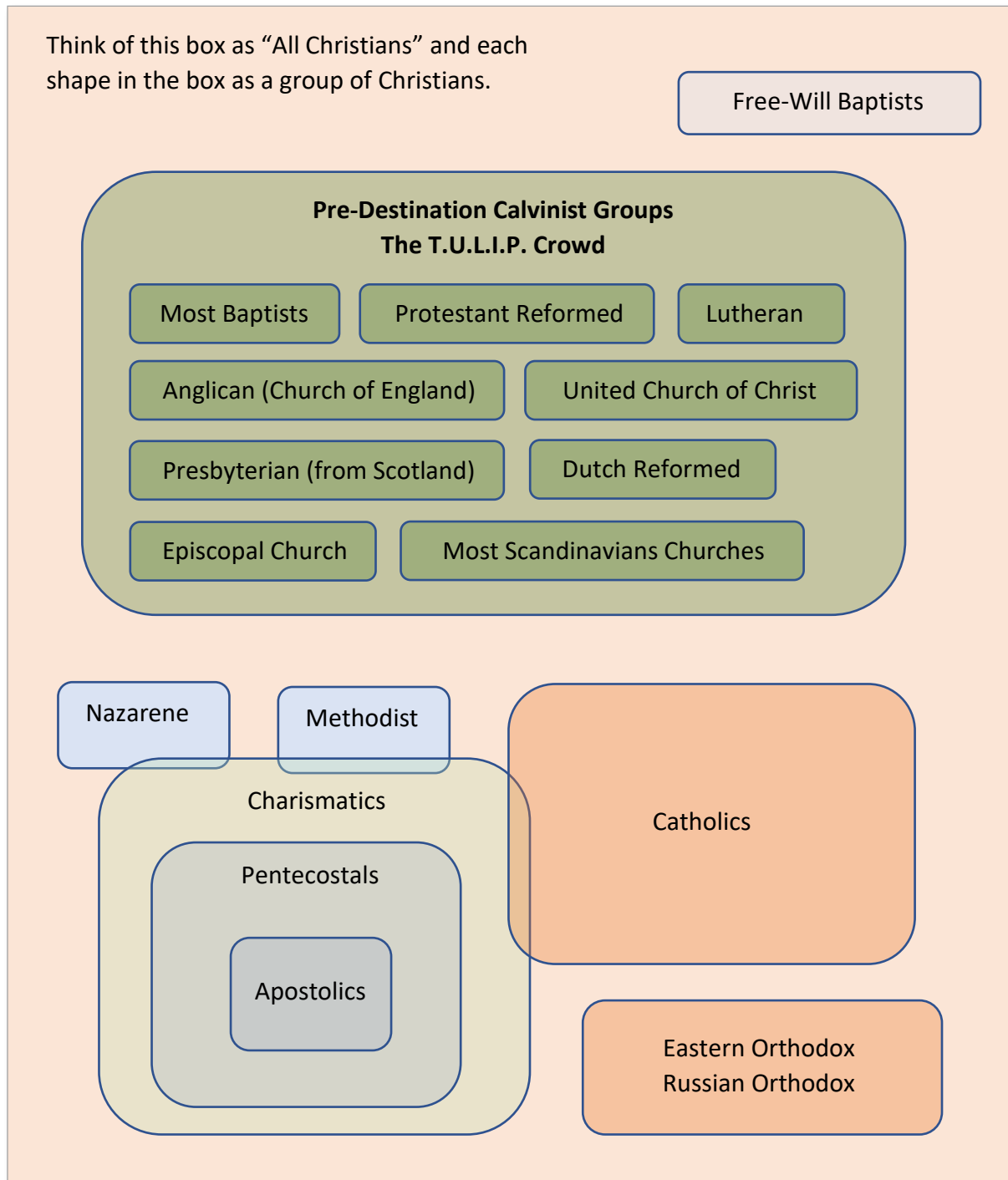
## #13 – What about Pre-Destination?

Isn't that in the Bible? Do we have a free-will?

