

**Clark A. Calvinist:** Sorry Al but the truth of the matter is, those who die holding onto a man-centered Gospel like you have, won't be in heaven [Mt 22:14] and anyway, you would hate it there. All who dwell therein were chosen by God. They did not choose Him, so you would be the odd-man out. You would definitely not be comfortable around so many people who feel so unworthy - yet so glad - to be there, to have been chosen by God in spite of their prior sinfulness, rebellion, hatred and anarchy against the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. They are glad that God used His will to overpower their will [Jn 1:13] and to redeem them by the blood of the Lamb [Re 12:11], so that they could have everlasting life. But don't fret, there's lots of room down below, and you'll have lots of company there among the many who think like you think [Ga 1:9].

**Al N. Arminian:** That's not fair. My God wouldn't create anyone just to send them to hell.

**Clark A. Calvinist:** Al, there's a huge problem with that idea, with your concept of God. Salvation is not a matter of fairness. If God was to be "fair" as you say, He would send everyone to Hell [Is 59:1-2]. But from before the foundation of the world [Ep 1:4-6] He has chosen to demonstrate His mercy, grace and love to some of the many rebellious lawbreaking sinners. And as I just said a minute ago, no one is fit for a place of such utter holiness and moral purity as heaven until and unless God converts them.

**Al N. Arminian:** But I believe God gives everyone an equal chance to get to heaven.

**Clark A. Calvinist:** Well Al, you're certainly not alone in your thinking. There's a world full of people that believe like you believe. However, salvation is not a matter of chance. It is a

matter of God exercising His prerogative to save whom He wills when He wills [Mt 20:15].

**Al N. Arminian:** I don't believe that. If that is true then all we are is merely puppets of God.

**Clark A. Calvinist:** Not exactly Al. God allows us to make certain choices and accomplish some of the things we set our minds to do [Pr 16:9]. However, because of our fallen nature, our blindness to our own lostness and sinfulness, we are incapable - if we have not been regenerated by the Holy Spirit - of choosing to worship God in Spirit and in Truth [Pr 16:2]. We are incapable of choosing the kind of God and kind of salvation plan that I have just described to you. It is a salvation plan that sounds unfair and perhaps even illogical to a mind that is darkened by sin. And that is why a supernatural act of God [Jonah 1:9] is required to bring a spiritually dead soul to life, apart from any choice or action on the part of the spiritually dead sinner.

If we have not been regenerated by the Holy Spirit we are incapable of choosing the kind of God and kind of salvation plan that has just been described to you. We either cannot comprehend it or we don't like it. In fact we don't like any salvation plan that puts us entirely at the mercy of God. This lost situation we find ourselves in does not remove from us the responsibility to completely obey God's commands (all the time) nor does it remove from us the guilt (and punishment due to us) for our many violations of God's commands.

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Web site: <http://comingintheclouds.org>  
E-mail: [mail@comingintheclouds.org](mailto:mail@comingintheclouds.org)

## A Hypothetical Conversation Between An Arminian And A Calvinist

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. [Galatians 6:14]



A Calvinist is someone who believes that no one of their own "free-will" can or will "accept" Christ until and unless they are first "born again". And a Calvinist believes that the death of Christ in and of itself is entirely sufficient payment for their sins, and that it was an act that procured for all time and eternity the salvation of their soul (and the souls of all for whom Christ died), and that it takes a supernatural act of God to convert a sinner to Christ, apart from anything that a sinner says or does. An Arminian is someone who believes that the death of Christ PLUS the sinner's decision to accept Christ gets him or her into heaven. They believe (unlike the Calvinist), that they are able to turn to Christ of their own "free-will", in spite of the fact that the Bible says the "lost" are spiritually dead [Ep 2:1].

**Clark A. Calvinist:** Al, why should God let YOU into heaven?

**Al N. Arminian:** Because... well I hate to boast... and please don't take this as boasting, because its just a fact... but I simply am better than most. I believed in Jesus while others did not. I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior while most other people did not. Yes, in fact I accepted Jesus of MY OWN free-will, because He is a gentleman and He would not force anyone to accept Him if they did not want to, so God will HAVE to let me into heaven.

