

SESSION 35

REVELATION

3:7-13

(DOCTRINAL APPLICATION, PART 5)

THE LAST SESSION IN 10 TWEETS

1. Dispensationalism approaches the Bible recognizing it contains DIVISIONS that must be applied RIGHTLY through STUDY & hard WORK. #WordStrong
2. The most obvious DIVISION in the Bible is the simple fact that it has an OLD Testament and a NEW Testament. #WordStrong
3. Dispensationalism recognizes that God DISPENSES grace to different PEOPLE in different TIMES according to different COVENANTS. #WordStrong
4. There are 8 Dispensations understood thru 8 Covenants: the Edenic, Adamic, Noahic, Abramic, Mosaic, Davidic, New & Eternal. #WordStrong
5. Dispensationalism is important because how you view dispensations affects your eschatology (doctrines concerning last things). #WordStrong
6. Dispensationalism is only 500 yrs old b/c prior to that time people couldn't access complete Bible's to see how it fit together. #WordStrong
7. There are two different & significant DAYS we must keep straight in the Bible: the Day of the Lord and the Day of Christ. #WordStrong
8. Each Day is connected to a person in the Godhead: the Day of the Lord is the Father's Day; the Day of Christ is the Son's Day. #WordStrong
9. Each Day is connected to a woman: the Father's Day is connected to Israel; the Son's Day is connected to the church. #WordStrong
10. Each day Day is connected to a key prophetic event: the Day of Christ... the RAPTURE; the Day of the Lord... the 2nd COMING. #WordStrong

4) The Rise of Calvinism

- **The Historical Background.**

- * Calvinism is a word used to describe a theological belief system that was popularized by _____ during the _____.
- * Because of its ties to the Reformation, Calvinism is sometimes referred to as “_____ Theology,” and sometimes as “_____ Theology.”
- * The basic tenets of Calvinism were laid down in the writings of John Calvin in what he called “_____ of the Christian Religion.”

- **Calvin’s Personal Background.**

- * John Calvin (Jean Chauvin) was born on July 10, _____ in Noyon, France, into an extremely devout _____ family.
- * Calvin’s father served as Secretary and Legal Advisor to the local Bishop, who along with his assisting priests, dominated the town– and particularly the “common people,” in a corrupt Roman Catholic Church/State setup.
- * At the age of _____, John was put on the payroll, and remained on it until he was 25, which was a full year after his apparent conversion to _____ protestantism.*
* Dave Hunt, *John Calvin’s Tyrannical Kingdom*, pg. 13
- * As a young man, Calvin entered the University of Paris to study for the _____ where “he was known for his deep Catholic piety and blunt _____ of his friend’s morals.”*
* Ibid., pg. 14
- * Shortly thereafter, in 1528, his father was unexpectedly _____ from the Roman Catholic Church, as was his brother, who was already serving as a _____.
- * At that point, Calvin’s father ordered that he _____ his pursuit of the priesthood and begin to study _____ at the University of Orleans.
- * Calvin earned a Bachelor of Laws in _____, and continued on to earn his _____.
- * Historian Will Durant writes that during this time, Calvin was still a devout Roman Catholic and “seemed dedicated to _____, when some sermons of Luther reached him and stirred him with their _____.”*
* Will Durant, *The Reformation*, pg. 460
- * By January _____, Calvin is becoming more and more vocal in support of Luther’s ideas and is forced to flee to Paris. It was there and then that he began to write his voluminous classic, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*.
- * In his *Institutes*, he writes from the perspective that he was actually a Christian from the moment he was baptized as an infant in the Roman Catholic Church saying, “...at whatever time we are baptized, we are washed and purified once for the whole life...we must recall...our baptism...so as to feel certain and secure of the remission of sins...it wipes and washes away all our defilements.”*
* John Calvin, “Method and Arrangement,” in *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, trans. Henry Beveridge (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1998 ed.), IV: xv, 3.