### Key Definitions:

<b>Pre-Destination</b>	The doctrine or belief that your future (your destiny or destination) is set or was set before you were born. Possibly as part of a cosmic plan or the whims of God.
<b>Calvinists</b>	People obsessed with pre-destination far more than John Calvin. He generally believed it, they embrace it.
<b>Sovereignty</b>	Supreme power or authority. If God is all-powerful, and if we cannot violate His will, then Calvinists argue that everything must be His will. So unless you dare to disagree with Sovereignty, you must be a Calvinist.
<b>T.U.L.I.P.</b>	The acronym created by dutch reformed theologians to help them and us remember Calvinist teachings. Who would have thought that the dutch would use a tulip?
<b>John Calvin</b>	The guy that established systematic theology in most of the Protestant tradition. Oh, and he murdered people.
<b>Martin Luther</b>	Also a believer in Pre-Destination of sorts. He was so against the salvation by works in the Catholic church that he over-corrected and took all human responsibility out of salvation. Also a big fan of Augustine, 4 <sup>th</sup> century monk who tried pushing Pre-Destination on the church.
<b>Single Pre-Destination</b>	A cop-out version of Pre-Destination. This one comes in a couple flavors. Such as “God doesn’t pick who goes to hell, but he did pre-determine who goes to heaven”. A lighter version says, “God didn’t pick who goes where, but knows the future, so He knows your choices.”
<b>Double Pre-Destination</b>	This is the Calvinist version, in that God determined who goes where, and your actions have nothing or almost nothing to do with it. You are an actor with a script or a robot who doesn’t know you are a robot. If you are offended by this, you were programmed to be offended.

Remember our chart on Charismatics, Pentecostals and Apostolics (we used it in question #12, the one on tongues), well we can add quite a bit to the church diagram when talking about Pre-Destination.



**2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of Protestant Christians attend a church that teaches some form of Calvinist Pre-Destination.** Most have no idea what their church teaches. The rest are firmly indoctrinated as hard-core Calvinists.



## The Keys to Understanding Pre-Destination:

- **For the Calvinist crowd, this is an either-or debate.** You are either a Calvinist, or you are against pre-destination, which is clearly mentioned in the Bible.

### ***Ephesians 1:11 NKJV***

*In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestined** according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will*

So how can you be against pre-destination? Can't you read? It's in the Bible.

- **But human choice is clearly Biblical too!** We can violate the will of God, in fact, we are experts at it. So we must reconcile these two positions.
- **Calvinists use the Sovereignty argument as their primary weapon.** Can you violate the will of God if God is all-powerful and sovereign? The answer is reasonably no, you cannot violate God's will. Not really. You can't. There is a hitch. And this one line is your first answer to the Calvinist:

**God's will for us is to make choices. So He empowered us with the ability to choose.**

**Free-will does not violate sovereignty if free-will for us is His will for us.**

*When answering Pre-Destination, what level will you reach?*

### ***Padawan***

- Knows that human choice is a central theme throughout scripture and can remember five examples where a human choice is the central focus of the Bible.
- Knows to avoid philosophy and definition debates and to focus on simple scriptures and questions. Ready for the sovereignty argument.
- Knows to avoid the either-or argument. **Pre-destination is Biblical but NOT universal.**

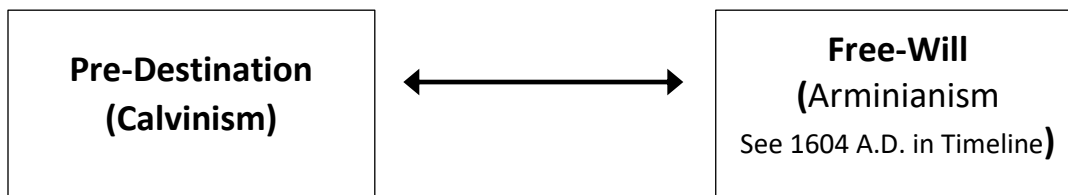
### ***Jedi***

- Knows which denominations and groups are Calvinist and which are not.
- Memorized the 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 13 love argument for free-will.**
- Understands T.U.L.I.P. and where to find scriptures on it.

### ***Jedi Master***

- Understands where to find "many are called but few are chosen" and ask about Matt 20 and Matt 22 parables.
- Understands the Romans 8 progression of the Called.

- Don't use philosophical systems and debates over word meanings to answer this. Remember the warning of Colossians 2:8-9 – we must avoid high-sounding nonsense and not be cheated by philosophy. Instead we must focus on Christ and the truth of His word. We need to let scripture, not philosophy, answer this one.
- **So two competing ideas... pre-destination and free-will?**  
**This is not an either-or forced decision. You don't have to pick.**  
 This will blow a calvinist's pre-destinated little mind. They have been trained to think of this as two positions on a spectrum and you must find your place on the spectrum or pick an end:



- **But I believe in Pre-Destination and God's ability to plan the future and Free-Will – God's ability to empower me to decide if I want to be in the plan or not. I believe in both ends of the spectrum, because both are in the Bible, and they only limit God if God is limited to human thinking.**
- Start by answering from scripture this question: Is pre-destination universal? Does the Bible teach that everything is pre-destined? It does teach all things work together for good for those that love God. But the Bible does not teach universal pre-destination.

### **What is absolutely pre-destined?**

- Calvary
- The Church
- The Anti-Christ
- Probably the lineage of Christ
- The End-Time Plan

### **What do we not find set in scripture?**

- Your specific choice to live for God
- A pre-determined list of people created for damnation
- T.U.L.I.P.