**Clark A. Calvinist:** Jesus may be a gentlemen at times - whatever that means - but anyone with your kind of gospel is spiritually dead. [Ep 2:1] So, if anyone ever truly turns to Christ, it is only AFTER God makes them spiritually alive. [Ro 8:7] And as for accepting Jesus, Jesus doesn't need you to accept Him, because He is not at your mercy - you are at His mercy. You need for HIM to accept you [Ep 1:6]... and by the way, when did HE accept YOU?

**Al N. Arminian:** But my pastor and the evangelists on TV told me that I had to accept Jesus, I had to pray the "sinner's prayer" accepting Him as my Lord and Savior and I did all that. [Ro 10:3]

**Clark A. Calvinist:** The decision as to who will occupy heaven is a privilege that belongs to God alone [Is 29:16]. He decides... He is the potter. You are the clay [Ro 9:21]. God's Son was slain from before the foundation of the world - for His people [Mt 1:21]. How do you know whether or not you are instead one of the vessels of wrath that God created [Ro 9:22]?

**Al N. Arminian:** But I exercised MY free-will while just about everyone else did not. They refused the free gift God offered to everyone.

But I took it when I said that sinner's prayer.

**Clark A. Calvinist:** God's word says that your will is in bondage to sin [Jn 8:33]. How did YOU manage to get your will out of bondage? And the gift of salvation may be free, in that it is freely given - TO WHOM GOD CHOOSES [Jn 15:16] But, it is not "free" just for the taking by whomever comes along and wants a cheap ticket to heaven. God's Son dearly paid the FULL penalty [Ro 3:25] for ALL the sins of THOSE whom His Father gave to Him [Jn 6:37] to be His bride. No one will enter into Heaven for whom the Son of God did not make atonement [Mt 22:10].

**Al N. Arminian:** But the Bible says that Christ died for all [2Co 5:15].

**Clark A. Calvinist:** Al, why do you insist on interpreting words to mean what you want them to mean? God's Word uses the word "all" to refer to many things at many times. Sometimes "all" refers to the whole world. Sometimes it refers to the vast majority of people. Other times it refers to an entire group or category of people, like the nation of Israel. Many times in the New Testament it refers to both Jews and Gentiles [Jn 3:26]. God's Son died for people of all nations and tongues [Re 7:9] but not for every single person who ever lived, else Jesus would never have had to warn anyone about hell. The way you have interpreted the word "all" is in conflict with the definition of God's magnificent salvation plan by grace ALONE without ANY help or response from the spiritually dead sinner. Those who do not have God's Spirit in them do not realize that they are interpreting the passage incorrectly. [1Co 2:14]

**Al N. Arminian:** But the Bible says that God is not willing that any should perish [2Pe 3:9].

**Clark A. Calvinist:** Yes, it does say that. And what does that verse mean? From what we know of the rest of the Bible we know God's Son died so that none of those whom God the Father gave to the God the Son [Jn 6:39] will perish. God's promise [2Pe 3:9] mentioned in that verse you only quoted a portion of was a qualified promise... it was to Abraham and Abraham's spiritual descendents (God's elect), not to everyone who ever come into existence. If the Almighty desired that no single person on earth should perish, then He would have made sure that His Son had suffered for EVERY single person's sins who ever lived or died. But since many will be in hell [Mt 7:13], it *should* be obvious to you that Jesus did not suffer for every sin of every person, but rather only for His elect bride. God is a god of justice and does not punish sin twice. He either punishes the innocent Lamb of God on behalf of "the elect" or He punishes the sinner in hell forever.

**Al N. Arminian:** But the Bible says that whosoever believes shall not perish [Jn 3:16].

**Clark A. Calvinist:** Of course. And all God's elect children WILL believe. But they won't believe like you believe. They will believe that they were completely at God's mercy, undone [Is 6:5], and without hope in the world. AND they will believe this way only BECAUSE they have a new nature that is capable of understanding how spiritually blind and naked [Re 3:17] and DEAD [Ep 2:1, Col 2:13] they were prior to salvation. You apparently never considered yourself that lost. Hence, you cannot be one of God's.

**Al N. Arminian:** But I don't want to go to the other place. [Mt 25:11-12]