

Calvinism!

A Strange Doctrine Among The Brethren Assemblies!

Dr. Johnson C. Philip

Dr. Saneesh Cherian



John Calvin And His Men Killed at least 50 Christians, Fined, Tortured, And Expelled Numerous Christians, And Burnt The Houses Of Many Widows of Men Who Disagreed With His Theology. (Above: A Modern Representation Of Burning Alive At Stake)

Calvinism

A Doctrine Alien To The Brethren Is Influencing The Brethren Pulpit!

Saneesh Cherian, MA, DMin, PhD

Johnson C. Philip, ThD, PhD, DSc, DNYS

Edition: 4th Revised And Expanded Edition

Copyright: Creative Commons Copyright: 2011

You can download the latest edition of this ebook, and numerous other titles, from <http://FreeEbooks.Itz4u.com>

We encourage you to distribute unmodified copies of this ebook to as wide a readership as possible. You are also encouraged to distribute it from your website, on CDs, etc. No further permission is needed for such distribution.

Join hands with our biblical literacy project through such free distribution.

Introduction

Heresies have always existed, and they have been an attack against Christian doctrinal teachings from the beginning of first century. In the long run, Calvinism is proved as a fatal blow to worldwide evangelism. Calvinists and reformed Christians indisputably believe God doesn't love the entire world, but that He loves only a select few and they are predestined for heaven. The rest who are not chosen have no opportunity of getting into heaven.



Calvinism is a form of Theistic Fatalism. "Fatalism is the doctrine whereby all events are predetermined by fate and are therefore unalterable." Calvinism teaches that God predetermined the fate of all men by an immutable decree, such that from eternity past, every man's lot in life has been fixed and determined by the arbitrary power of God.

Worse, Calvinism also makes God the author of sin. The commentaries of Islamic scholars use arguments identical to the ones used by Calvinist scholars to rationalize the doctrine of Islamic predestination. If you remove some words such as Allah, the statements would be indistinguishable from Calvinist commentaries. Dr. Samuel M. Zwemer says that "Islam indeed in many respects is the Calvinism of the Orient." Calvinism subtly crept into Kerala Brethren assemblies and hoodwinked unsuspecting believers very easily.

Today Reformed Churches and leaders in America are trying to recover their lost doctrine of Calvinism and convert all Evangelicals to it. They have deviously infiltrated among Southern Baptists and Brethrens in America. R.C. Sproul the modern apostle of reformed doctrine in America laments the lack of Calvinism among evangelicals because most evangelicals are dispensationalists.

John Nelson Darby visited the USA in 1862, the first out of his seven visits, and converted the Baptists as dispensationalist. Today reformed movement is coming back with a vengeance in America. These Calvinists are usually anti Israel too. Let me quote Harry Ironside, the prince of expositors. "Turn to your Bible and read for yourself the only two chapters in which this word, "Predestinate" or "Predestinated" is found. The first is in Romans Ch.8.29-30, and the other is in Ephesians Ch.1:5, and verse 11. You will note that there is no reference in these four verses to either Heaven or hell, but only to Christlikeness. Nowhere we are told in the scripture that God Predestinated one man to be saved and another to be lost."

John Calvin similar to Catholics murdered the people who disagreed with his doctrine. This proves that Calvin's life was not controlled by Holy Spirit and he had no access to God's mind. Here is an example to prove that he was a barbaric terrorist.

Burning Heretics: Calvin had sent a copy of his book "Institute of the Christian Religion" to a Spanish thinker Michael Servetus. Servetus was a gifted scientist and geographer. He was the first person to accurately describe the human circulatory system. Servetus read Calvin's work, making many refutations.

Three important ideas he criticized were Calvin's teachings in Infant baptism, predestination, and Calvin's explanation of the Trinity. (Servetus had many erroneous teachings regarding Trinity). Servetus then sent Calvin's book back to him with his negative comments. Infuriated, Calvin remarked that if Servetus ever came to Geneva, he would never leave the city alive. However, the Catholic Inquisition caught up with Servetus before Calvin did. He got arrested in France (where he had fled) and sentenced him to be burned at the stake as a heretic. Servetus escaped from prison and headed to Italy. On his way to Italy, Servetus unwisely passed through Geneva. He thought it would be interesting to hear Calvin preach. But Calvin recognized Servetus in the crowd and ordered his arrest. The authorities then threw him into a horrible dungeon with no heat or light, and little food.

