Calvinism - Part 1
An Introduction

Introduction:
A. Calvinism is a theological system affecting most Protestant churches.
   1. Especially Presbyterian and Baptist churches.
   2. It at the heart of many differences among professed Christians.
B. Calvinism is a profitable study because:
   1. It helps us understand where many religious people are coming from.
   2. Some parts of it has influenced the thinking of people in and out of the church of Christ.
   3. It is so appealing to those who desire salvation with little effort.
   4. Hence, we begin this series of studies of Calvinism.
C. In this lesson, we focus on the source and basic tenants of Calvinism.

Discussion:
I. The Source of Calvinism.
   A. John Calvin (1509-1564)
      1. Born in France.
      2. Most of his work in Geneva
      3. Became early supporter of Luther and the Reformation.
   B. “Institutes of the Christian Religion.”
      1. Influenced many of the “reformers”
      2. Influenced John Knox, the founder of Presbyterianism.
II. The Basic Tenants of Calvinism.
   A. Predestination “What is to be will be”
      2. Ill. Calvinistic offender and judge.
      3. “Free-Will Baptists” and “Primitive Baptist”
      4. Most modern Baptists modified Calvinism
   B. Imputation.
      1. Our sins imputed to Christ.
         a. Did Jesus become sinner? Pay penalty?
         b. Became sin or sin offering? (Cf. 2 Cor. 5:21)
            (1) Over 100 times OT “sin” = “sin-offering”.
            (2) Would had to suffer ETERNAL death (Rom. 6:23).
            (3) Became perfect sin offering (1 Pet. 1:18-21; Isa. 53:4-6,10)
      2. Christ’s righteousness imputed to us.
         a. Judged by our deeds, not his (2 Cor. 5:10).
         b. Saved by his life (resurrection) (Rom. 5:10; Heb. 7:25).
      3. Christ is propitiation not substitution.
         a. Blood of animals a type of perfect atonement to come.
         b. Blood of animals could not take away sin only blood of Christ (Heb. 9:8-12).
   C. The “Tulip”
      1. Total Hereditary Depravity.
         a. All of Adam’s decedents have inherited his sin and fallen depraved nature.
         b. Babies are born sinners with a depraved nature.
         c. Without divine intervention, one cannot do any righteous deed.
      2. Unconditional Election
         a. God chooses “the elect” to be saved unconditionally.
         b. God chooses all others to be lost unconditionally.
         c. Consistent Calvinists do not believe in evangelism.
      3. Limited Atonement.
         a. Jesus died only for the elect.
         b. The blood of Christ is available only to the elect.
      4. Irresistible Grace
         a. The elect are saved by God’s irresistible grace.
         b. By this grace man is given faith and repentance that they cannot resist.
      5. Perseverance of the Saint
         a. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to the sinner.
         b. The saint is one to whom God will not impute sin.
         c. “Once saved always saved.”

Conclusion:
A. Have only laid out an overview of Calvinism.
B. Will give more detailed answers to these error in the lessons to come.