

## Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Date	Morning	Evening
12/28/09 Monday.....	Zechariah.....04-07	Revelation.....15-16
12/29/09 Tuesday.....	Zechariah.....08-11	Revelation.....17-18
12/30/09 Wednesday.....	Zechariah.....12-14	Revelation.....19-20
12/31/09 Thursday.....	Malachi.....01-04	Revelation.....21-22
01/01/10 Friday.....	Genesis.....01	Matthew.....01
01/02/10 Saturday.....	Genesis.....02	Matthew.....02
01/03/10 Sunday.....	Genesis.....03	Matthew.....03

The Informer is a weekly publication that is published and overseen by the Belle church of Christ located at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Oak in Belle, Missouri 65013. Our mailing address is “P.O. Box 381, Belle, Missouri 65013. The church phone number is (573) 859-6616. Robert Notgrass is the preacher. We support U. John in Prakasam, India. We will also be supporting Jeremy Desjarlais in Sydney, Australia. We are also support Steven Rogers as he studies to preach at the Memphis School of Preaching in Memphis, TN. Our church website is <http://www.bellecoc.com> . The email address is [bellecoc@bellecoc.com](mailto:bellecoc@bellecoc.com).

Our services are as follows:

### TIMES OF SERVICE

Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30  
 Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30  
 Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00  
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:00  
 Ladies Bible Class 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Evening of Each Month.....7:30

### OUR PLEA: BACK-TO-THE-BIBLE

Belle church of Christ  
 P.O. Box 381  
 Belle, MO 65013

# The Informer

Belle church of Christ

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## A Response: The Five Points of Calvinism (1)

**Jerry D. McDonald**

The following article *The Five Points of Calvinism* is written by Matthew Slick, a Calvinist who, on the front page of his website states:

“Calvinism, also known as Reformed theology, is a system of biblical interpretation that focuses on the supreme sovereignty of God, His majesty, His holiness, etc. It relates this to man's fallen, sinful nature. Because of the great chasm between God and man and because of man's sinfulness, God must predestine people into salvation...or none would be saved. Therefore, salvation is the work of God and we are the recipients of His gracious election.

To God be the glory (<http://www.calvinistcorner.com/index.html>).

In his introduction to his website he talks about God's having to predestine people into salvation or none could be saved, so salvation has to be the work of God and we are the recipients of his gracious election. In other words, it is all on God and none on us. There is nothing for us to do, we have no responsibility, no obligation. If we are lost, it isn't our fault, it's God's because God didn't choose us. If we are saved, it had nothing to do with us, it is because God decided to choose us whether we wanted to be saved or not. In other words God decides who will be saved and who will be lost based on what God wants, not what man wants. This is the belief of the Calvinist.

In this response we will look at Slick's article and respond to it and show his Calvinistic doctrine, not only to be false, but actually to be anti-Biblical.

### “The Five Points of Calvinism

There are two mains camps of theology within Christianity in America today: Arminianism and Calvinism. Calvinism is a system of biblical interpretation taught by John Calvin. Calvin lived in France in the 1500's at the time of Martin Luther who sparked the Reformation.”

Mr. Slick breaks Christianity down into two main camps which he calls Armenianism and Calvinism. This is a false concept because there are many people professing Christianity who don't subscribe to

either position. Because of his predestination beliefs he cannot see anyone who does not believe in individual predestination in some form or another.

“The system of Calvinism adheres to a very high view of scripture and seeks to derive its theological formulations based solely on God’s word. It focuses on God’s sovereignty, stating that God is able and willing by virtue of his omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence, to do whatever He desires with His creation. It also maintains that within the Bible are the following teachings: That God, by His sovereign grace predestines people into salvation; that Jesus died only for those predestined; that God regenerates the individual where he is then able and wants to choose God; and that it is impossible for those who are redeemed to lose their salvation.”

If Calvinism adhered to a very high view of scripture and was based solely on God’s word then it would not teach the ungodly doctrine that it teaches. One of the things that it does away with is humanity’s free will. Calvinists do not believe that men are free to choose to come to God. In other words, they cannot buy a Bible, study it, and obey it of their own free will. They must wait for God to decide to choose them. Mark Goldsmith, another Calvinist (though he denies being one) wrote the following:

“IS THE BIBLE ALL SUFFICIENT?  
NO!

