

THE FALSE TEACHINGS OF CALVINISM

by Rev. Jim L. Bray

Calvinism beliefs are summarized by the acronym "**TULIP**", which stands for:

- T** - Total Depravity',
- U** - "Unconditional Election",
- L** - "Limited Atonement",
- I** - "Irresistible Grace", and
- P** - "Perseverance of the Saints".

So let's study these 5 main points of Calvinism one at a time.

IMPORTANT NOTE: There is ONLY ONE WAY OF TRUE SALVATION for ALL PEOPLE! You must:

(1) **BELIEVE** Christ is God's Son who died, was buried, and rose again to pay your sin's death penalty, with no way to help earn your own salvation by good works; (2) **REPENT** of your sins; and (3) **CALL ON CHRIST** to save you! So, **CALVINISTS** and **NON-CALVINISTS** get **SAVED** the **SAME WAY!** **BUT**, we disagree on **WHY** we get saved. **Calvinists** believe God saved them **BEFORE** they believed, and **Non-Calvinists** believe God saved them **AFTER** they believed.

T - "TOTAL INABILITY" or, as referred to by Calvinists, "**TOTAL DEPRAVITY**"

Calvinism teaches that "**Total Depravity**" means: Man is spiritually dead and so depraved in his sin that he is **incapable** of repenting and believing in Christ by his own choice (*unless [1] GOD CHOOSES him as one of the few "elect" to receive REGENERATION, and then [2] that enables him to put his FAITH in Christ in order to be born again..*)

BUT, Calvinists really believe in man's "TOTAL INABILITY" as stated by the **above definition!**

NON-CALVINISTS believe in the "TOTAL DEPRAVITY" of man, BUT NOT "TOTAL INABILITY"!!

By "**Total Depravity**". **Non-calvinists** mean that man is **completely depraved**, marred by sin, and there's "none that doeth good" (Rom. 3:12). They believe that it is only **after** the **Holy Spirit convicts** every individual of their sin and need for salvation (John 16:8) through repentance and faith in Christ (Mark 1:15) that **all** will **be able**, and **some** will make their **own choice** to **call on Christ** and be **saved** (Rom. 10:13).

GOD WOULD NOT COMMAND ALL MEN TO "REPENT AND BELIEVE" IF HE KNEW THAT THE NON-ELECT WERE UNABLE TO REPENT AND BELIEVE!!

Mark 11:14-15

14 ¶ Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,
15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Acts 17:30

30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

FAITH PRECEEDS REGENERATION; BUT REGENERATION DOESN'T PRECEED FAITH.

II Tim. 3:15

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (Faith preceeds regeneration!)

Gal. 3:26

26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. (children of God = regeneration or salvation)

John 20:31

31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. (Believing gives us spiritual life!)

Acts 16:30-32

30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

A SPIRITUALLY DEAD PERSON CAN BELIEVE!!!

John 11:25

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead (spiritually dead), yet shall he live (by believing):. (A spiritually dead person can become a believer, and believing makes him spiritually alive! But Calvinism teaches that we're spiritually dead and therefore unable to believe until God causes us to be regenerated!!)

Romans 1:16

16 ¶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...

U - "UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION"

2

Calvinism teaches that "**Unconditional Election**" means: God ELECTS or chooses to REGENERATE or SAVE certain "ELECT" individuals He predestines ahead of time and gives them the "gift" of FAITH so they can call on Christ to be SAVED and go to HEAVEN when they die.

God ELECTS or chooses to NOT REGENERATE or SAVE all the other "NON-ELECT" individuals, so they DO NOT RECEIVE the "gift" of FAITH and are NOT ABLE to call on Christ to be SAVED, so they go to HELL when they die!!

So, **Calvinists** believe SALVATION leads to FAITH.

BUT,...

Non-Calvinists believe FAITH leads to SALVATION.

Non-calvinists believe that "election" in Scripture means that God had the "foreknowledge" to know ahead of time those who would make their own decision to repent and believe in Christ (I Pet. 1:2 below) and were therefore "predestinated", NOT to salvation, **BUT** "predestinated" (1) to become God's "elect" adopted children by faith in Christ (Titus 1:1 and Eph. 1:5 below), and (2) to become "conformed to the image of his Son" (Rom. 8:29 below).

Since GOD "SO LOVED THE WORLD" (and He even expects US to LOVE our ENEMIES!), and since HE WANTS ALL PEOPLE TO REPENT AND NOT PERISH (II Pet 3:9), then EVEN IF God were the one who chooses who goes to Heaven (but He doesn't choose!), He would CHOOSE EVERYONE to go to HEAVEN!!