At his trial, Servetus was denied the right to have a lawyer or attorney. The authorities charged him with forty articles of heresy. The judge did not allow Servetus to explain or defend any of the things he had written. After hearing the evidence, the Geneva authorities condemned Servetus to be burned to death at the stake for his heretical teachings even though he wasn't a citizen of Geneva but was just passing through. The executioners chained Servetus to a stake and piled faggots of wood around him, about half of which were green. Because of the green wood, Servetus died a slow, agonizing death while the crowd watched in amusement... Those who want to know more can go to Google and search "The murder of Michael Servetus" Do you see any difference with modern day Islamic extremist like Bin Laden and Calvin?

I appreciate Dr Philip and Dr Cherian for their sincere effort to publish this valuable book. I hope you would publish it in English and Malayalam in a printed format. May our Lord facilitate you to author more books for the furtherance of His Kingdom in truth and spirit!

Dr.Sunny Ezhumattoor
Houston. Texas
February 2.2011

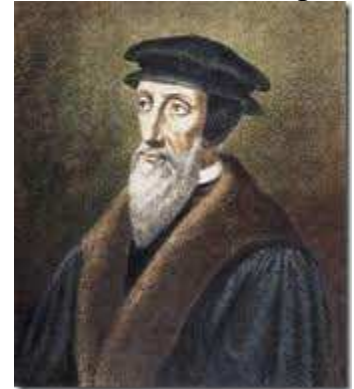
Calvinism

What Is Wrong With It?

Calvinism is a peculiar way of interpreting the Bible that made a strong entry into the Brethren Churches in India in the nineteen sixties. Several Bible teachers in the nineteen sixties went to the Hindustan Bible Institute where some of their teachers were strongly committed to an extreme form of Calvinism. It is they who introduced Calvinism among Kerala Brethren in a strong and loud way.

Eventually, one of the strongest Calvinists that India has seen, left HBI and started Bharat Bible College in Secunderabad. Due to the influence of HBI graduates among us, many younger evangelists went to BBC for their training and came back with a very strong commitment to Calvinism. Many of them became faculty members in the numerous Brethren Bible institutes that are there all over India and indoctrinated hundreds of people from the next generation in Calvinism.

Picture: John Calvin, Who Maintained That Torture And Murder Of Christians Was Perfectly Fine To Attain His Mission



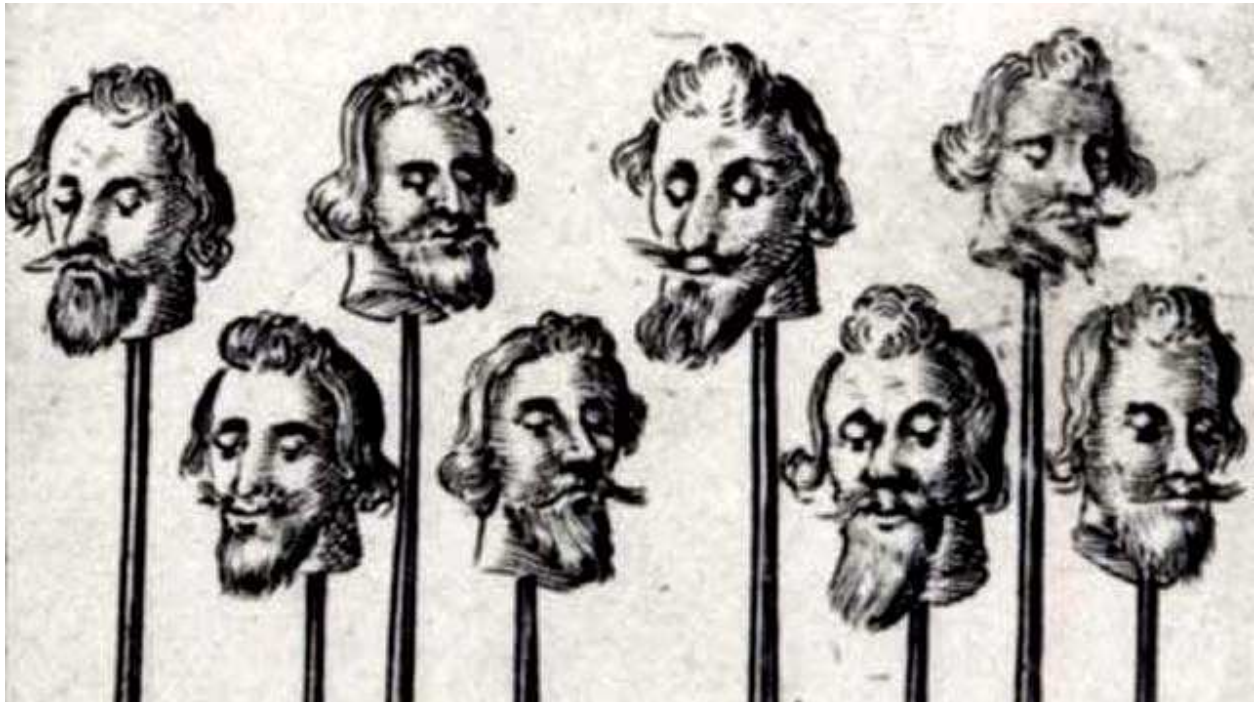
Meanwhile, the Fundamental and Independent Baptists established a number of Bible Colleges and trained a very large number of men and women in Calvinism. Many of these people eventually left the Baptist seminaries and joined the assemblies and became evangelists and Bible School teachers.

