

My Faith and What I Believe

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[9]. **Roman Catholicism** and **Calvinism** represent two extremes within what's called "Christendom". **Both reject scriptural teachings** of salvation by faith, in Christ, through God's word, by God's grace, for God's glory alone. **Both acknowledge Saint Augustine for major teachings.**

Revelation 22:17 presents a simple rebuke of both Calvinism & Catholicism

"And the Spirit and the bride {Church} say, 'Come.' ... And let **the one who is thirsty** come; let **the one who wishes** take the water of life **without cost.**"

World Book Encyclopedia 1995, pg: 888

St. Augustine is credited with being a leader in Roman Catholicism: "Augustine believed that people could not receive God's grace unless they belonged to the **Church** and received the **sacraments.**"

and someone whose:

"ideas also appeared in the teachings of John Calvin."

"**Augustine** preached that people could not change their sinful ways unless helped by the grace of God. He believed that **God chooses only certain individuals to receive His grace.** This belief forms part of a **doctrine** called **predestination or election.**"

Wiley Publishing, Inc. - Catholicism for Dummies: by Rev. John Trigilio Jr., PhD, ThD and Rev. Kenneth Brighenti, PhD.

"The Catholic Church doesn't see itself as being right and all other religions as being wrong, but **Catholicism** does firmly believe that **Jesus Christ** himself **founded the Catholic Church**, and therefore, the Church **possesses all the truths and graces necessary for salvation**, whereas other faiths possess only some (partial) truth and grace. You can think of it like this: Catholicism sees itself more like someone who knows everything about mathematics versus someone who knows only algebra, geometry, or trigonometry. The Church believes that all religions know some truth, but it knows more. She doesn't claim perfect or total knowledge of science,

philosophy, or other disciplines, but in the area of faith and theology, the Church believes that she has been given the fullness of the truth and the mission to teach it to all nations.” (pg. 99).

“The Catechism of the Catholic Church has this to say about **Baptism by desire**:

*Since Christ died for all ... we must hold that the Holy Spirit offers to all the possibility ... Every man who is ignorant of the Gospel of Christ and of His Church, but seeks the truth and does the will of God ... **can be saved.**

It may be supposed that such persons would have **desired Baptism** explicitly if they had known its necessity. (CCC-1260).”

Crossway Books - The Doctrines of Grace by: James Montgomery Boice and Philip Graham Ryken 2002 pgs. 81 and 92.

“Augustine said that **man**, having used his free will badly in the Fall, **lost both himself and his will.** The will is free of righteousness, but enslaved to sin. It is **free to turn away from God, but not to come toward Him.**” (pg. 81).

“... salvation is absolutely and solely of grace - that **God is free ... to save none, few, many, or all, according to the sovereign good pleasure of His will** ... it depends on God ... ***God acts as a sovereign in saving some and passing by others** who are left to the just recompense of their sin.” (pg. 92).

Gary Westgerdes comments:

Roman Catholicism sees salvation as: **Faith in Christ plus**, the teachings of the **Church and** obedience to the reception of the **sacraments**, either **explicitly or implicitly**, to receive or earn God’s grace.

Calvinism sees salvation as: An **unknown happenstance** or a random method of distributing God’s gift of grace. I believe those adhering to the teachings of Calvinism may have become Christians through a true faith in Christ but were latter exposed to and accepted Calvin’s and Augustine’s false theology; a false theology, in my experience, which leads or hinders non-believers from seeking Jesus with all their heart and thus missing out on

God's gift of forgiveness and everlasting life.

“For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life”
John 3:16.

Christians see salvation as: The gift of God available to all who humbly acknowledge their sin, repenting of them and turning to Jesus Christ in faith for the forgiveness of their sin which Christ paid for with His own blood.

: The gift which comes by –

Faith, which comes through hearing or reading

God's word. (no religious dogmas)

A faith which is **in Christ.**

A faith without personal merits, **by God's grace.**

And All for God's Glory Alone.