# The Fundamental Bible Theme of Choice

All through scripture, the question of choice begs us to recognize the overwhelming evidence for free will in this Creation.

Just a few of many examples of choice in scripture:

Genesis 3	Will you eat the fruit of the tree?
Genesis 4	Will you fix your offering, Cain?
Genesis 6	Will you build a boat and save your family?
Genesis 12	Will you hear God's call, Abraham, and obey?
Genesis 16	Will you wait for God's timing, Abraham?
Genesis 22	Will you trust God with your child, Abraham?
Genesis 25	Will you value your birthright, Esau?
Genesis 29	Will you learn not to deceive, Jacob?
Genesis 32	Will you wrestle with God for a blessing?
Genesis 39	Will you give up on God in prison, Joseph?
Genesis 45	Will you forgive your brothers, Joseph?
Exodus 3	Will you speak for me in Egypt, Moses?
Exodus 20	Will Israel allow God to meet them?
Exodus 32	Will Israel wait on God?
Numbers 14	Will Israel enter the Promised land?
Joshua 24	Choose this day who you will serve?
Ruth 1	Will Naomi's Daughters-in-Law Stay or Follow?
1 <sup>st</sup> Samuel 17	Who will face Goliath?
Job 2	Will Job curse God and die?
2 <sup>nd</sup> Samuel 12	Will David repent of his sin?
1 <sup>st</sup> Kings 11	Will Solomon turn back to God or further into idolatry?
1 <sup>st</sup> Kings 12	Will Rehoboam listen to the elders and rule wisely?
1 <sup>st</sup> Kings 18	Will Israel continue after false Gods?
Isaiah 38	Will Hezekiah listen to the prophet and repent?
Daniel 3	Will the three Hebrews bow to the statue?
Daniel 6	Will Daniel keep praying when ordered not to?
Esther 4	Will Esther risk her life for her people?

I am running out of space in this booklet, hopefully you get the idea...

If everything is pre-destined, why is God so absolutely focused on our choices in so many Bible stories? Either He wrote the script or He didn't. Even in passages that explicitly tell us they are about the Kingdom of God, we see free choice as

the theme and focus of the passage. If predestination is universal, how come it is never the theme and focus of so many parables and Bible narratives. Choice is always the focus. God has made a way – will you accept or reject it.

Nowhere is this clearer than in the Parable of the Marriage Feast. It ends with a curious declaration, “for many are called, but few are chosen”. What does this curious phrase mean to a Calvinist? God calls some and doesn’t call others, but then only chooses a few from the list He has called? Why does call some but then not choose them? God made some robots but doesn’t care what they do? God made some other robots programmed to be called and to ignore the call? Then God made some other robots programmed to answer the call? Do any Calvinist ideas from T.U.L.I.P. make sense when we read this parable about the Kingdom of Heaven?

**Matthew 22:1-14 NKJV**

*And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: <sup>2</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, <sup>3</sup> and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. <sup>4</sup> Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.”’ <sup>5</sup> But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. <sup>6</sup> And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. <sup>7</sup> But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. <sup>8</sup> Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup> Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ <sup>10</sup> So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.*

*<sup>11</sup> “But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. <sup>12</sup> So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’*

*<sup>14</sup> “For many are called, but few are chosen.”*

Where is total depravity in this parable? Some answered the call and others didn't. One came to the wedding dressed wrong, others were dressed fine. No one seems unable to answer the invitation. No one seemed pre-destined to answer either. The guy who was cast out doesn't fit unmerited favor. Limited atonement is a laughingstock here. The king said to get anyone and everyone the servants could find. Irresistible Grace sounds stupid here – people are doing all kinds of resisting in this parable. Perseverance of the Saints may even take a hit when the one guest was invited, made it to the feast and was then kicked out.

This is not a Calvinist story. And we see human decision and free-will are once against the central focus of the parable. God is asking, “what will men do?” If you want to see a Calvinist version of this story, turn to the end of this section and find the Calvinist Bible stories list.

## The 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthian 13 Love Challenge

Calvinists want to argue about word meanings, particularly the meaning of sovereignty, as the starting point in the discussion. I want to focus on Christ, and obey the warning in Colossians 2:8-9 as my starting point and throughout our study. Here is another great starting point in a discussion on Pre-Destination:

### **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:4-8a NKJV**

*Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails...*

Let's try this in one more translation, can you catch the part that speaks to pre-destination?

### **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:4-5 NLT**

*Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.*

**A great easy question: If love “does not seek its own” or “does not demand its own way”, and if God is love, then how can God force His will on us?**

(Note, it is very likely that your Calvinist friend has never heard this, and this gives an opportunity for the Word of God to hit them with fresh revelation.)