IF THAT WERE TRUE EACH PERSON COULD PURCHASE A COPY  
AND BE SAVED. A PERSON MUST HEED THE SCRIPTURES AND CALL  
OUT UNTO THE LORD. CAN A PERSON UNDERSTAND THE  
SPIRITUAL THINGS WITHOUT THE ONE TRUE BAPTISM OF THE  
HOLY SPIRIT. THE BIBLE SAYS NO”

(<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/THECLASHGROUP/message/3026>).

This is exactly what Calvinists teach; that man cannot understand the Bible without God giving him help to understand it. So when the atheist misunderstands the scriptures, the atheist cannot be blamed; he hasn’t received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is God’s fault for not choosing him.

Joshua told the Israelites:

*"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD"* (Jos 24:15).

I heard this explained once that Joshua was telling them that since they could not serve the Lord, because they were evil, they could choose who they would serve, but he and his house were forced to serve the Lord. But we need to look at what Joshua said. He said *"If it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD..."* showing that they had made the choice not to serve the Lord because they felt that it was the wrong thing to do.

## CHURCH NEWS

## PRAYER LIST

We need to remember all those who are sick and afflicted in our daily prayers. We need to remember those who are in the nursing homes, and in the military. We also need to keep Doris Pendleton, Ruby Backus, Tex Kinman, Bill and Verna Butler, Lynna Shanks, Verma Long, Connie Gass, Nelta Brock, Cheryl Harris, Janet Patrick, Evonelle Calkins, Elnora Shanks, Dawn Tivoli, Richard Massey, the Bill Habermehl family, Adrian and Jean Swindler, Nettie B. Shirley, Dixie Stacy, Darrell Conley, and Marvin Howard and his wife in our daily prayers. We also need to remember Sandy Sarchette in our prayers. We also need to remember Danny and Barbara Keeney in our daily prayers. We also need to remember Olivia Shanks, she had tests this past week. Glenis McDonald was allowed to get out of ICU, but then was taken back to be put on a BiPAP machine. Remember Tex Kinman as he prepares for his surgery. Remember Tina Cook Lansford, Don Preston, Elwood & Ethel Runge and Elwood’s grandson, Sam. Also remember Taylor Shanks as he works through his problems, also remember the family.

THOSE TO SERVE December 27, 2009 A.M.	THOSE TO SERVE January 03, 2010 A.M.
Greeters.....Jerry & Thomas McDonald	Greeters.....Gary Wallace & David Shanks
Announcements.....Andy Shanks	Announcements.....Leroy Thomas
Song Leader.....Leroy Thomas	Song Leader.....Jerry McDonald
Opening Prayer.....Thomas McDonald	Opening Prayer.....Thomas McDonald
Lord’s Supper...Elwood Runge & Brandon Notgrass	Lord’s Supper.....Gary Wallace & Leroy Thomas
Sermon.....Robert Notgrass	Sermon.....Robert Notgrass
Closing Prayer.....Jerry McDonald	Closing Prayer.....Andy Shanks
P.M.	P.M.
Song Leader.....Leroy Thomas	Song Leader.....Jerry McDonald
Opening Prayer.....Gary Wallace	Opening Prayer.....Elwood Runge
Sermon.....Robert Notgrass	Sermon.....Robert Notgrass
Closing Prayer.....David Shanks	Closing Prayer.....David Shanks
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY	WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
Song Leader.....Leroy Thomas	Song Leader.....Jerry McDonald
Opening Prayer.....Andy Shanks	Opening Prayer.....Thomas McDonald
Devotional.....Robert Notgrass	Devotional.....Robert Notgrass
Closing Prayer.....Elwood Runge	Closing Prayer.....Gary Wallace

### **FAIR HAVEN CHILDREN’S HOME**

The items for Fair Haven’s Children’s Home will be “Hamburger Helper,” and “Mac & Cheese,” and “Spaghetti”

## **Sermons For Today:**

The a.m. lesson for December 27, 2009 is “Church Organization” The p.m. lesson will be “The Long Journey Home.”