So, it's MAN who CHOOSES whether he will get saved or not, and NOT GOD who CHOOSES!!

1. Originally, ANGELS had the CHOICE of whether to obey or disobey God.
 2. ADAM and EVE had the CHOICE of whether to obey or disobey God.
 3. ALL PEOPLE since Adam and Eve have the CHOICE of whether to obey or disobey God.
- SO, GOD HAS ALWAYS GIVEN MAN THE CHOICE TO BELIEVE OR NOT TO BELIEVE.**
Therefore, SALVATION is the result of MAN ELECTING GOD, NOT GOD' ELECTING MAN!!

I Peter 1:2

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Titus 1:1

Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

Eph 1:5

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Gal. 3:26

26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. (Faith in Christ makes us a child of God!)

Rom. 8:29

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

John 3:17

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Acts 16:31

31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Acts 17:30

30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Mark 1:15

15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Acts 17:30

Ac 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Acts 3:19

19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Acts 2:21

21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Romans 10:13

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 11:26

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

John 12:46

46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

Acts 10:43

43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Rev 22:17

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Rom 1:16

16 ¶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth:

L - "LIMITED ATONEMENT"

Calvinism teaches that "**Limited Atonement**" means: BECAUSE God *ELECTS* or chooses to *REGENERATE* or *SAVE* certain "*ELECT*" individuals He predestines ahead of time and give them the "*gift*" of *FAITH* so they are able to call on Christ to be *SAVED*. Christ's **ATONEMENT** for sin is **LIMITED** to covering the **sins of the ELECT ONLY**, so there's **no need** to **ATONE** for the sins of the **NON-ELECT** since God has predestined them to **HELL** anyway!

However, there are **some Calvinists** who differ from this view because they **believe** that **Christ's atonement** was for **all men**, but they believe it is **effectual only** for **those who believe**.

Non-Calvinists believe in an "**Unlimited Atonement**". In other words, **Christ's atonement** was **NOT limited** to the **sins** of the **elect only**, but **it atoned for** or covered **the sins** of **all men** in the "**whole world**" (even though *many reject this atonement for their sin*). So, being a just God, He has given **all men** an **equal opportunity** to have **their sins atoned for** by **Christ's shed blood** on the cross " (I John 2:2 and 4:14 below).

I TIM 2:3-6

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of **God** our Saviour; 4 Who **will have all men to be saved**, and to come unto the **knowledge of the truth**. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man **Christ Jesus**; 6 Who gave himself **a ransom for all**, to be testified in due time.

II PETER 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish**, but that **all should come to repentance**. (God's will is for **all men** to **repent** and be saved!)

I JOHN 2:2; 4:14

2 And he is the **propitiation for our sins**: and not for ours only, but also **for the sins of the whole world**. 14 ¶ And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the **Son** to be the **Saviour of the world**.

Heb 2:9

9 But we see **Jesus**, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should **taste death for every man**.

Titus 2:11

11 ¶ For the **grace of God** that bringeth salvation hath appeared to **all men**,

John 1:29

29 ¶ The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

II Cor. 5:14-15,19-20

14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one **died for all**, then were all dead: 15 And that he **died for all**, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, **reconciling the world unto himself**, **not imputing their trespasses unto them**; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, **be ye reconciled to God**.

Isa 45:22

22 Look unto me, and **be ye saved**, **all the ends of the earth**: for I am God, and there is none else.

John 12:32

32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, **will draw all men unto me**.

Isa. 53:6

6 **All** we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath **laid on him the iniquity of us all**.

Romans 3:23

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 5:6, 18

6 ¶ For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 18 Therefore as by the offence of one [Adam] judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one [Christ] the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

I Tim 2:4, 6

4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

I John 4:14

14 ¶ And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world

John 3:16-17

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 4: 13-14

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Isa 45:22

22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

John 6:40

40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 1:9

9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Psa 86:5

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Rom. 1:16

16 ¶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Rom 11:32

32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

I Tim 4:10

10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

I - "IRRESISTIBLE GRACE"

Calvinism teaches that **"Irresistible Grace"** means: God in His "unconditional election" has from eternity past chosen only certain fortunate individuals called the "ELECT" to be SAVED by His GRACE. To be absolutely sure the ELECT get SAVED in spite of their own total inability to make this decision on their own, this salvation which God chooses for them by His **"GRACE"** is **"IRRESISTABLE"** to them (even if they didn't want it due to their total depravity), and then through this REGENERATION they receive the **"gift" of FAITH** so they are then enabled to repent and call on Christ to be SAVED and go to Heaven when they die.

