

Responsibility of man vs. Sovereignty of God

- There are two popular views on this
 - Calvinism
 - Arminianism
- Calvinism
 - Is named after a man named John Calvin – a French theologian who lived from 1509-1564.
 - Summed up in 5 points - “T.U.L.I.P.”
 - Total Depravity – As a result of Adam’s fall, the entire human race is dead in trespasses and sins. There is absolutely no way man can save himself
 - Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10-18
 - Unconditional Election – Because man is dead in sin, he cannot initiate a response to God. Therefore, in eternity past, God has elected certain people for salvation
 - Romans 8:29-30; 9:11; Ephesians 1:4-6,11-12
 - Limited Atonement - Because God determined that certain people would be saved, He determined that Christ should die for the elect alone.
 - Matthew 1:21; John 10:11; 17:9; Acts 20:28; Romans 8:32; Ephesians 5:25
 - Irresistible Grace - Those whom God elected and Christ died for, God draws to Himself through irresistible grace.
 - John 6:37,44; 10:16
 - Perseverance of the Saints - The individuals whom God has elected and drawn to Himself through the Holy Spirit will persevere in faith. Eternal security for those who are elect.
 - John 10:27-29; Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:3-14
- Arminianism
 - Is named after Jacobus Arminius, a Dutch theologian who lived from 1560-1609.
 - Also summed up in 5 points – pretty much the opposite of Calvinism
 - Partial Depravity – Humanity is tainted by sin, but not to the extent that we cannot go to God on our own. We are capable to accept salvation without the influence of God.
 - This does not seem to be a biblical
 - **Romans 3:10-18**
 - Conditional Election – God chose who would be saved based on knowing beforehand who would believe.
 - Unlimited Atonement – Jesus died for everyone. Even for those who will are not elect and who will choose not to believe. Anyone can come to Jesus and be saved.
 - **1 John 2:2; 2 Peter 2:1**
 - Resistible Grace – Man can resist God when God calls them to be saved. We can say, “No God – I resist you” even when His grace is upon us.
 - Some think this underestimates the power and determination of God
 - Conditional Salvation – Christians can lose their salvation if they continue a life of sin and / or fall away from God. Christians have to “maintain” their salvation.
 - People try to use scripture to back this up, such as Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:26-31
 - Though the bible does say we are to “work out our own salvation with fear and trembling,” (**Philippians 2:12**) Jesus also said things like, “No one is able to snatch them out of my Father’s hand.” (**John 10:29**)
 - **1 John 5:13** - These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life,^[4] and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.
 - So the bible seems to say, “Yes once you are saved, you cannot lose your salvation, but it also says “Stay in the faith!” using strong words
- Conclusion
 - Calvinism and Arminianism are an attempt by man to explain something that is unexplainable.
 - The bible seems pretty clear that both the “Sovereignty of God” and the “Responsibility of Man” play a part in salvation
 - We shouldn’t look at the “responsibility of man” as an enemy of the “sovereignty of God”
 - Rather, we should look at them as friends “shaking hands”
 - To what extent does it all work out??
 - Only God knows! We won’t know this side of heaven

- Where does Calvary Chapel stand?
 - Calvary Chapel stands __somewhere in the middle_____.

Is there any reason to believe that each person has a guardian angel?

- People get this idea from the bible verse: _ Matthew 18:10_____
 - In context, this verse could be referring to _believers_____ or little _children_____ who have ‘their angels in heaven...’
- When people say “Guardian angel,” they are usually referring to having a specific angel assigned to a specific person
 - The bible doesn’t seem to emphatically tell us whether or not we have angels “assigned” to each of us
- What does the bible say about angels?
 - The bible gives over __300_____ references to angels
 - The word “angels” in Matthew 18 is the greek word “ang'-el-os” – which means “__messenger__”.
 - Angels are indeed __messengers__ for God
 - They are couriers / ambassadors / agents for God
 - They represent only God - never _themselves_____
 - They only carry information from God – one way messengers
 - God’s messengers to us
 - They are never OUR messengers to Him
 - Apart from God, Angels can do nothing and are nothing
 - We don’t need to “pray to angels” or “saints” to get our prayers to God
 - There is only one God and one mediator between God and man – the man __Christ Jesus__ (1 Timothy 2:5)
 - Angels are VERY __powerful__
 - In 2 Kings 19:35 - God ordered an angel to kill _185,000__ Assyrians in one night!
 - Don’t mess with angels!
 - Angels are for __believers__
 - For those who fear God and will inherit salvation
 - If BEFORE you came to the Lord, you had an “angelic experience”...
 - Then that angel did NOT come from __God__!
 - God sends angels for our _provision_____
 - 1 Kings 19 – Elijah – An angel brings him food and water
 - Angels are sent to us for __guidance_____
 - An Angel visited Mary and Joseph (Jesus’s mother / father)
 - Angel told Joseph to go through with his marriage to Mary
 - Philip is told by an Angel to meet up with an Ethiopian to share the gospel with him
 - Angels are sent for _encouragement_____
 - When Paul was about to be shipwrecked, an angel came and encouraged him
 - Angels bring __proclamations__
 - When Jesus was born, an angels proclaimed it – “do not be afraid, I bring you good tidings of great joy... there is born to you this day a savior who is Christ the Lord”
 - Angels __protect us_____
 - 2 Kings 6 – Elijah and his servants saw the angels encamped around their enemies
 - Daniel 6:22 – An angel protected Daniel in the lions den
 - We just don’t really see evidence in the bible that we have a specific angel assigned to us for our protection.
 - Angels can be sent to __rebuke_____
 - Numbers 22 – An angel rebuked Balaam
 - Angels can be sent for __judgment_____
 - Read the book of Revelation
 - We are not to __worship angels_____
 - There are times when people tried to worship an angel in the bible and the angels said, “Don’t do that!”
 - But God doesn’t need _angels_
 - He can accomplish His purposes without them
- Back in Matthew 18:10...
 - That word “their” is a collective pronoun in the greek
 - Meaning believers “in general” are served by angels

