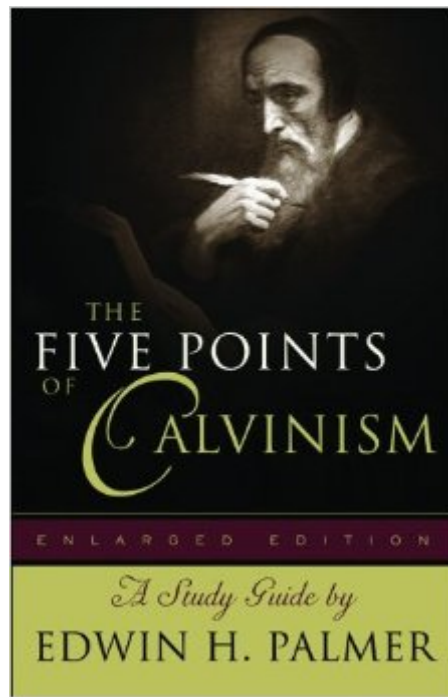


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Five Points Of Calvinism, The



Synopsis

Concise guide explains the five points of Calvinism, known as TULIP, in clear, contemporary language. Also includes The Belgic Confession of Faith, the Heidelberg Catechism, and more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Palmer's book provides a great study on predestination. Though it is such a hard concept to grasp, it is perfectly clear that scripture teaches it. Why so many sincere Christians want to try to deny its reality is truly a knock on God's sovereignty. Once you study the facts and look at free willers arguments you see that the doctrine of free will is nothing more than humanism. To anyone who thinks otherwise I challenge you to read this book. It does a great job of showing how absurd an Arminian's arguments are without being insensitive to the Arminian. A good book to add to your Christian collection.

Palmer does a better job than other authors covering this area. He does far more biblical exegesis (which you'd expect from the Executive Secretary of the NIV Bible), and his exegesis is generally more precise. (I've long wished Sproul would revise his *Chosen by God* to include more exegesis.) Palmer's methodology is sound. He raises the issues, then let's Scripture prove his (and its) point, but not in the "list of prooftexts" way that Steele & Thomas take. He exposites the passages he relies upon to bolster his argument, which is helpful. Unlike a few authors with similar books who shall remain nameless, Palmer is not an angry man, and doesn't have a chip on his shoulder or a

proverbial axe to grind. He isn't teaching "against those terrible Arminians"--he simply wants his fellow Christians to understand our neediness and God's grace--a grace he models in response. His treatment of predestination is solid, biblical and uncompromised... and kind.

Palmer's book is a helpful guide to the so-called Five Points of Calvinism. He tells us at the very beginning of his book that there is much more to Calvinism than these 5 points, and that they were not invented by Calvin. It is also worth pointing out that they are a response to a submission to the Church of Holland and not an original statement by Calvinist believers. I found Palmer's presentation compelling. I think that if you believe the Bible is authoritative, he has shown that the so-called five points are its teaching [along with much, much else]. Palmer's short account of Calvin's perseverance despite opposition and all sorts of illnesses is also a worthwhile feature of this book. If you want to pursue this topic further, I also recommend Loraine Boettner's *Reformed Doctrine of Predestination* and Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology* for more detailed treatments.

When I picked up this book I thought I wasn't ready for such a "meaty" topic. I felt that I was still too young as a Christian to be reading something like this. I know that a Christian should try to go from a milk diet to meat but I regarded studying Calvinism as a step beyond merely graduating to meat. I thought it would be a step beyond the toughest steak I ever had. Closer to "chewing on an old boot". I found the book read so easily that I found myself not wanting to put it down but then not wanting to finish it either. The Church I go to is of the Arminian leaning but I'm finding out, based on the questions I've been asking in Bible Study, that I've been leaning toward Calvinism and this book has helped answer so many questions that I had asked but never got an answer to. "Ignorance is wisdom". Accepting that there are many passages in the Bible that "seem" to contradict but then realizing that there are things that God has chosen not to reveal to us at this time and that what seems to be a contradiction is only an example of how our finite minds can't comprehend. That both the Calvinist and the Arminian could both be right. I would suggest this book for anyone that wants to know God better. You don't have to be a Bible scholar to understand or appreciate it.

Any student of reformed theology needs to have Palmer's "The Five Points of Calvinism" as a reference book. In an easy to understand manner, he takes you through the points one by one. Each point builds on the next and if you don't fully understand one, go back and reread the last point using all the scripture references given. There are questions at the end of each chapter. Two good companion books are Louis Berkhof's "A Summary of Christian Doctrine" and G. I. Williamson's

study of the "Westminster Confession of Faith."

This is a good overview of the 5 points of Calvinism, that will be valuable to both friend, foe and undecided, on the issue of Calvinism. The format of the book is written in an orderly and well organized manner, that makes it easy to comprehend. Edwin H. Palmer writes in an irenic style that is non-combative. Besides the 5 points, Edwin Palmer deals with the issue of reprobation as well. I found the chapter on total depravity to be the most interesting. I have found that many people have misconceptions about total depravity, and Palmer explains this important doctrine clearly, and what it is, and what it is not. Recommended.

A Scriptural study guide is exactly what one needs when making a decision on Calvinism vs. Arminianism. More often than not, when people are first confronted with Calvinism view of God's sovereignty and salvation, they rebel against it. The concept simply goes against the natural mind's idea of how things should be. But for the Christian, our personal feeling of how things "should be" should not be the determining factor on what to believe. The only thing that matters is: what do the Scriptures teach? So if you are struggling with this topic, get this book and go through the studies. And most importantly, look up all of the Scripture references. And for more help in this regard, you might want to check out the three chapters on this subject in my book "Scripture Workbook: For Personal Bible Study and Teaching the Bible." These chapters list hundreds of verses upholding the absolute sovereignty of God and the five points of Calvinism.

This is a great book. It is short, concise, easy to read and does an excellent job of explaining the five points of Calvinism (TULIP). It is not an exhaustive discussion, just an overview.

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