# Quick Calvinism Timeline

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## **1530 A.D. John Calvin (1509 – 1564) leaves the Roman Catholic Church.**

He was a French theologian and pastor who published the 1st edition of his lifelong work, *The Institutes of Christian Religion*, in 1536. In the same year, he was asked to take over and reform the church in Geneva, Switzerland. With a rocky start, he became very powerful and influential throughout the church and governmental life in Switzerland.

### **From Wikipedia:**

Calvin was a tireless apologetic writer who generated much controversy. He also exchanged cordial and supportive letters with many reformers, including Melancthon and Bullinger. In addition to the *Institutes*, he wrote commentaries on most books of the Bible, as well as theological treatises and confessional documents.

He regularly preached sermons throughout the week in Geneva. Calvin was influenced by the Augustinian tradition, which led him to expound the doctrine of predestination and the absolute sovereignty of God in salvation of the human soul from death and eternal damnation.

Calvin's writing and preaching provided the seeds for the branch of theology that bears his name. The Reformed, Congregational, and Presbyterian churches, which look to Calvin as the chief expositor of their beliefs, have spread throughout the world.

**Calvin is also directly responsible for the execution of Michael Servetus, a preacher whose only crime was writing letters to Calvin and others and encouraging baptism in Jesus' name.** Servetus (1509 - 1553) developed a non-Trinitarian Christology, and preached, taught and wrote letters for Jesus-name baptism. Calvin pretended to be interested in his views to lure him to Geneva. He was arrested by Calvin's men, Servetus escaped, and Calvin sent men on horseback after him. He was brought back, and tried as a heretic with testimony from Calvin, and burned at the stake in Geneva in 1553.

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## Many theologians summarize Calvin's views under the title of the

**5 points of Calvinism or by using the acronym TULIP.** Although these are fairly accurate descriptions of Reformed Theology, John Calvin did not come up with TULIP or the 5 points. They are actually a summary of the Synod of Dort in 1619 over 50 years after Calvin's death. The phrase TULIP actually came centuries later.

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## Protestant Reformation settles on 5 beliefs generally held in common:

- **Sola Scriptura** (From Scripture Alone)  
is the teaching that the Bible is the only inspired and authoritative word of God, is the only source for Christian doctrine, and is accessible to all.
  - **Sola Fide** (By Faith Alone)  
the teaching that justification (interpreted in Protestant theology as "being declared just by God") is received by faith only, without any mixture of or need for good works
  - **Sola Gratia** (By Grace Alone)  
Sola gratia is the teaching that salvation comes by divine grace or "unmerited favor" only, not as something merited by the sinner. This means that salvation is an unearned gift from God for Jesus' sake.
  - **Sola Christus** (Through Christ Alone)  
Solus Christus is the teaching that Christ is the only mediator between God and man, and that there is salvation through no other
  - **Sola Deo Gloria** (To the Glory of God Alone)  
Soli Deo gloria is the teaching that all glory is to be due to God alone, since salvation is accomplished solely through His will and action — not only the gift of the all-sufficient atonement of Jesus on the cross but also the gift of faith in that atonement, created in the heart of the believer by the Holy Spirit. The reformers believed that human beings —even saints canonized by the Roman Catholic Church, the popes, and the ecclesiastical hierarchy— are not worthy of the glory that was accorded them.
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In principle, these ideas are scriptural and worth embracing. In practice, Protestant doctrine extends past these points to retain significant influence from historic Roman Catholicism. The early Ecumenical Councils and Trinitarian doctrine are examples of ideas embraced by Protestants that really violate any commitment to Sola Scriptura.

**All five "Solas" show up in various writings by the Protestant Reformers, but they are not incorporated into a single document or statement of faith until the 20<sup>th</sup> century.** In 1554, Melanchthon wrote, "sola gratia justificamus et sola fide justificamur" ("only by grace do you justify and only by faith are we justified"). Ironically, the first time the five Solas are mentioned together is in a 1965 Catholic publication, *The Church and the World*. Although never formally declared together, these principles and beliefs still represent and explain the core of Protestant teachings from Martin Luther onward.