In this way thousands of Brethren men and women were indoctrinated by an extreme form of Calvinism for the last 50 years, and the result today is a very perverted way of looking at the Bible. The outsiders influenced our people from the late 1950s, and then the insiders influenced our people from late 1980s. The ultimate result has been so bad that today there are a number of people who strongly teach that the gospel should not be preached. They claim that those who are going to be saved will be saved any way, and therefore all evangelism is totally useless.

The History Of Calvin and Calvinism: The doctrine that we today call Calvinism was formulated by John Calvin who produced his Systematic Theology (known as Institutes of the Christian Religion) in 1536. Since the Protestant Reformation had started just in 1534, Calvin lived and propagated his ideas at the very start of the Protestant Reformation and that is one reason why he became very influential in spite of his errors.

The new believers did not have much else to read during those days except Roman Catholic books. There were very few Protestant writers, and those who wrote massive volumes at the beginning were read with great interest by the new believers. What is more, most people had not seen a Bible, let alone a Protestant book on theology. Thus they were not in a position to assess the doctrines and influence of Calvin and Calvinism, and thus Calvinism became all-pervasive before most people could realize what was happening.

He was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church but soon he found a place of rest in Geneva that was undergoing a spiritual renewal. There he influenced the drafting of their Constitution in 1537. It included stipulations for Holy Communion four times a year and a catechism for children. The constitution also established a spy network on people opposed to Protestantism. A moral police was also established. In effect, this was just a "baptized" Protestant form of Roman Catholic tyranny and criminal activity against those who disagreed with his brand of theology. There was no question of freedom to think.



Displaying The Heads Of Christians Who Were Beheaded Was Common In Calvin's Geneva.
All It Took Was Disagreement With John Calvin To End Up In This Manner!

Under his influence the State very soon arrested and tortured Jacques Gruet for a full month because he had dared to disagree with John Calvin. Under a month-long torture he was made to confess that he was wrong. On 25 July 1547 Gruet was killed for his dissent, with Calvin's doctrine, by cutting off his head. Not satisfied with this, for the writings of Gruet, his wife was thrown out of her house and the building was burned down by Calvin's supporters.

Not satisfied with this, in the next five years John Calvin got fifty eight people killed for differences of opinion, and banished seventy-six people out of the country for the same "offense". In addition, he got numerous eminent citizens arrested, imprisoned and tortured. Eventually he even dethroned Ami Perrin, the man who had brought him to Geneva.

Calvin believed in infant-baptism, and since Anabaptists did not practice infant-baptism, he got them banished from Geneva. Government officers were required to go house to house to examine the faith of people, and all those who did not subscribe to Calvin's form of faith were punished. The punishment ranged from fines, banishment, imprisonment, torture, killing, and burning of houses. No pity was shown to the widows and orphans and their houses were razed down with fire. Thus district by district all who were found not loyal to Calvinism were punished or banished.