- * It is imperative to factor that John Calvin began writing the *Institutes of the Christian Religion* just _____ after his conversion from _____.
- * Even Calvin himself was surprised by how popular his *Institutes* had become so soon after his conversion to Protestantism. Calvin wrote, “I was greatly astonished, that, before a year passed [after leaving the Roman Catholic Church] all those who had some desire for pure doctrine betook themselves to me in order to _____, although I myself had done little more than _____.”*
 - * John Calvin, *Commentary on Psalms– Volume 1*, Preface.
- * And yet, the list of modern Calvinists sounds like a “Who’s Who” list in “Christianity!” The list includes: John MacArthur, R.C. Sproul, D.A. Carson, John Piper, Louie Giglio, Mark Driscoll, Kevin DeYoung, Josh Harris, Tim Keller, J.I. Packer, John Stott, Albert Mohler, Paul Washer, David Platt.
- * In the “Annual Special Issue” of Time Magazine dated March 23, 2009, the cover story was entitled, “10 Ideas That Are Changing The World Right Now.” _____/_____ theology was ranked number _____!
- **Two Basic Components of Calvinism: God’s _____ and _____.**

* **God’s SOVEREIGNTY.**

- Our understanding of Sovereignty...

- A Calvinist’s understanding of Sovereignty...

Calvin himself said,

“If God merely foresaw human events, and did not also arrange and dispose of them at his pleasure, there might be room for agitating the question, how far his foreknowledge amounts to necessity; but since...He has decreed that they are so to happen...it is clear that all events take place by his sovereign appointment.”

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, trans. Henry Beveridge (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1998 ed.), III: xxiii, 6.

Lorraine Boettner writes...

“Even the fall of Adam, and through him the fall of the race, was not by chance or accident, but was so ordained in the secret counsels of God.”

Boettner, *Presdestination*, p. 234. Cited in Vance p. 252

Zanchius writes...

“Surely, if God had not willed the fall, He “could,” and no doubt “would” have prevented it; but He did not prevent it; ergo (or, just stands to reason...), He willed it. And if He willed it, He certainly decreed it.”

Zanchius, p.88. Cited in Vance p.252

Arthur Pink writes...

“Plainly it was God’s will that sin should enter this world, otherwise it would not have entered, for nothing happens save as God has eternally decreed.”

Arthur Pink, *The Sovereignty of God*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1987, originally published in 1930), p. 147

Pink goes on to say...

“Not only had God a perfect foreknowledge the outcome of Adam’s trial, not only did His omniscient eye see Adam eating of the forbidden fruit, but He “decreed” beforehand that he should do so.”

Pink, *Sovereignty* p. 249

* **PREDESTINATION**

- What the Bible says about what God has “Predestined/Predestinated...”

Romans 8:28–29–

Ephesians 1:5,11–

- What Calvinists say about Predestined/Predestinated...”

John Calvin wrote this,

“Those, therefore, whom God passes by he reprobates, and that for no other cause but because he is pleased to exclude them from the inheritance which he predestines to his children...”

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, trans. Henry Beveridge (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1998 ed.) III:xxiii, 1.

And in this same section, Calvin writes,

“But if all whom the Lord predestines to death are naturally liable to sentence of death, of what injustice, pray, do they complain... because by his eternal providence they were before their birth doomed to perpetual destruction... what will they be able to mutter against this defense.”

Ibid., 3

“Of this no other cause can be adduced than reprobation, which is hidden in the secret counsel of God.”

Ibid., 4

“Now since the arrangement of all things is in the hand of God... He arranges... that individuals are born, who are doomed from the womb to certain death, and are to glorify him by their destruction...”

Ibid., 6

“God, according to the good pleasure of his will, without any regard to merit, elects those whom he chooses for sons, while he rejects and reprobates others... It is right for him to show by punishing that he is a just judge... Here the words of Augustine most admirably apply...When other vessels are made unto dishonor, it must be imputed not to injustice, but to judgment.”

Ibid., 10-11.

R.C. Sproul writes,

“If some people are not elected unto salvation, then it would seem that God is not at all that loving toward them. Further, it seems that it would have been more loving of God not to have allowed them to be born. That may indeed be the case.”

R.C. Sproul, Chosen By God, p. 32

“The sinner in hell must be asking, “God, if you really loved me, why didn’t you coerce me to believe? I would rather had had my free will violated than to be here in this eternal place of torment.”

R.C. Sproul, Chosen By God, p. 177

And Sproul continues,

“If we grant that God can save men by violating their wills, why then does He not violate everybody’s will and bring them all to salvation? The only answer I can give to this question is that I don’t know. I have no idea why; God saves some but not all. I don’t doubt for a moment that God has the power to save all.”

R.C. Sproul, Chosen By God, p. 178.

- **An Overview of the Five Major “POINTS” of Calvinism.**

T – _____

U – _____

L – _____

I – _____

P – _____ of the _____