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**1604 A.D. Jacobus Arminius' views on Predestination and Total Depravity become public and controversial in the Dutch Church.**

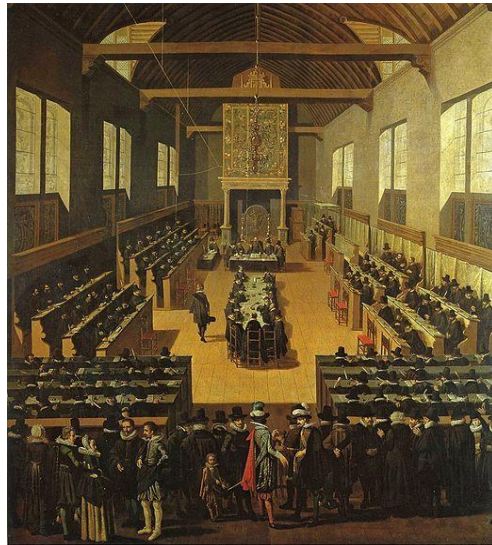
Arminius (1560 – 1609) was a theologian, professor, author and preacher in the Dutch Reformed Church of Holland. Considered an excellent scholar and able and willing minister and servant, his continually developing views on Free Will, the Sovereignty of God and Election in the Church caused a stir throughout Holland leading to a publishing battle through the next few years between Arminius and his critics, most notably the ardent Calvinist, Franciscus Gomarus.

The controversy grew famous enough that the States of Holland allowed both Arminius and Gomarus to address the National Assembly in 1608 to explain their views. Arminius' failing health led to his death the next year. The controversy continued for the next decade, leading to the Synod of Dort in 1618-1619.

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**1618-1619 A.D. The Synod of Dort, a national church council of the Dutch Reformed Church, met to settle the controversy of the rise of Arminianism among Dutch Reformed ministers. Occurring nine years after the death of Arminius and eight years after the leaders of a Dutch ministerial college signed and published the Five Articles of Remonstrance. These articles argued against Calvinist's views of predestination and free will, claiming:**



- 1) God through Christ saves those who believe on Him.**
- 2) Jesus died for everyone, but forgiveness of sins only applies to believers.**
- 3) Man cannot choose anything good but by the grace of God.**
- 4) Man can resist the grace of God.**
- 5) It is inconclusive whether one can actually lose salvation.**

If you read the articles for yourself, it seems strange that this would cause a national church crisis, but apparently theologically minded people were frothing at the mouth over this. The Synod lasted 6 months and was attended by many more Calvinists than Arminianists even though the national church was more evenly divided on the topic.

The 14 Arminianists (called Remonstrants) were seated at the table in the middle, but then kicked out after the first month of discussions.

The Synod concluded with five statements confirming and further developing Calvinist doctrine. These are often called the 5 Points of Calvinism and the basis of the TULIP acronym.

# Summary of T.U.L.I.P.

Quick Summary of the Five Famous Points of Calvinism:

- T – Total Depravity** – We are so enslaved to the service of sin and, apart from the efficacious or prevenient grace of God, are utterly unable to choose to follow God, refrain from evil, or accept the gift of salvation as it is offered. We don't choose God, He chooses us, and only some of us, according to His purposes.
- U – Unconditional Election** – Before God created the world, he chose to save some people according to his own purposes and apart from any conditions related to those persons. Saving grace is sovereignly bestowed by God without any consideration of individual merit. In other words, we do nothing to activate, apply, or accept salvation.
- L – Limited Atonement** – Jesus did not die for everyone, but only for the predestined elect of God. If He died for everyone, then everyone would be saved, so His death and the atonement is limited to just those predestined to salvation.
- I – Irresistible Grace** – Those who obtain salvation do so, not by their own free will, but because of the sovereign grace of God. People do not choose God or resist or refuse God, their free will is an illusion. If God chooses you, you cannot resist His grace.
- P – Perseverance of the Saints – a.k.a. Eternal Security – a.k.a. Once Saved Always Saved** – Once someone is truly born of God, or regenerated, nothing in heaven or earth shall be able to separate them from the love of God including their own free will or decision to no longer believe in God.

Fast forward a few centuries and you will find that Calvinism is still the dominant view representing about 70% of Protestant followers. When you consider how Calvinism and TULIP so starkly disagree with so many verses of scripture, it is astonishing that this view is so widely held.

Another astonishing, but lesser known truth, is that Augustine's ideas form the basis for much of TULIP. Luther and Calvin both acknowledge they were highly influenced by Augustine's writings, and it is curious that so much of Protestant theology really sounds like 4<sup>th</sup> century Catholic theology on closer examination.

# Total Depravity – Sinners Thru & Thru

**T – Total Depravity** – We are so enslaved to the service of sin and, apart from the efficacious or prevenient grace of God, are utterly unable to choose to follow God, refrain from evil, or accept the gift of salvation as it is offered. We don't choose God, He chooses us, and only some of us, according to His purposes.

