

# The Errors of Calvinism and Arminianism

## *Study Pak 1 Score Key*

1. This course involves a basic examination of two major theological systems – \_\_\_\_\_ (a group of doctrines purporting that God preselects some to save and by default preselects others to damn) and \_\_\_\_\_ (a group of doctrines designed to refute Calvinism but go to far and teach that an individual can lose salvation) both of which have major \_\_\_\_\_ and lead to much confusion in the church.
2. After taking this course, the student should be able to \_\_\_\_\_ the errors of both theological systems using Scripture, \_\_\_\_\_ both human free will and God's sovereignty, \_\_\_\_\_ someone how the misunderstood scriptures should be interpreted in light of God's love and holiness, and \_\_\_\_\_ how these errors are causing damage in churches and the lives of Christians.
3. Those who believe the Bible to be the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Word of God will take its doctrines seriously, especially in regards to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The true \_\_\_\_\_ appeals to God's word to find His truth in the doctrines of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and human \_\_\_\_\_.
5. John Calvin was a \_\_\_\_\_ theologian who lived from \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_. He was a \_\_\_\_\_, who later became a \_\_\_\_\_ reformer.
6. The tenets of modern Calvinism are based mainly on his classic work \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ *Religion* which was published in its final edition in 1559.
7. It would not be correct to state that John Calvin developed modern \_\_\_\_\_; rather Calvinism is based on his work and has been \_\_\_\_\_ by his followers.

8. When Calvin was \_\_\_\_\_ years old his father, Gérard Cauvin (Calvin) sent him to the University of \_\_\_\_\_ to study theology.
9. Between 1528 and 1533, his father directed him to \_\_\_\_\_ his theological studies, and young Calvin worked on a more profitable \_\_\_\_\_ degree.
10. Calvin was raised as a devout \_\_\_\_\_, but it appears that he began to move toward Protestantism after reading \_\_\_\_\_ writings.
11. Protestantism retained much of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Roman Catholicism such as \_\_\_\_\_ baptism, \_\_\_\_\_ as a mode of baptism, \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ as a means of salvation.
12. This was the same error that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the religious leaders of Israel for committing. Israel too followed the writings of the rabbis in the \_\_\_\_\_, instead of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Mark 7:3-9)
13. As the \_\_\_\_\_ of Geneva he saw his role as purging the city of \_\_\_\_\_ of all kinds.
14. His \_\_\_\_\_ was to use the civil government as an \_\_\_\_\_ of the church to establish correct and strict laws of \_\_\_\_\_, but also as executing judgment and \_\_\_\_\_ of offenders.
15. Calvin based his theology almost solely on applying the \_\_\_\_\_ law, given to the Nation of Israel, to \_\_\_\_\_.  
He ignored the many passages in the New Testament and that plainly state that Christians, in this \_\_\_\_\_, are not under the \_\_\_\_\_.

16. Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are \_\_\_\_\_ under the \_\_\_\_\_, but under \_\_\_\_\_. Romans 7:6 But now we are \_\_\_\_\_ from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in \_\_\_\_\_ of spirit, and not *in* the \_\_\_\_\_ of the letter. (Memorize Romans 7:6)
17. In looking at the actions of John Calvin, it can be plainly seen that his \_\_\_\_\_, was based on \_\_\_\_\_ thought, and was administered in a tyrannical, vindictive, cruel, and unloving way.
18. In \_\_\_\_\_, Calvin was forced to leave \_\_\_\_\_ because of his unpopular views.
19. Later in \_\_\_\_\_, he was invited back. He was at first reluctant to return because of the opposition he had faced. What changed his mind was that those governing the city offered him \_\_\_\_\_ benefits and position if he would return.
20. Calvin drafted \_\_\_\_\_ ordinances that created the \_\_\_\_\_ for the Reformed Church of the city-state of Geneva. He set about in earnest to remodeling \_\_\_\_\_ into a “\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.”
21. “It was the duty of the State, Calvin thought, to use its \_\_\_\_\_-if need be, its sword-bearing arm- to \_\_\_\_\_ moral living and sound doctrine.” *Harkness*
22. John Calvin \_\_\_\_\_ many heinous \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of God. One example is the burning of Michael \_\_\_\_\_. (He committed many other atrocities that are documented in a paper called “*Is Calvinism Biblical?*” by Cooper P. Abrams, III – Read excerpt handout – required)
23. This should cause any \_\_\_\_\_ and honest person to question how could this spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ man be the founder of Protestant Reformed theology.

24. Calvin, who had denounced Roman Catholicism for its \_\_\_\_\_ beliefs and practices, was giving French refugees \_\_\_\_\_ from the Inquisition in Geneva. He himself had also been \_\_\_\_\_ to be burned at the stake absentia, but was now conducting his own Reformed \_\_\_\_\_ in Switzerland.
25. Another school of theology that came along to counter Calvinism was led by a sixteenth century \_\_\_\_\_ theologian Jacobus \_\_\_\_\_.
26. \_\_\_\_\_ believes in free will, but went too far and said one could \_\_\_\_\_ salvation.
27. In \_\_\_\_\_ Arminius arrived in Geneva to study under Calvin's son-in-law, and successor, Theodore \_\_\_\_\_.
28. Beza had made the Calvinistic position more \_\_\_\_\_ and had taught supralapsarianism - that the decrees of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ came prior to the decree to create man.
29. When Arminius was installed as pastor in \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, Calvinism was not in control.
30. Arminius had the reputation of being a brilliant \_\_\_\_\_, a gifted Bible exegete, and a humble and dedicated Christian. His \_\_\_\_\_ preaching drew large crowds.
31. Calvinism arrived toward the end of his \_\_\_\_\_-year tenure as pastor and it became strong enough to create \_\_\_\_\_ for Arminius.
32. A book was published in 1589 to \_\_\_\_\_ Beza's rigid Calvinistic position and as a former student of Beza, Arminius was asked to \_\_\_\_\_ his teacher. He concluded that \_\_\_\_\_ made God the author of sin.
33. After his death, 42 of his followers wrote their manifesto, the \_\_\_\_\_, in 1610.
34. In 1618-1619 the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ was convened and adopted a high Calvinistic statement which included the supralapsarian position of Beza.