A person known as "Freckles" Dunant was accused of spreading the plague. He was tortured to extract a confession, but he did not admit to the false accusation. He died due to the torture. His body was dragged to the middle of the town, and he was burned alive. Immediately after this, again under the influence of Calvin, many more men and women were caught on religious charges. For example, a hospital supervisor was charged that he

had made a pact with the devil. Soon after two women were accused of sorcery, and that due to sorcery they are spreading plague. Thus they were burnt alive on 7 March 1545.



Picture: A Modern Rendition Of Burning At Stake, A Very Painful, Agonizing, And Slow Method Of Killing People

At the request of John Calvin these executions were done hastily, instead of allowing them time to plead their innocence. People those days were executed in most barbarous way, but not satisfied with the prevailing cruelty, the executioners were instructed to be very diligent in cutting off the hands of the accused before executing them. This followed with more arrests and executions. Those that were tortured were carefully watched so that they do not die but under torture for prolonged periods of time. Most of those who were tortured by Calvin's supporters refused to confess, as they were innocent.

Often those imprisoned committed suicide to escape torture, so terrible it used to be. A total of 7 men and 24 women were executed on charges of spreading plague. Of these, 15 women were burnt alive.

Soon Calvin introduced many more harsh orders. He made a list of names and all other names were forbidden for Christians. (There were no non Christians in Geneva at that time). Dancing was prohibited, and a number of women were arrested without evidence. A woman by the name of Ami Perrin was pressurized to testify against those who danced, and when she did not do that she was thrown into prison.

Soon theologian, scholar and physician Michael Servetus was arrested and charged of heresy. Servetus was the first European to describe the function of pulmonary circulation in medicine. His interests included mathematics, astronomy, meteorology, geography, human anatomy, medicine, pharmacology, jurisprudence etc. He is renowned in the history of several of these fields, particularly medicine and theology. John Calvin played an important role in his cruel execution. Before his execution he was deliberately kept in a prison in a near naked and dirty condition where worms and insects crawled all over him and devoured his body.

Pic: Theologian, scholar and physician Michael Servetus Who Was Burnt Alive Deliberately On Slow Fire Due To Calvinism



He was burnt alive in Geneva in front of a very large crowd. A wreath full of sulfur was placed on his head. Non-dry wood was placed around him to prolong the pain of burning. He shrieked in pain, and it took him more than 30 minutes to fall unconscious due to the slow burning.

We can go on listing hundreds more of such cases, but the above would suffice to tell what John Calvin was as a person and Christian. Throughout his life he kept urging the government to keep prying into the lives of the citizens and to torture and punish them in the harshest possible way, and execute as many of them using as cruel methods as were needed.

Calvin's Theology: Today many in the Brethren circles project John Calvin as a great theologian who opened up divine truths to the people of God. When people interpret the Bible, even the most terrible heretic might state SOME truth, but this does not absolve him of the errors he teaches. Nor does this make him a model to us for Christian doctrine. In the light of this we need to have a look at some of the interesting doctrines that he taught and these include:

- **Baptism:** He taught firmly that infants are to be baptized. He taught that this was a

biblical principle, and that infants must be baptized so as to make them members of the church and also of the kingdom of God. He presented numerous arguments in favour of infant-baptism. Anyone who opposed his stand on infant baptism was fined, punished, or tortured.

- **Lord's Supper:** He taught that as soon as the bread and wine were blessed by the priest, the lord was really and physically present in the bread and wine. In other words, those who participated of the bread and the cup participated of the real body and blood of the Lord. He emphasized that the bread and cup were not symbols, and anyone who dared to suggest that these were only symbolic of the flesh and blood of Christ stood the danger of getting fined, punished, or tortured.
- **Sin and Evil:** He taught that God controlled everything to the minutest move in the Universe. Thus even for sin and evil that Adam and Even committed, he held that God was responsible. Since man had no freedom, God was the author of every sin committed by mankind, but mankind was responsible for undergoing the punishment for it. Humans were not supposed to question this arbitrariness of God. Anyone who dared to question this stood the danger of getting fined, punished, or tortured.
- **About Mary:** He maintained with Roman Catholics that Mary is to be labelled as the Mother of God.
- **About Hell:** He maintained that God had predestined the majority of the human population to everlasting hell. Though God was the ultimate author of their sins, they were going to pay the ultimate penalty for ever and ever. He also maintained that since God had predestined them to everlastig hell, there was NO way in which they could ever have been saved by accepting Lord Jesus as their Saviour. As a result he also taught that salvation was NOT available to all men.
- **About Millennium:** He believed that there was no 1000 year millennium, and opposed everyone who taught about the forthcoming millennial reign of Christ.



