

HARD CALVINISM

YouTube Video

https://youtu.be/M5gbXJ_i7uE

When I became a Christian in 1970 I began to attend an assemblies of God 4 square gospel church in Aylesbury and on some occasions attended other churches in order to be more aware of other Christians and their ways. I was helped by several Christians and encouraged to learn about the Lord through reading the bible. I was encouraged by Gordon Smith to speak at Church meeting at a Pentecostal Holiness Church in Bierton, Aylesbury and he gave me preaching practice to the Church congregation.

He informed me that he was against what he called hard Calvinism, this was because I was learning that there were two major differing views held by Christian as to the way of salvation and the purposes of God. Those were Arminianism and Calvinism. As I studied the bible I understand that all of mankind were in a ruined state and sin before God in themselves and as the human race and only by the grace of God could a person be rescued and save from sin death and hell.

I met with several Christian friends that came to assist and encourage me in following the lord. One Christian friend was a bible student called Tommy Thompson and he was informed by other Christians that I had become a Calvinist. How one became a Calvinist I did not know but informed him that in my case had not the Lord stopped me in my tracks and spoke to me I would never have believed in God or turn from my life of crime to follow Christ.

I did not know what Gordon or Tommy Thompson thought or taught but they seemed concerned that I held views about the way of salvation then they didn't. I was seeking to establish the truth for my self as to what was taught by the Apostle in the New Testament and it would seem they thought I had become a Calvinist.

Gordon had left me with the impressing that he was against Calvinism as it prevented evangelism and that was his dogmatic opinion. He called it Hard Calvinism.

As the years passed I moved to Fareham and lost touch with Gordon until he called me one day on the telephone, in 2001, some 25 years later/ He had seen a write up in the Bucks Herald News Paper telling of the publication of testimony and story in my book *Converted on LSD Trip*. It was there and then he agreed to come with me on an evangelical mission to the to speak and teach the Gospel to inmates of New Bilibid prison, Philippines.

You see my brother Michael had become a Christian after serving 5

ears of a 16 year prison sentence and had been baptised as Christian within the Prison. We were going to bring assistance to my brother and preach the gospel to many prison inmates, in New Bilibid and Other prisons in the Philippines.

On that first mission in 2001, we preached to 100's of prisoners and during the mission we requested 100 men to write their testimonies of becoming Christians whilst in the prison. During the following year 66 inmates wrote their testimonies and we worked hard in England, along with Lucas Dangaton, and the prison inmates to compile the testimonies in the book. And in 2002, we returned to the Philippines, to the Prison and distribute a copy of the book Trojan Warriors to each inmate including the Director of the Prison and the undersecretary of Justice and other dignitaries.

How ever during the compilation process of the book Gordon wished to edit the testimony on some of the inmates because he wanted to remove references to Calvinism. You see he was opposed to Calvinism as in his opinion it prevented evangelism. You will notice reference to Calvinism in Hector Maquarods testimony and other inmates testimonies.

Alistair Sutherland a Christian friend had helped me in the drafting and compiling process agreed that we should leave the testimonies untouched and we would not tamper any of them. I felt such editing was deceitful and it was rather like Gordon being like the Pope of Rome and other men or unfaithful scribes who think they do God service by altering and modifying documents when they don't like what is written.

I mention this because I have worked with all kinds of believers. Sadly the majority are ill-informed in doctrinal matters and follow Arminian beliefs. They reject the Sovereignty of God in respect to creation, providence and grace and are unable to come to terms with predestination, and as a result, like Gordon hold wrong views that oppose Calvinism which is a subject that every believer and preacher of the gospel must be able to accommodate. This is because doctrines of grace are those truths that were brought to light in the Reformation in the 16 C and which Arminianism opposed in the 17 century.

Anyway take a look and listen to some of the prisoner testimonies and for further information about evangelical truths view the First London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1646.