**Does this agree with the scriptures?**

## **Genesis 4:5-7 NASB**

*But for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. <sup>6</sup> Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?" <sup>7</sup> If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."*

## **Deuteronomy 30:19-20 NASB**

*I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, <sup>20</sup> by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.*

## **Joshua 24:15 NASB**

*If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*

**Luke 13:23-27 NASB**

*And someone said to Him, "Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?" And He said to them,<sup>24</sup> "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able."<sup>25</sup> Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, 'Lord, open up to us!' then He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.'<sup>26</sup> Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets';<sup>27</sup> and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; depart from Me, all you evildoers.'*

**Acts 17:30 NASB**

*Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent.*

**Romans 10:12-14 NASB**

*For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him;<sup>13</sup> for "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."<sup>14</sup> How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?*

**Titus 2:11 NASB**

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men.*

**Revelation 3:20 NASB**

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.*

# Unconditional Election – Can You Choose God?

**U – Unconditional Election** – Before God created the world, he chose to save some people according to his own purposes and apart from any conditions related to those persons. Saving grace is sovereignly bestowed by God without any consideration of individual merit. In other words, we do nothing to activate, apply, or accept salvation.

**Does this agree with the scriptures?**

***Isaiah 45:22 NASB***

*Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth;  
For I am God, and there is no other.*

***Matt 22:11-14 NASB***

*But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes,<sup>12</sup> and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?’ And the man was speechless.<sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’<sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few are chosen.*

***Luke 18:22-23 NASB***

*When Jesus heard this, He said to him, “One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”<sup>23</sup> But when he had heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.*

***Acts 2:40 KJV***

*And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying,  
Save yourselves from this untoward generation.*

**Acts 10:34-35 NASB**

*Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality,<sup>35</sup> but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.*

**Romans 6:17-18 NASB**

*But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,<sup>18</sup> and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:21-22 NASB**

*For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.<sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:3-4 NASB**

*This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,<sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

**Titus 2:11 NASB**

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men.*



# Limited Atonement – Who Did Jesus Die For?

**L – Limited Atonement** – Jesus did not die for everyone, but only for the predestined elect of God. If He died for everyone, then everyone would be saved, so His death and the atonement is limited to just those predestined to salvation.

**Does this agree with the scriptures?**

***John 1:29 NASB***

*The next day he [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”*

***1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:14-15 NASB***

*For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; <sup>15</sup> and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.*

***1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:5-6 NASB***

*For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.*

***1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:10 NASB***

*For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.*

***Hebrews 2:9 NASB***

*But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.*

***2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:2 NASB (Jesus even died for lost false prophets)***

*But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.*

**1<sup>st</sup> John 2:2 NASB**

*And He [Jesus Christ] Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.*

**1<sup>st</sup> John 4:4 NASB**

*We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.*

## Irresistible Grace – Can You Resist God?

**I – Irresistible Grace** – Those who obtain salvation do so, not by their own free will, but because of the sovereign grace of God. People do not choose God or resist or refuse God, their free will is an illusion. If God chooses you, you cannot resist His grace.

### Does this agree with the scriptures?

**Acts 6:8-10 NASB**

*And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup> But some men from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen ... rose up and argued with Stephen. <sup>10</sup> But they were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.*

**Acts 7:51 NASB**

*You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.*

**Romans 11:22 NASB**

*Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.*

**Titus 2:11 NASB**

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men.*

# Perseverance of the Saints – O.S.A.S.

**P – Perseverance of the Saints – a.k.a. Eternal Security –**  
**a.k.a. Once Saved Always Saved** – Once someone is truly born of God, or regenerated, nothing in heaven or earth shall be able to separate them from the love of God including their own free will or decision to no longer believe in God.

**Does this agree with the scriptures?**

## **Matthew 24:12-13 NASB**

*Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.  
<sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.*

## **Romans 11:17-22 NASB**

*But if some of the branches [the Jews] were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, <sup>18</sup> do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you. <sup>19</sup> You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." <sup>20</sup> Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; <sup>21</sup> for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either. <sup>22</sup> Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.*

## **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:26-27 NASB**

*Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; <sup>27</sup> but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.*

## **Hebrews 6:4-6 NASB**

*For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, <sup>6</sup> and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:10 NASB**

*Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:20-21 NASB**

*For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. <sup>21</sup> For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.*

# The Plan of God – Corporate or Individual Predestination?

## **Romans 8:26-35, 38-39 NASB**

*In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;<sup>27</sup> and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

<sup>28</sup> *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

<sup>29</sup> *For those whom He foreknew,*

↳ *He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;*

↳ <sup>30</sup> *and these whom He predestined, He also called;*

↳ *and these whom He called, He also justified;*

↳ *and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*

<sup>31</sup> *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?*

<sup>32</sup> *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?<sup>33</sup> Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;<sup>34</sup> who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.<sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

...

<sup>38</sup> *For I am convinced that neither **death**, nor **life**, nor **angels**, nor **principalities**, nor **things present**, nor **things to come**, nor **powers**,<sup>39</sup> nor **height**, nor **depth**, nor **any other created thing**, **will be able to separate us from the love of God**, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 8 can be understood two ways. The Calvinists read this is a promise that you specifically were known to God before you were born, and pre-destined to be conformed to His image and the promises follow. But this understanding violates so many other passages. And if you were fore-known, then what about those going to hell? Were they not fore-known? Did these hell-bound people surprise God?