Non-Calvinists believe that God's offer of salvation to all men by His **"GRACE"** is **"RESISTIBLE"** by man (1) because God by His sovereign choice created man in His own image (Gen. 1:27) by giving him a free will to believe or disbelieve, to surrender or resist, to accept salvation or reject salvation (John 3:18), and (2) because man is totally depraved in his sin (Rom. 8:7), and (3) because God is love (I John 4:16) and wants people in Heaven someday who choose to love Him (I John 4:19) rather than people who are forced to love Him.

EVERY MAN HAS THE CHOICE TO ACCEPT OR RESIST THE GRACE OF GOD!!!

Acts 17:51

51 ¶ Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

John 1:11

11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

John 12:48

48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day

Joshua 24:15

Jos 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Romans 10:16

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

John 5:38, 40

38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. 40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Acts 13:41

41 Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you

Acts 28:27

27 For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them

Luke 7:30

30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

Acts 3:14

14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

Acts 7:51,53

51 ¶ Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. 53 Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.

Hebrews 3:7-8

7 ¶ Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, 8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

John 3:18 - He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Exodus 18:32; 33:11

Ezek 18:32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.

Ezek 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die. O house of Israel?

P - "PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS"

Calvinism teaches that "**Perseverance of the Saints**" means: GOD will give only to those that He's chosen and predestined to be saved (the **ELECT**) the "gift" of faith so they are only then enabled to call on Christ for salvation and to persevere as saints in faith and obedience to the very end of their lives and never lose their salvation.

BUT, **Calvinism** also believes that if some fail to persevere in faith and obedience, they were not ELECT to begin with, and unsaved! *So, a Calvinist can intend to persevere all his life in faith and obedience, but he can't really know for certain that he will never fail to persevere. So, he may not have the eternal security of knowing that he'll go to Heaven someday when he dies!*

Calvinists believe their salvation depends on the believer persevering (in faith and obedience all his life.)

BUT,

Non-Calvinists believe their salvation depends on God's promises.

Non-Calvinists believe that "**Perseverance of the Saints**" means: Every believer has the eternal security and the guarantee of his salvation because it depends on God and His promise of salvation in the Word of God, and NOT on himself!

Heb 10:14

14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

John 6:37

37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Heb. 13:5b

5 ...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

John 10:28-29

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

Eph. 1:13-14

13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Eph. 4:30

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Eph. 5:30

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Romans 8:38-39

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 5:24

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Heb 7:25

25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

1 Pet 1:5

5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

VERSES CALVINISTS USE TO TRY TO PROVE CALVINISM

Matt 24:13

13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

In the context of Matt. 24, spiritual salvation is not the subject, but physical salvation of believers is the subject, enduring severe persecution of the Tribulation period, but not enduring in faith and obedience to stay saved (as the Calvinists say.) If the Tribulation believers endure the persecution until Christ returns, they will be physically saved from Antichrist's persecution of them when he and his forces are destroyed at Christ's second coming. Verse 22 says God will shorten those days for the elect's (believer's) sake so they can endure physically to the end and be physically saved from death by Antichrist when they "see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And...his angels..shall gather together his elect..."

Ephesians 1:4-5

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Because God is all-knowing with his foreknowledge "from the foundation of the world" of who would elect to be saved, and who would not elect to be saved (the non-elect), He has chosen that we as believers (elect) should be holy and without blame, and has pre-determined our destiny as His adopted children based upon his foreknowledge of our faith in Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:11-12

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

In whom (in Christ, as a believer) God has pre-determined "that we should be to the praise of his glory (since we "first trusted in Christ".) The very next verse 13 says that because we "trusted" and "believed" in Christ, we "were sealed with the holy Spirit of promise."

Ephesians 2:8

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Salvation ("saved") is the subject, so "it is the gift of God" refers to salvation, not "faith".

Romans 8:29-30

7

29 ¶ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Because of God's foreknowledge ahead of time of those who would choose to believe and be saved, He determined that (1) they should be called to repentance and faith by the Holy Spirit convicting them of sin, righteousness, and judgment; (2) that they would be justified (or saved), (3) that they would be conformed to the image or likeness of Christ, and (4) that they would someday be glorified with a new, eternal, sinless body and dwell with him in perfection for the rest of eternity!

