

**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**

**c. Christ's Offer To Use Calvinist Opposition For "Eye Salve" of SPIRITUAL INSIGHT  
(Revelation 3:18b[c])**

**I. Introduction**

- A. After Christ critiqued the five points of Calvinism and the Arminian errors that parallel those points in Revelation 3:17b, He gave the *solutions* to *three* of the **Calvinist errant points in Revelation 3:18b**.
- B. The **third** errant point that Christ teaches **how to address** is **Calvinism's fourth point**, its errant view of *irresistible grace* regarding the *Holy Spirit's conviction of God's truth*, and Christ teaches it in Rev 3:18b[c]:

**II. Christ's Offer To Use Calvinist Opposition For "Eye Salve" of SPIRITUAL INSIGHT, Rev. 3:18b[c].**

- A. Jesus counseled the pastor *third* to "buy" from Him "salve to put on your eyes, so you can see," 3:18b[c] NIV.
- B. Isaiah 55:1 reveals that to "buy" anything from Christ means to receive it from Him as a **gift** by God's *grace*, and aside from Revelation 3:18b[c], **only** in John 9:1-39 elsewhere in Scripture does *Christ graciously* apply a *poultice* to one's *eyes* to give him *physical* sight (Jn. 9:1-7) that also leads to his *spiritual insight*, Jn. 9:35-39.
- C. The Rev. 3:17 context reveals that the "sight" **today's** Evangelicals need is *spiritual insight*, so we study the healing event in John 9:1-39 to discern how Christ *graciously gives spiritual insight* in *our* era of the Church:
  - 1. To heal a man **born blind** on a *Sabbath* to *get* the *attention* of the *Pharisees* who **LEGALISTICALLY forbade healing** on the *Sabbath*, Jesus put a *poultice* of mud on the blind man's eyes and *sent* him *across Jerusalem* to wash it off in the pool of Siloam (Jn. 8:59-9:7; The MacMillan Bible Atlas, 1968, p. 139).
  - 2. The man returned seeing, so the city people who noticed it brought him to the Pharisees *who argued among themselves* over *whether* Jesus was **not from God** for healing on the *Sabbath* or *if* He **was from God** since a *sinner* could **not do such miracles!** The healed man heard the *Pharisees' arguing* and *sided* with the BIBLICAL view that Jesus **was** from **God**, so he confessed that Jesus was a **prophet**, Jn. 9:8-17.
  - 3. The Pharisees later unitedly LEGALISTICALLY called Jesus a sinner and tried to get the healed man to agree with them (v. 24-28), **but the healed man detected** the *Pharisees' conflict with the BIBLICAL view that a sinner could not heal him – so he asserted that view to assert that Jesus was righteous! The healed man's *assertion angered* the *Pharisees*, so they *excommunicated* him, John 9:31-34, 22.*
  - 4. Jesus later asked the healed man if he trusted in the Son of Man, the Daniel 7:13-14 title for God Incarnate. When Jesus explained that He was that Son of Man, since the healed man had already **logically concluded** that **Jesus was from God**, he **accepted** Jesus' *claim* and **trusted** in **Him**, John 9:33, 35-38 NIV.
  - 5. So, in *applying a poultice* to the eyes of the blind man, Jesus *arranged* that he **discern an UNBIBLICAL view in the Pharisees' beliefs** that **led** the healed man to increasing discernment of seeing Jesus as a *man* (Jn. 9:11) to being a *prophet* (Jn. 9:17) to being **God Incarnate** (Jn. 9:35-38) so he could be **saved!**
- D. In application, Christ advises a pastor to ask Him to **arrange** for him to **conflict with Calvinists** that this pastor might **discern unbiblical errors** in **Calvinism**. When the pastor voices his awareness of the errors, the **Calvinists** will **oppose him**, driving that pastor to seeing **increasing levels of Bible truth** in **contrast** to **increasing levels of error** in **Calvinist theology** (1 Corinthians 2:11-15; 2 Timothy 1:13-14).
- E. [For example, **Calvinist theology conflicts with the Protestant Reformation's Biblical Five Solas**: (1) In contrast to Sola Fide (salvation by faith alone), Calvinism holds one is **regenerated BEFORE** he **believes** (L. Boettner, Ref. Doc. of Pred., p. 162-164), **that one is ALREADY SAVED APART FROM FAITH!** (2) This view counters **Scripture's** Ephesians 2:8-9 claim that salvation is through **faith** in **violation** of Sola Scriptura (Scripture alone as authoritative). (3) Thus, **Scripture's teachings** on Solus Christus (salvation by Christ alone), Sola Gratia (salvation by grace alone), and Soli Deo Gloria (glory to God alone) are **also countered** by Calvinism that places its view of justification above Scripture's teaching and authority on it, for by countering Scripture's authority, Calvinism treats Scripture's teaching on **all the solas** as being **non-authoritative!**]

**Lesson:** (1) *Christ advises a pastor to ask Him to arrange for him to be cornered into conflicting with Calvinists so that the pastor will discern and voice his discernment of Calvinism's conflicts with Scripture.* (2) *Calvinists will react by opposing the pastor, what drives the pastor under Christ's oversight to gain even more discernment!*

**Application:** *May we all ask God for "eye salve" to grow in discernment of Calvinist errors and of Bible truth!*