

conditional election is inconsistent with his creed, when he objects to any doctrines that they are pernicious; for if God has decreed to save a certain and definite number, and has passed by the rest, left them to perish, how can anything be pernicious? Irresistible grace is pernicious, because (1) it tends to discourage anxiety with respect to the salvation of the soul. If a person really believe that God has determined to save a favoured number only, and to exclude all the rest from saving blessings, giving them only common grace, to render them responsible and fatten them for hell, will not such a belief repress in his soul anxiety about his salvation? Or if, by some means, he become anxious, what effect can such a belief have on him, but to drive him into insanity? Oh this doctrine is a deadly upas which exerts a withering influence on those who believe it! We are anxious to see it cut down and cast into oblivion. (2) It tends to root out of the soul the sense of responsibility to believe the gospel. In proportion as a person believes that God, in a past eternity, fixed the destinies of all men, and saves all whom he designs to save by omnipotent energy, in that proportion will the feeling of responsibility to believe the saving gospel be weakened within him. He may say, he cannot believe until God give him the irresistible touch. (3.) It misrepresents and distorts the character of God, taken in connection with the entreaties and invitations addressed to men in the Bible. Because, if God has determined, by omnipotent energy, to save some men only, and has passed by the rest, why does he entreat and invite all to come to Jesus and be saved, and at the same time threaten them with hell for non-compliance with these entreaties?

The above are some of the reasons why we reject the Calvinistic dogma of irresistible grace. Reader, you may have been waiting for an overpowering influence to come on you and convert you in a moment. You have been waiting for what God has not promised. The Spirit has been dealing with you to lead you to Jesus. It is your immediate duty to yield to him, by believing in Jesus as your Saviour, for now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation.

In our next we shall consider some of the passages, which are usually advanced by Calvinists in proof of their doctrine of the direct, immediate operation of the Spirit on the soul to regenerate it, before, and in order that, it may believe the gospel.—A.