

There is only one thing that keeps me from being a Calvinist . . . THE BIBLE!

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT “ALL MEN”

1. God's desire is that all men be saved
 - a. 1 Tim 4:10 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.
2. Verses ref. “All men” and salvation
 - a. Joh 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw **all men** unto me.
 - b. Ac 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth **all men** every where to repent:
 - c. 1Ti 2:4 Who will have **all men** to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.
 - d. Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to **all men**,
3. Some say that all men are dead, and unless God raises them first, they cannot hear, believe, etc.
 - a. Arthur Pink states this as follows: *“Faith is not the cause of the new birth, but the consequence of it ... because the unregenerate are spiritually dead-- ‘dead in trespasses and sins’--then it follows that faith from them is impossible, for a dead man cannot believe anything.”*
4. Really? The amazing dead man in the Bible can do many things:
 - a. They can (love) darkness rather than light
 - i. Jn 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. 19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil.
 - b. They can hear
 - i. John 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when **the dead shall hear** the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.
 - c. They can believe
 - i. John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: **he that believeth in me, though he were dead**, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?
 - ii. 1 Pe 4:6 For for this cause was the gospel **preached also to them that are dead**, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.
 - d. They are valuable - Christ died for all of them
 - i. 2 Co 5:14 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.
 - e. They can live by having faith
 - (1) Rom 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, **The just shall live by faith.**
 - f. They can be saved by hearing the gospel (Romans 10:14-15)
 - (1) They don't get God's new birth until they hear a preacher.
5. The notion that only some men will be saved came from a man called Augustine of Hippo in the early Fifth Century.
 - a. He wrote that the church was really a body of predestined (elect) men known only to God, and that only they could be saved.
 - b. The church was defined as “the elect” and that meant to Augustine that they were saved because God elected them.