John Calvin And His Team Often Instructed The Executioners To Kill People Slowly So That Their Pain And Agony Would Be Prolonged As Much As Possible! So Much For Their “Christian” Values!

- **Persecution:** He believed that other than him nobody had freedom to think about Bible, doctrine, and theology. He also believed that it was his moral duty and obligation to punish, torture, and kill anyone and everyone who opposed his theology and even his whims and fancies.
- **About The Bible:** He rejected the doctrine of Bible Alone (Sola Scriptura) by repeatedly claiming that it is not Bible that should be the source of theology, but that it is theology that should decide how Bible is to be interpreted. This is Roman Catholic approach, and even today the majority of Calvinists take this stand that instead of deriving one’s theology from the Bible, the Bible is to be made subordinate to one’s theology.
- **Authority Of The Bible:** John Calvin found it difficult to establish his erroneous doctrines from the Bible and therefore he repeatedly depended upon the Church Fathers as his authority. He heavily relied upon Augustine instead of the Bible. We find the same tendency among Calvinists today. They often reject the Bible and depend upon the opinion of human writers.

- **Church/Israel:** Calvin and Calvinists reject dispensations. They pick up passages related to Israel and apply them to the church. This can be seen even among the dedicated Calvinists among the Brethren who base a large number of their arguments on the basis of passages related to Old Testament.

The Present Danger

Calvinists among us were relatively silent for decades, but they kept spreading their teachings via assembly pulpits and Bible Schools for decades. However, in recent times they have become very noisy and have started spreading their deviant teachings openly and loudly. Consider a few examples:

The First Calvinist Conference In Kerala: Some two years ago there was a Conference in Kerala for the promotion of Calvinism. Several prominent young teachers among the Brethren spoke in that meeting. Some of them very clearly declared the following points:

- It is totally false to say that the gospel of salvation is open to all. Salvation is available only to a few selected people.
- The fact that salvation is available to ONLY a few is a “Family Secret” known only to born again people.
- To the rest of the people we just keep declaring (the lie that) they can also have salvation, though in reality they cannot be saved.
- God had fixed the number of people who are going to be saved. Thus God has condemned the rest of the people to everlasting hell-fire.
- God has decided and ordained that the MAJORITY of mankind should go to hell and suffer forever and ever.
- Though God closed their way to salvation, God is justified in burning them forever in hell because God is “righteous”.

Many other strange declarations were made by the young Calvinists in this meeting and the audience was restless on hearing these barbarous proclamations in the name of the Bible. However, the speakers simply brushed aside these complaints under the pretext that they have studied theology and they know better than the others.

The dangers of such declarations are obvious to every God-fearing Christian.

The Second Calvinist Conference: There is a new Brethren Assembly in Ernakulam which has taken a cultistic form around their Calvinistic doctrines. Sometimes back they invited close to 200 selected people from around Kerala, paid them money, and taught several abominable doctrines to them. Some of my friends were there and some of them even

recorded these classes. They were so alarmed by the anti-gospel stand taught in this Calvinistic program that they informed us the same day.

One of the teachings by this person was that there is NO need to preach the gospel because it is false to say that God invites everyone. They claimed that only a few people have been selected by God, and such selected people will automatically be saved. This cultistic assembly is gradually spreading its tentacles among believers from other assemblies through secret teaching programs.

Another big LIE being taught by this group is that when the Scripture says that God so loved the world, the word “world” is the word “church” in the original Greek. Since the average believer has no idea of Greek, and since they do not doubt evangelists, they fall into this trap and read John 3:16 as “God so loved the Church that He gave His only begotten Son ...”. If any one of you has fallen into their trap, we wish to remind them that in John 3:16, and in other places where Holy Spirit uses the word “world” it means exactly that, and not the church.

Subsequent to the release of the last edition of this ebook, numerous believers contacted us and told about how this Calvinist group is stealing the mind of their members through very subtle one-to-one teaching.

