SERMON NOTES & LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

SAYS WHO?! JOHN CALVIN, IN WAYS GLORIOUS & TROUBLING, Curt Brunk 1.17.01

Calvin: God ordains all

Human Free Will is an illusion

Salvation is by Grace Alone, i.e. God chooses you. No merit on our part whatsoever

Not even that God foreknew you would choose Him

2 of many scriptures that support this:

"No one can come unless Father draws them," Jn 6:44

"As many as were chosen believed," Acts 1348

It is true that God ordains all

Problem is, it isn't the whole truth

A few of the many scriptures that say God desires that all would respond (& that we must choose Him)

"Father's will that not one should perish," Mat 18:12-14

Jerusalem was not "willing" to respond, Lk 13:34

"God wants everyone to be saved," 1 Tim 2:3-6

God "wants everyone to repent," 2 Pet 3:9

Calvin went where Augustine and Luther refused to go

Augustine: God sovereign & real free will

Luther: God utterly sovereign but wrongful speculation to say He predestines some to hell

Calvin's view of God:

Makes God a deceiver?

Makes God a sinner?

Right Brain (meaning, Big Picture) / Left Brain (Facts, Info)

Lake Samm's Process uses whole brain, whole person, whole of life, to get to whole of God!

God uses paradoxes because they help us navigate life

Ultimately it helps us come to Him ever more deeply

So press in ala Calvin with all of intellect, energy, life…and remember, as much we come to know about Him, and as glorious as it is, there is always more!

NEXT WEEK: YouToo – God's Empowers Us to Minister

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What was striking to you about the life and faith contribution of John Calvin? What did you find admirable? Worthy of modeling after? What was questionable?
2. Curt helped us understand that the fruit of Calvin & his more radical disciples was not healthy & biblical. What tools do we have for evaluating the "fruit" of a movement or emphasis in the Church? When we are in search of godly, healthy fruit in a movement, what exactly are we looking for?
3. What do these passages tell us about the importance of our minds & intellects as Christ- followers? Romans 12: 1- 2; Acts 17: 1- 4; Coloss. 3: 1- 3; Deuteronomy 29: 29. What does it mean to be increasingly growing in a "renewed" mind? How do we press forward in this renewing?
4. Curt helped us see that we can lose something in our relationship with God & the mystery of Him, when we become fixed on a detailed theological system. What helps you know when you are needing a "course correction" in this area? What are our limitations when we seek to fully understand God and His ways?

TODAY'S OPPORTUNITY: (Remember to watch for God to move this week and tell us your testimony!)

I will pray for _____ to come to Jesus