35. Most people think you must be either a \_\_\_\_\_ or an \_\_\_\_\_. But there is a third position – the \_\_\_\_\_ Position.
36. We believe that \_\_\_\_\_ can be saved; that we can do \_\_\_\_\_ to save ourselves; that salvation must be \_\_\_\_\_ by our \_\_\_\_\_ will; that we can't \_\_\_\_\_ salvation; that there are real and serious \_\_\_\_\_ for not living a holy life.

Write the following verse:

37. Romans 7:6

## Other Atrocities for which John Calvin was Responsible

(excerpted from IS CALVINISM BIBLICAL? A BIBLICAL EXAMINATION OF CALVINISM AND ITS TEACHINGS BY Cooper P. Abrams, III)

In February 1545, a man named "Freckles" Dunant was accused of applying plague venom to the removed foot of a man who was hanged. He was tortured to death in an attempt to make him confess. He died under the torture but would not admit to the crime of spreading the plague. His body was then dragged to the middle of town and burned. This demonstrates the utter lack of compassion or any legal recourse to those who were accused under John Calvin's law. Clearly, Calvin approved and condoned such horrible acts.

On March 7, 1545, Two women were executed by burning at the stake of the crime of spreading the plague. Cottret wrote that ". . . Calvin humanely interceded the same day to keep the poisoners from being forced to languish in prison. The Council followed this happy directive and urged the executioner henceforth to "be more diligent in cutting off the hands of malefactors."<sup>19</sup>

Calvin's actions are a testimony to his lack of character and warped sense of compassion. The executions continued unabated and those who refused to confess were tortured skillfully in a way that would avoid killing them using a strappado. The strappado is a form of torture in which the victim is hung in the air by the wrists with their arms tied behind their back. During this time, two people who were accused sorcerers were decapitated. It was said they composed a plaster of grease and other villainous things that caused people to die.

A number of the victims committed suicide to end their torture. One woman who was handcuffed to keep her from taking her life threw herself out of a window to escape the torture. John Calvin not only condoned, but approved of this hideous superstitious torment.

Clearly Calvin was ruled by an irrational superstition that has its roots in paganism.

The last execution associated with the plague was on May 16, 1545, in which a total of seven men and twenty-four women were executed. A letter from Calvin attests to 15 of these women being burned at the stake. Calvin's only concern was that the plague had not come to his house.

During this period, a total of thirty-seven people were condemned for spreading the plague. The majority had made confessions, which is not surprising considering the terrible tortures they were made to endure. Calvin also had thirty-four women burned at the stake after accusing them of being witches who caused a plague that had swept through Geneva in 1545.<sup>20</sup>

In 1568, the plague returned and Calvin wrote that fifteen women had already been burned and men were punished more rigorously. Calvin's only concern in all his was that his house had been spared from the plague.<sup>21</sup>

On June 23, 1547 several women were accused of dancing which John Calvin forbid. Francoise Favre was the wife of his close friend Ami Perrin who had brought him to Geneva. However, she fell in disfavor with the court because the year earlier she had refused to testify against several of her friends before the Consistory. She again refused to testify and stood up against Calvin. She was thus imprisoned for her actions of defying the Consistory and Calvin.

Under Calvin, the Anabaptists were cruelly persecuted. He saw them as his adversaries, mainly because they rejected infant baptism and his unbiblical beliefs and practices. Cottret records “Several Anabaptists from the Netherlands were in fact found in Geneva at this time. Among these were Herman de Gerbihan and Benoit d'Anglen, banished during the winter of 1537 with some of their disciples.”<sup>22</sup>

A man named Jacques Gruet, who was a confessed atheist was accused of writing a poster against Calvin accusing him of hypocrisy and hanging it on his pulpit. He was arrested and tortured until he admitted to the crime. He was then executed by beheading on July 26, 1547 because he spoke out against the tyrant of Geneva, John Calvin.

This and many other atrocities were conducted under the direction of John Calvin and clearly show that man was a religious fanatic, a criminal, and a murderer. What makes his actions so vile is that he committed these heinous atrocities in the name of Almighty God and under the banner of upholding the truth! These people were not condemned for viable crimes, but because of superstitions, speaking their opinions, or holding beliefs that John Calvin disagreed with. Judging him by his deeds and his warped sense of Christianity, reveals that Calvin was completely devoid of human kindness, and mercy. He certainly had no hint of having the love of Christ in his heart showing no love for his fellow man.

19. Bernard Cottret, *Calvin A Biography*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 2000, p. 180.

20. Selderhuis, Herman J., *John Calvin A Pilgrim's Life*, Downer's Grove, IL, InterVarity Press. 2009, p. 139-140.

21. Cottret, Kindle Locations 2315-2316

22. Ibid.