

Protestant Developments Moving Forward Into The 17th Century

- 1558-1603 The Reign of Elizabeth, Queen of England
- English “Puritans” pushed for the complete removal of all things Catholic from the Church of England (1560s & 1570s)
 - Scottish “Puritan” exiles pushed for a more “presbyterian” (“led by local groups of elders”) form of administration for the Church of England rather than an “episcopal” (“ruled by regional bishops”) form (1570s & 1580s)
 - The Parliament responded by passing laws prohibiting any deviation from the authorized forms of worship within the Church of England
 - Punishments for unauthorized preaching (1583)
 - Expulsion of Jesuit priests (1585)
 - Mandatory imprisonment for non-conformity (1593)
 - Catholics restricted to 5 miles of their homes (1593)
 - Some “Puritans” finally give up on purifying the Church of England and become “Separatists” instead
- 1603-1625 The Reign of James, King of England (King of Presbyterian Scotland since 1566)
- 5 November 1605 – “The Gunpowder Plot” was an attempt by Guy Fawkes and other dissident Catholics to blow up King James & his Parliament, permitting James’ 9-year old daughter to ascend to the throne as a Catholic, her mother being a Catholic convert from Luthernism
 - (1604-)1610 – Jamestown became the first permanent English settlement in what would become the United States; its founding members were particularly focused on financial gain; it only survived because Captain John Smith required everyone to work, regardless of class, based on Paul’s admonition in 2 Thessalonians 3:10, “He who does not work shall not eat.” Thus, **VIRGINIA** began as a majority “Church of England” colony
 - (1604-)1611 – King James allowed the production of a new English Bible translation for authorized use in the Church of England
 - 1620 – Plymouth Colony was founded by the Scrooby Separatists; their Mayflower Compact became the first official document drafted in what would become the United States of America. Thus, **MASSACHUSETTS** began as a Separatist (Congregationalist) colony.
 - Many dissenters from the Church of England now saw settlement in the New World as the potential solution to their problem – freedom of religion
 - 1623 – **NEW HAMPSHIRE** began as an English fishing colony, but was soon populated by many Separatists

Calvinism VS Arminianism

Based on public declarations by both groups during the early 17th Century

| Modern Acrostic Mnemonic Device | Basic Beliefs of John Calvin's Followers – “The Calvinists” | Basic Beliefs of Jacob Arminius' Followers – “The Armenians” |
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| T | <p>“Total Depravity” Individuals sin because they are natural born sinners.</p> | <p>Agreed. However, Armenians believed that God gave “prevenient” (“preceding”) grace to all individuals so that they might freely choose to be saved.</p> |
| U | <p>“Unconditional Election” God chose those who would be saved (and who would be lost).</p> | <p>Disagreed. Individuals can exercise free will on whether to be saved or lost.</p> |
| L | <p>“Limited Atonement” Christ only died for the saved.</p> | <p>Disagreed. The atonement is potentially available to all individuals.</p> |
| I | <p>“Irresistible Grace” The saved cannot resist God's saving grace.</p> | <p>Disagreed. All individuals have free will to resist God's saving grace.</p> |
| P | <p>“Perseverance of the Saints” Those chosen by God to be saved cannot be lost.</p> | <p>Disagreed. All saved individuals retain the free will to return to a life of sin and thus fall back outside God's saving grace.</p> |

Biblical Considerations

God said, “Fathers shall not be put to death for their sons, nor shall sons be put to death for their fathers; everyone shall be put to death for his own sin.” **Deuteronomy 24:16** (NASB95)
I personally doubt that God would contradict His own principles of justice by condemning all of Adam's children to the “Second Death” because of the sin of their “first father.”

God also said in **Ezekiel 18** (among other things), “The soul [the individual] who sins will die.” It would appear from God's own testimony that He treats everyone as individuals when it comes to their eternal destiny & that their free will plays the major role in His justice.

Jesus said (**Matthew 18//Mark 10//Luke 18**) that little children represent those who belong to the Kingdom of God/Heaven & that anyone who dared lead them into sin would be better off drowning themselves before doing so. That hardly sounds like the description of a class of persons already universally condemned to Hell because of inherited sin.

“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.” **1 Corinthians 10:13** (NASB95)
In my opinion, those words are a divine guarantee that no one is ever left with no choice but to sin.