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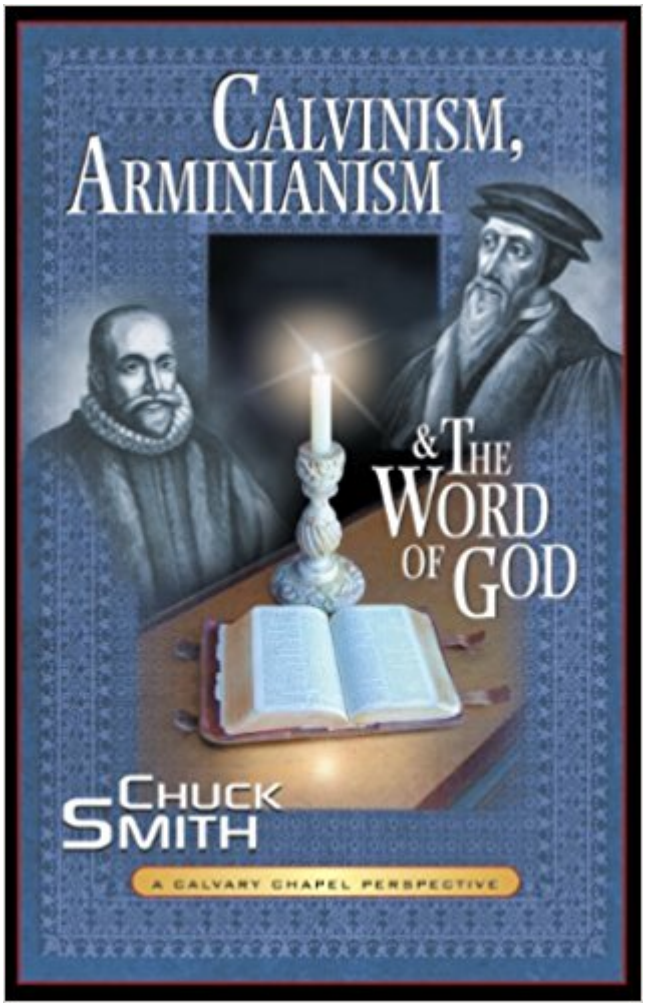
Calvinism, Arminianism, And The Word Of God: A Calvary Chapel Perspective



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Synopsis

Calvinism and Arminianism . . . since the Protestant Reformation in the 16th Century, Christian churches and leaders have disagreed over such issues as depravity, God s sovereignty, human responsibility, election, predestination, and eternal security, as well as the nature and the extent of the atonement of Jesus Christ. In the midst of this tumultuous debate, it is easy to ignore the plain statements of the Bible and to believe we have the ability to fully understand God s ways. How tragic it is when we become more concerned with being "right" than being loving. Our desire at Calvary Chapel is to bring believers together in the love and unity of the Holy Spirit, focusing on our awesome God rather than on ourselves.

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Customer Reviews

I write this as a twenty plus year member of Calvary Chapel who was Arminian (but didn't know it), but then came to believe in the doctrines of grace (Calvinism). Just to give some perspective on my viewpoint.This book is really just a booklet that is only seven pages in PDF format, so do not expect a regular sized book.In part 1, Chuck Smith outlines the history of Calvary Chapel and states his desire not to divide the body of Christ. Plus one for Pastor Chuck. Calvary Chapel has always taken pride in being balanced to avoid being divisive regarding difficult issues. That is usually a good thing.Part 2 is very brief outline of the positions of each side in the debate between Calvinism and Arminianism. This part is without commentary and is basically academic.Part 3 is Pastor Chuck's evaluation regarding the issue, going through each point using the Calvinist acronym of TULIP.

While the introduction states that Calvary Chapel does not take a stance regarding difficult issues such as this, Pastor Chuck actually goes on to take a position on the issue.Regarding the five points that are disputed between Calvinism and Arminianism, Pastor Smith explicitly takes the side of Arminianism in three of the five points regarding election, the atonement and the resistablity of grace. Regarding total depravity, Pastor Smith at first seems to side with the Calvinist position, but closer scrutiny of his position on the other points reveals that he also sides with Arminianism as well. Regarding, eternal security, no position is taken. In this booklet, 4/5 for Arminianism.In sermons I have heard of Pastor Smith's, it is apparent that he does not all embrace eternal security in the Calvinistic sense.

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