

From a letter I dictated concerning Calvinism.

I agree. Normally, we are posed with two options, which are either C or A. However, that is a false dichotomy. Since this is a complex and pervasive subject, the best way to get my view on the issue is to go to our website [trinitynorman.org](http://trinitynorman.org), resources, and sermons, search “Preservation of the Saints” and there are 18 messages where I deal with the related questions. A couple of good sources are: *Chosen But Free* by Norman Geisler, *Systematic Theology* by the same, and *The Other Side of Calvinism* by Vance.

However, here is a very short answer. God’s election is unconditional from His vantage point—nothing that man did to merit it—but from man’s side it is conditioned upon faith. Man is in such a state, depraved, he cannot exercise faith or pay for his sins or know how to get right with God, nor does he seek such on his own; consequently, God, based entirely on who He is, out of His love and mercy, and not on man or what he has done, He:

Devised a plan to offer redemption to the world

Paid for the plan with His Son

Sent the Holy Spirit to convict the world of sin righteousness and judgment, which places man in a position to have a *real*<sup>1</sup> choice.

Sent disciples to tell the world—same world that is lost—that *whosoever*...includes everyone by God’s Holy Spirit convicting them.

All based on His love rather than man’s merit.

His election is not based on His foreknowledge, but rather in *accordance* with it. His predetermination and foreknowledge are coextensive.

The Tulip places adjectives in front of biblical terms e.g. atonement (limited) etc. I accept the biblical terms, but not the adjectives, at least the way they define them. Remember, I am not an Arminian either, and being Baptist I lean more toward Calvinism.

The key issue is that Mega-Calvinist<sup>2</sup> believes that regeneration precedes faith. Hence, God regenerates the elect, and they *will* believe. The Bible does not support this, it teaches faith prior to regeneration. That potential exist when the Holy Spirit moves in and places man in a situation although bound in sin, by the power of the Holy Spirit is enabled to make a real choice by faith or turn and walk away. If he receives God’s offer by faith he is regenerated.

I hope this helps.

Typed but not proofread

*Indebted*

*Ronnie W Rogers*

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<sup>1</sup> In a libertarian sense rather than merely a compatible sense. i.e., man could choose to believe or not believe based on the convicting work of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>2</sup> I term I use to include anyone who is a five point Calvinist.

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