Romans 9

(Also see entire chapter on Romans 9 in *Forewarned and Forearmed*, by Dr. Shepler)

Verse 10-13

10 And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac;

11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)

12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.

13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

Rom 9:11 - As an illustration, God chose to use Jacob rather than Esau because in God's foreknowledge He knew, even before they were born, that only Jacob ("the younger") would believe and serve God, so the purpose of God was to show that the salvation of the elect (those that believe) is based on their faith alone and not on their works after God's calls or invites them to believe (after the Holy Spirit convicts them of their need for salvation.)

Rom 9:13 - "hated" - NOT literal hatred as we think of it as directed towards PEOPLE, but directed towards their SIN and actions! God DID hate Esau's sins and actions (that Esau wouldn't offer a blood sacrifice, never became a believer etc.), but God did NOT hate Esau as a PERSON. He hated Esau's unbelief, disobedience, sins, and rebellion, but God LOVED Esau. If He didn't love Esau, then John 3:16 isn't true, and God is hypocritical when he expect us to "love your enemies". God says in **Luke 14:26** - "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." Does that mean that God wants us to literally HATE our father, mother, wife, children, brothers or sisters? Of course not!! Then, it means that in comparison to our love for God, our love for our family would seem like hate. In other words, if it ever happened (and it won't) that we would have to choose between loving God and following Him, or loving our family and following them, we should choose to love God and follow Him. This has literally happened to many people (especially Jewish converts or Islam converts) when they convert to Christianity and they know that they will be disowned by their family. Some families even have a "funeral" for them as they consider them "dead"!!!

Rom 9:15-16

15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

God has the sovereign right to show mercy to believers and send them to Heaven, and to show no mercy to continual unbelievers and send them to Hell because of their unbelief. So it is by God's own will that he shows mercy to all believers, and not because of anything that man can do to earn or deserve mercy.

Romans 9:17-18

17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

18 Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.

God hardened Pharaoh's heart further AFTER Pharaoh had already continued to harden his own heart (as shown in Ex. 8:15, 32; 9:34, 35) towards God so that he would resist letting the Israelites leave Egypt for a long while so that God might declare His name throughout the earth and show His mighty power in overcoming Pharaoh's hardened heart and refusal to let the Israelites leave Egypt. It was to show Pharaoh and all of Egypt the mighty miracles that God performed to show His power and godhead.

Romans 9:20-24

20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?

21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

22 What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:

23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,

24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

Using the context of Pharaoh in verses 17 and 18, God has the authority to make or use one person who is a believer as an **8** honorable person, and He has the authority to make or use another person who is an unbeliever (like Pharaoh) as an dishonorable person even after showing patience or longsuffering as He did with Pharaoh who was "fitted for destruction" because of his unbelief in order that God might make known the riches of His glory and grace to all believing Jews or Gentiles who He called to be saved by believing.

Romans 9:30-33 -

30 ¶ What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.

31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.

32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

In other words, in conclusion: Some Gentiles who were wicked have become believers by faith, and some Jews who practiced outward righteous living have not received true righteousness and salvation by faith because they tried to earn salvation by their good works and keeping the law.

Acts 13:48

48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Just as when a man is ordained or given approval to preach by a particular group, in the same way, many who believe are ordained or approved by God for eternal life.

II Thes 2:13-14

13 ¶ But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Because of His foreknowledge of those who would believe, God has from the beginning of time chosen you to receive salvation as His adopted son because of your belief in the truth and responding in a positive way to the Holy Spirit speaking to you of your need of salvation, and therefore you obtain the glory of salvation through faith in Christ.

John 6:37, 44

37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

In His foreknowledge of those who will choose to believe and be saved to become the bride of Christ, God the Father (as a father at a wedding) gives away this bride to His Son, and the Son will not reject or cast out this bride. No man can come to Christ and be saved as part of the bride unless God the Father draws him (encourages him to get saved) by the Holy Spirit's conviction of his sinfulness and need for salvation.

John 1:12-13

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

To those who believe and receive Christ as their Savior by faith, God gives them the right to be the children of God. They receive a supernatural spiritual birth from God into His family, **NOT** a natural physical birth from man by a blood relative, or by the natural desire to have children, or by the will of the earthly father., but by the will of the Heavenly Father, God.

John 12:32

32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

Christ will draw ALL MEN to Himself by the Holy Spirit convicting them of their sinfulness and need for salvation through the Word of God; but note that it does NOT SAY, as the Calvinists like to add, that Christ will draw all "God's elect" to Himself. Remember the warning of Rev. 22:18: "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:"