“Who are all these sinners running around? I didn’t know this would happen...”

But if this passage refers to the church as a whole, or the promises of God fulfilled, then everything works just fine. He pre-destined the church as part of His plan, and if you choose to be in the church, you choose to be part of that destiny!

Ephesians 1 is another favorite of the Calvinists, but the same church vs individual question needs to be answered to follow the passage. Eph 1:13 lets us know that the individual becomes part of the plan after they listened and believed. The church is pre-destined, but your membership in it is not. That part is up to you.

#### ***Ephesians 1:1-14 NASB***

*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus: <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>3</sup> *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup> He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*

*...In Him <sup>11</sup> also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup> to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. <sup>13</sup> In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.*

# Do You Admire the Calvinist God?

The Bible says...	But what if TULIP is true?
<p><b>God is Love</b> (1<sup>st</sup> John 4:8).</p>	<p><b>God is Love for those He predestined</b> to be part of the elect. As for the rest of humanity, God made them to burn baby burn!!!</p>
<p><b>God is our Father</b> (Matt 7:7-12) who knows how to give us good things if we ask.</p>	<p><b>God is a father who only loves some of His kids.</b> He didn't just give up on the others, but created them for the purpose of damnation. Happy Father's Day!</p>
<p><b>God seeks relationship</b> with us (Rev 3:20).</p>	<p><b>God made a robot army</b> programmed to choose Him and made another robot army programmed to go to hell.</p>
<p><b>Nothing can separate you from the love of God</b> (Romans 8:38-39).</p>	<p><b>Unless of course He made you predestined to hell, then nothing can help you find God's love.</b></p>
<p><b>Living is about choices,</b> with the big ones leading to eternal life or eternal death and separation from God (Deut 30:15-20).</p>	<p><b>Living is about the predestined plan of God.</b> Your perception that you make choices is an illusion. You are a robot.</p>
<p><b>Marriage is a word picture of the relationship between Christ and His church</b> (Eph 5:22-33).</p>	<p><b>Marriage completely fails to illustrate our relationship with God.</b> The husband picks his wife without her consent and then she would be predestined to obey or "she wasn't really his wife in the first place" and he sends her to hell.</p>

## Calvinist Bible Stories (Just For Fun):

If we going to accept the premises of TULIP, then some famous parables and other Bible passages need some updating to be TULIP compatible. If you are a Calvinist and find this somewhat offensive, please recognize that I was predestined to add this chapter to my book, and you were predestined to read it, so any offense is unnecessary and illusionary at best.

We need to modify or remove any verses that directly teach that your faith or obedience to the Gospel is connected to your salvation. We need to remove the illusion of choice from the Bible. We need to remove any references that state you can lose the promise of salvation once gained. There are probably thousands of changes to be made, but consider this the beginning of an effort towards a Calvinist Bible.

### ***John 3:14-16 NACB (New American Calvinist Bible)***

*As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; <sup>15</sup> because those predestined to be saved are saved anyway. <sup>16</sup> For God so loved part of the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that those created to be the elect shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

### ***Luke 15:4-7 NACB – The Parable of the Lost Sheep***

*A shepherd had 100 sheep. Some of them were his favorite, and he takes care of those sheep. The other sheep he doesn't care about at all, and it doesn't really matter what happens to them. <sup>5</sup> One of his favorite sheep was separated from the fold, and he went after it and brought it home rejoicing. <sup>6</sup> The sheep damned to hell went all over the place. The shepherd pretended to love those sheep as well, <sup>7</sup> but they really don't count.*

### ***Revelation 3:20 NACB***

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. For the elect, this gives the illusion of free choice but you were predestined to open the door and participate in the meal I ordained before the world began. For those predestined to hell, this knocking just adds to their misery, since they will never truly fellowship with me, but I do like annoying my robots.*



**Mark 4:3-8, 14-20 NACB – Parable of the Sower**

*“Listen to this! Behold, the sower went out to sow; <sup>4</sup> as he was sowing, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Other seed fell on the rocky ground where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> And after the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.”*

*<sup>14</sup> “The sower sows the word. <sup>15</sup> The seed on the side of the road represents those predestined to never hear the Word of God. God’s will is that Satan takes it away from them. <sup>16</sup> The rocky ground represents those that appear to be predestined to be the elect, <sup>17</sup> but they were ‘never really saved in the first place’ so they fall away. <sup>18</sup> The same is true for the seed on the thorny ground. They were not predestined to be the elect either <sup>19</sup> so they heard the word of God but God made them to be more interested in worldly things and they fell away, just as He designed them to do. <sup>20</sup> But seed sown on good soil represents the predestined elect of God, His favorites, the ones purposed to receive His word. God’s plan continues on smoothly as they receive the seed and bear fruit in different amounts depending on the fruitfulness each was designed to show.”*

**Genesis 4:5-7 NACB**

*But for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. <sup>6</sup> Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? You were predestined to make a crummy offering, and you are predestined to not fix the problem. <sup>7</sup> I made you to kill your brother in a few days too. Don’t get too worked up about it, in a way, it really isn’t your fault.”*

Job needs some updating for the Calvinists. God asks Satan to consider how the Job robot is programmed. What will Satan do? Is Satan also a robot? So many possibilities...