- It seems they are more attentive to ___God's commands_____ rather than watching a particular believer
- The important thing is: **God sees every believer at every moment** and He is the one we should want watching over us – more than the angels
- In the end, even if we don't have a specific angel assigned to each of us, we have the awesome assurance from God
 - All things work together for ___good___ (Romans 8:28)
 - Jesus will never ___leave___ us nor ___forsake___ us (Hebrews 13:5-6)

Do “ghosts” exist?

- If by “ghosts” you mean “sprit beings,” then yes
- If by “ghosts” you mean disembodied spirits of humans who died and are still walking on the earth, then the answer is **___NO___!**
 - The Bible negates the idea of human spirits after death remaining on earth to “haunt” the living
 - **Hebrews 9:27** - “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment”
 - Every person on earth, after death goes straight to ___judgment___
 - The result of judgment is either ___heaven___ for the believer or ___hell___ for the unbeliever. There is no “in between”
 - Believers go to ___heaven_____
 - **2 Corinthians 5:6-8, Philippians 1:23**
 - Unbelievers go to ___hell_____
 - **Matthew 25:46, Luke 16:19-31**
- So then why do we hear of these “hauntings”? What is going on?
 - There are spiritual beings that are in this world
 - ___angels_____ and ___demons_____
 - The ones in the “hauntings” are likely ___demons___
 - One account in the bible seems to be similar to a “haunting”
 - **Mark 5:1-20**
 - What about “aliens” and “monster” sightings?
 - This could also be caused by ___demons_____!
 - Demons love to deceive us
 - People tend to attribute strange phenomenon to anything other than what the Bible says
 - **2 Corinthians 11:14-15** - And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.
 - It could also be our ___imaginations_____!
 - Sometimes I think people can give demons “too much glory”
 - They see something out of the ordinary and immediately say, “it was a demon”
 - What about sickness? Can Satan cause someone to be sick?
 - Yes there are biblical examples of demons causing many problems:
 - Sickness, blindness, epilepsy, physical impairments, boils, personality changes (i.e. depression, aggression, antisocial behavior), even the ability to share information that no one has a natural way of knowing
 - Jesus healed many people of ___sickness_____ that were caused by demons
 - But not ALL sicknesses are a result of spirits
 - After sin entered the world, sickness, disease and death also entered the world
 - Sometimes we get sick by ___natural causes_____
 - God also allows sickness sometimes
 - To draw us ___closer_____ to Him!
 - 2 Chronicles 7:13-14
 - In the bible, we see that he also used it for ___judgment_____
 - Exodus 9:14, 16
 - Exodus 12:13, 15:26
 - Satan gave Job boils, But ONLY when God allowed Satan to do so

- Job 2:4-6
- God gave Satan permission to give Job those boils...
- But God also told him that he couldn't take Job's life!
 - God has Satan on a leash!
 - But God said through Paul that we shouldn't be ignorant of spiritual warfare
 - There is a spiritual battle going on – every day
- As believers, the sicknesses we get are because God allowed them, not because we have a "spirit" that we need to exorcise.
 - The bible separates demon possession from disease.
 - There are examples of people who were demon possessed and diseased, but it doesn't necessarily mean that when someone has a disease they are demon possessed
- If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you cannot be possessed by a demon
 - **1 John 4:4** - You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
 - **John 1:5** - And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend^[a] it.
 - **2 Corinthians 6:14** - "...for what communion has light with darkness?"
 - **Ephesians 2:2** – "in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient"
 - **Colossians 1:13, 14** - He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins
 - **1 Corinthians 6:19** - Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have from God? and you are not your own
 - **Romans 8:38-39** - For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 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
- In addition, there are NO biblical examples of a Christian being possessed by a demon
 - You CAN be "under the influence" of a demon – thinking incorrectly
 - For example: Peter in **Matthew 16:23**
 - But not possessed as a Christian

What is a good way to explain the difference between grace and mercy?

- Grace is getting what you don't deserve
 - Jesus dying for us so that we can have everlasting life is something we don't deserve but He gave to us free of charge!
 - If you steal \$100 from someone and they chase after you and catch you then give you another \$100 – that's getting something you don't deserve.
- Mercy is not getting what you DO deserve
 - If you stole from someone and the punishment is going to jail but the judge spares you from that, that is mercy.
 - You deserved jail, but you didn't get it
 - When an unbeliever sins against God, the punishment should be death. But God is so merciful!