

REVISITING CHRIST'S MESSAGE TO TODAY'S EVANGELICALS
Part IV: Christ's Offer To Wean Us From Evangelicalism's Factions To Himself

B. Christ's Cross-Before-The-Crown Solution Applied

1. Christ's Offer To Use Calvinist Opposition To Wean Us From Its Faction

**a. Christ's Offer To Use Calvinist Slander To Shift One's FAITH In Calvinism To Him
(Revelation 3:18b[a])**

I. Introduction

- A. After Christ in Revelation 3:17b critiqued the five points of Calvinism and the Arminian errors that parallel those points, He gave the *solutions* to *three* of the **Calvinist errant points in Revelation 3:18b**.
- B. The **first** error that Christ taught **how** to **address** was **Calvinism's third point**, its errant view of *faith* (that led to Calvinism's errant view of Limited Atonement), and Christ taught this truth in Revelation 3:18b[a]:

II. Christ's Offer To Use Calvinist Slander To Shift One's FAITH In Calvinism To Him, Rev. 3:18b[a].

- A. Jesus counseled the pastor **first** to buy from Him "gold refined in the fire" in Revelation 3:18b[a] NIV.
- B. **Scripture's use** of this phrase shows that this **action** entails a pastor's *facing slander* from **Calvinists** to wean him *from relying* on the *Calvinist establishment* for *material wealth* to *rely on Christ* to be "*rich*" in *faith*:
1. Besides Rev. 3:18b[a], the *only other* New Testament reference to *a trial that produces what is NAMED as GOLD tried in the fire* is **1 Peter 1:7** (Moulton & Geden, *A Concordance To The Grk. Test.*, p. 1019).
 2. The *historical context* of **1 Peter 1:7** with the *historical context* of **Rev. 2:9**, *another trial-producing-wealth-context*, reveal that the *trial* in **Rev. 3:18b[a]** is *slander* from *Neo-Platonist-influenced Calvinists*:
 - a. In **1 Peter 1:7**, believers were "rich" in *faith* by *pagan slander* over their withdrawal from pagan society, what led to Rome's first persecution of Christians (*B. K. C., N. T.*, p. 838; *Z. P. E. B.*, vol. Four, p. 411).
 - b. Later, *pagan Neo-Platonist Porphyry* critiqued Christians to defend paganism, adding to Rome's 10 great persecutions of Christians. Believers in that **Rev. 2:9** era of *Smyrna* became *materially poor* but "*rich*" in *faith* via *slander* (E. M. Burns, *Wes. Civ.*, 6th ed., p. 235; *Camb. Anc. His.*, 1971, v. XII, p. 207, 630-648).
 - c. [Also, ancient Laodicea was *materially rich* (Rev. 3:14, 17), but it *signified today's spiritual poverty* in *faith* in **Evangelicalism** – the *opposite* of *Smyrna* (Douglas, gen. ed., *The New Bib. Dict.*, 1973, p. 717).]
 - d. In addition, in our past study on Calvinism's *third* point in Rev. 3:17b[c], we learned that Christ alluded to **1 Peter 1:7** to *critique Calvinism's view* that God provides a *gift* of *faith* to the elect so that they can *even believe*, a view that *counters unsaved man's free will that is taught in Scripture (as in John 3:16)*.
 - e. *Calvinism's errant view* on *faith* began with *Augustine* whose *Neo-Platonism* led him to *deny* that the *unsaved* have *free will* (Warfield, *Calv. & Aug.*, reprint 1974, p. 375, 378, 395-397; *Ibid.*, Burns, p. 272).
 - f. Thus, *Christ* in Rev. 3:18b[a] calls a *pastor* to let *Christ arrange* for *him* to *clash* with *Calvinists* so that he must *assert* that the *unsaved* have *free will* to *align* with *Scripture*, *leading Neo-Platonist-influenced Calvinists errantly* to *slander* him as being a *self-meritorious Pelagian*, what is true *only* of *Arminians* (Boettner, *Ref. Doc. of Pred.*, p. 47-48; Williston Walker, *A Hist. of the Christ. Church*, 1959, p. 168).
 3. We thus describe *HOW* such activity *produces* the **EDIFYING RESULT** *planned* by **Christ** (as follows):
 - a. Christ calls a pastor to ask Him to arrange that he *conflict* with *Neo-Platonist-influenced Calvinists* in *standing* with *Scripture* (like John 3:16) to say that *unsaved man has free will versus Calvinism's view*.
 - b. **IF** the *pastor HEEDS Christ*, his **STAND critiques** the **whole Calvinist ESTABLISHMENT**, and **Neo-Platonist-influenced Calvinists**, like **ancient pagan Neo-Platonist Porphyry**, view that pastor's **STAND** as a **THREAT** to their **ESTABLISHMENT** (Gal. 6:12), so they *slander* the pastor, **errantly** calling him a "**Pelagian**" [where only Arminians are Pelagian] (1 Peter 4:4-5; John 15:18-22; Galatians 4:29)!
 - c. **IF** the pastor **KEEPS his Scriptural stand**, Christ *spiritually edifies* him (1 Peter 2:25; John 14:21, 23) and *builds up* his *faith* (1 Peter 1:7) and *love* for *Christ* with *resulting great joy* (1 Peter 1:8).
 - d. The pastor then *stops relying* on the *Calvinist* wing of *Evangelicalism* for *material security* to *rely* **INSTEAD** on *Christ* for *His provisions* (like believers in the era of *Smyrna* did), gaining "*rich*" **faith!**

Lesson: *Christ calls a pastor to ask Him to lead him to clash with Calvinists to support Biblical free will. His stand threatens the Neo-Platonist-influenced Calvinist establishment like early Christians threatened the pagan Neo-Platonist establishment of Porphyry, so akin to Porphyry, Calvinists will slander the pastor as "Pelagian," and the pastor must keep his stand to cease relying on the Calvinist establishment for material security to rely on Christ.*

Application: *May all believers by faith in Christ hold to Scripture's revelation that unsaved people have free will!*