***Job 1:8-12 NACB***

*The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My robot Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright robot, fearing God and turning away from evil."<sup>9</sup> Then Satan answered the Lord, "Does Job fear God for nothing?<sup>10</sup> You programmed him to follow you no matter what.<sup>11</sup> It doesn't matter what I do, he is predestined to do whatever course you set before him.<sup>12</sup> Then the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." Satan refused, since it would be stupid to try and test the programming of a robot. [End of the book of Job...]*

***Job Alternate Ending:*** *Satan has to test Job, because he is also a robot. God watches what all his robots do, then yells at three of his robots for following their programming and criticizing the Job robot.*

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*If you haven't figured it out yet, there is no NACB or New American Calvinist Bible. I wish there was, because it is an entertaining idea, but the stories here are from the NASB translation, but updated and modified by me to be compatible with Calvinist teachings.*

*Hopefully you can see how thoroughly unbiblical Calvinism really is when you ponder these passages.*

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Romans, in particular, has a bunch of false doctrine that will have to be updated to be TULIP compatible...

***Romans 3:28 NASB – Unacceptable by unconditional election...***

*For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.*

***Romans 3:28 NACB – TULIP compatible***

*For we maintain that a man is justified because he is predestined to be elect.*

***Romans 8:31 NACB***

*What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? And you can do nothing to change this. If you were predestined to go to hell, then you can do nothing to obtain God's favor either.*

***Romans 8:38-40 NACB – Two important things left out, now corrected!***

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,  
<sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, **not even willful disobedience and rebellion against God's word** will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

***(And we need to add a verse to tell the other side of the story)***

<sup>40</sup> *Of course, this promise only applies to the elect. If you are not part of the elect, then I am convinced that nothing in this world will join you to the love of God. Neither repentance, nor faith, nor belief, nor willingness, nor contriteness of heart, nor a desire for relationship, nor obedience to God's word, nor baptism, no, nothing in this world or in your heart can change your predestined circumstances. God does not love you.*

## Making the Parable of the Marriage Feast TULIP compatible is tricky. Two very different possibilities for this one...

### **Matthew 22:1-14 – The TULIP Marriage Feast – The Short Version**

*Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying,<sup>2</sup> “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son.<sup>3</sup> And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and everyone that was predestined to come, all came (obviously). No one else was invited. No one else came. It went exactly according to the king’s plan.*

*<sup>14</sup> For everyone that is called is chosen.”*

### **Matthew 22:1-14 – The TULIP Marriage Feast – The Fun Version**

*Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying,<sup>2</sup> “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to an inventor who gave a wedding feast for his son.<sup>3</sup> This inventor had created thousands of robots, some programmed to love and obey him and others programmed to hate him and intentionally disobey. Just for fun, the inventor sent a message asking all the robots that were against him to come to the wedding. Since they were programmed to disobey, they obviously did not come.<sup>4</sup> He sent out a second email instructing the rebellious robots to come, mentioning that there were upgrades and oil baths available if they complied.<sup>5</sup> Shockingly, they ignored him again and stuck to the programming he originally put in them.<sup>6</sup> Some of the robots even replied to his email by attempting to infect his gmail account with viruses and spam.<sup>7</sup> The inventor was furious that the robots did exactly what he programmed them to do. So he deactivated them and recycled their bodies.*

*<sup>8</sup> The inventor’s son was very upset that his dad had wasted all this time inviting appliances to his wedding instead of people who actually cared about them. But dad is dad, and there is no stopping him.<sup>9</sup> So the inventor sent out another message asking if any other robots would like to come to the wedding. He finally addressed it to the group of robots he programmed to obey. Those robots did obey their programming and came to the wedding,<sup>10</sup> and so the wedding hall was filled with guests.*

*<sup>11</sup> When the inventor walked into the hall, he saw a robot that was malfunctioning.<sup>12</sup> The inventor was shocked that the robot was broken.*

*<sup>13</sup> So the inventor had it thrown in the trash heap.*

*<sup>14</sup> Because robots do exactly what robots are programmed to do.”*