Summary: Believers need to be very very careful about all kinds of alien and strange teaching that the Calvinist crowd is importing into the assemblies in India. Eternal vigilance is the cost to be paid for spiritual freedom.

Be sure to read the next chapter on The God of Calvinism and Hypercalvinism in the next chapter.

**Ideas Have Consequences! Let us saturate the world with right ideas.
You are welcome to distribute unmodified copies this Ebook in any manner that you wish!**

The God Of Calvinism, Hypercalvinism & Neocalvinism

Calvinism is the name often given to a system of thinking that was developed in seed form by John Calvin while he was still on the payroll of the Roman Catholic Church. Thus Calvinism is basically a Roman Catholic system of doctrine, though it has been baptized into the Protestant Church after Calvin left the Roman Catholic Church.

We now wish to bring the Calvinism/HyperCalvinism differentiation to the attention of our readers because some friends, after they read the first edition of this book, wrote to us that this book is dealing essentially with hypercalvinism and not with Calvinism.

While modern Calvinism was spelt out much after the time of John Calvin, and while those who have tried to give an expression to Calvinism in modern times have tried to eliminate some of the shortcomings of John Calvin's system, they have not been very successful. Calvinism, as numerous well-known and well-accepted writers have pointed out, has either got to be 5-point Calvinism, or nothing at all.

As a result, all faithful 5-point Calvinists insist that any tampering with any of the 5 points totally destroys the system. In other words you are either a 5-point Calvinist, or you are not Calvinist at all. Thus the distinction between Calvinism and Hypercalvinism is totally false. If one is a Calvinist, then he is a 5-point Calvinist. And every 5-point Calvinist has to insist the following, among others (as an illustration):

- God arbitrarily chooses who is going to be saved and who is going to be condemned.
- Those who have been chosen for condemnation cannot be saved in any way because from eternity past Christ has rejected them and, by doing so, forbade salvation for them.
- Those condemned have no freewill to choose Christ as personal Saviour.
- Even if they had a freewill, they could not have been saved because Christ DID NOT die for them. Christ died ONLY for the church.
- God arbitrarily condiments the majority of human population, billions upon billions of people, to EVERLASTING burning in hell for no mistake of theirs.
- God is glorified by arbitrarily condemning the majority of his creation because He does NOT love them.
- Verses that say that "God so loved the WORLD ..." should be interpreted to mean that God so loved the Church.

In other words, Calvinists teach a God who NEEDS to be glorified by first creating billions

upon billions of people who have an immortal soul. (Calvinists are very strong on this point that the soul is immortal and that it cannot die). Then this God needs glory by deliberately keeping salvation away from the majority so that He can burn them in hell forever and ever.

Summary: The picture of God as depicted by Calvinists is different from the picture of God as depicted by the Bible. The Scripture teaches that God is an all-loving eternal father who wants everyone to be saved.

The God of Calvinists is NOT an all-loving Father. On the contrary, he loves only some. He arbitrarily hates the rest. Like a dictator, He refused freedom of choice to the majority of mankind. He then burns them in Hell for rejecting Christ, though it is GOD who made them to reject Christ. He is a God who needs the glory from this sadistic action.

We need to abandon the erroneous view of Calvinists and need to return to the Scripture that says "For God so loved the WORLD"



Have you ever been close to an inferno? I have been. It simply singed my shirt, though I maintained a great distance. Then what about an unending eternity – if you were denied an opportunity by God to escape it?

About The Authors



Dr. Johnson C. Philip and Dr. Saneesh Cherian have been co-workers since 1995. Together they have authored dozens of books, ebooks, and thousands of articles. Their main commitment is to defend the faith and doctrine that was once delivered to New Testament believers.

Dr. Philip is based in Kochi, India and Dr. Cherian is based in Maneed, a rural township about 30 kilometers from Kochi. Almost all their writings are available free, and these are being uploaded at <http://FreeEbooks.Itz4u.com> from where you can download them totally free.

You are welcome to distribute unmodified copies this Ebook in any manner that you wish!

You can download the latest edition of this ebook, and numerous other titles, from <http://FreeEbooks.Itz4u.com>

We encourage you to distribute unmodified copies of this ebook to as wide a readership as possible. You are also encouraged to distribute it from your website, on CDs, etc. No further permission is needed for such distribution. Join hands with our biblical literacy project through such free distribution.