

Introduction

1. The third tenet of Calvinism, limited atonement, has been proven false
 - a. Christ tasted death for everyone ([Heb. 2:9](#))
 - b. This included the ungodly and His enemies ([Rom. 5:6-10](#))
 - c. TULIP
 - i. Total Hereditary Depravity
 - ii. Unconditional Election
 - iii. Limited Atonement
 - iv. **Irresistible Grace**
 - v. Perseverance of the Saints

I. Irresistible Grace: Defined

1. “Although the general outward call of the gospel can be, and often is, rejected, the special inward call of the Spirit never fails to result in the conversion of those to whom it is made. This special call is not made to all sinners but is issued to the elect only! The Spirit is in no way dependent upon their help or cooperation for success in His work of bringing them to Christ. It is for this reason Calvinists speak of the Spirit’s call and of God’s grace in saving sinners as being “efficacious,” “invincible,” or “irresistible.” For the grace which the Holy Spirit extends to the elect cannot be thwarted or refused, it never fails to bring them to true faith in Christ.” (David N. Steele, Curtis C. Thomas, *The Five Points of Calvinism, Defined, Defended, Documented*, Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1975, p. 49)

II. Irresistible Grace: Proof Text(s)

1. [1 Cor. 2:14](#)
 - a. The context of this passage is regarding revelation from God ([1 Cor. 2:1-13](#))
 - b. God’s revelation cannot be received without Him first revealing it, so, until the revealing it is a mystery ([1 Cor. 2:7](#))
 - c. Once the mystery is revealed, then by hearing or reading the revealed words, we can obtain the knowledge God wants us to have ([Eph. 3:1-7](#))
 - d. Nature can teach me the general revelation of God ([Ps. 19:1-6](#))

- i. I cannot learn God’s will by performing a scientific experiment, looking through a telescope, digging up rocks, talking to an animal, or consulting man’s wisdom
- e. I must go to the Bible to learn the specific revelation of God ([Ps. 19:7-11](#))
- f. I can know the truth as it has been completely and infallibly delivered ([Jn. 8:32, 17:17](#); [2 Tim. 3:16-17](#); [Jd. 3](#))

III. Irresistible Grace: Refuted

1. The Holy Spirit has been and can be resisted ([Ac. 7:51-60](#))
 - a. To resist the Spirit is to resist His spokesmen [prophets] and law ([Ac. 7:53](#))
2. God expects us to reason with Him ([Isa. 1:18](#))
 - a. Paul at Thessalonica ([Ac. 17:1-9](#))
3. God persuades through His Word
 - a. Persuasion means, “to move by argument, entreaty, or exhortation to a belief, position, or course of action” (Merriam-Webster)
 - b. Paul and Barnabas at Antioch ([Ac. 13:42-52](#))
 - i. The Jews rejected the Word of God and so too their salvation ([Ac. 13:46](#))
 - ii. There was not a “general” and “special” calling, but one calling through the gospel ([2 Th. 2:14](#))
 - c. Paul and Barnabas at Iconium ([Ac. 14:1-7](#))
 - i. God appeals to our intellect and so too does Satan’s agents ([Ac. 14:1-2](#))
 - ii. God confirmed His Word with signs ([Ac. 14:3](#); cf. [Mk. 16:20](#); [Heb. 2:4](#))
 - d. Paul at Rome ([Ac. 28:23-31](#))

Conclusion

1. The Holy Spirit can be resisted
 - a. Such is done when we reject His inspired Word ([2 Pt. 1:20-21](#))
 - b. Nevertheless, God’s Word will be our judge on the last day ([Jn. 12:48-50](#))
2. God calls all people the same way which is through the gospel ([2 Th. 2:14](#))
 - a. There is not a “general call (the gospel)” and a “special call (the Holy Spirit inwardly)” for if one rejects the gospel they are lost ([2 Th. 1:8-9](#))