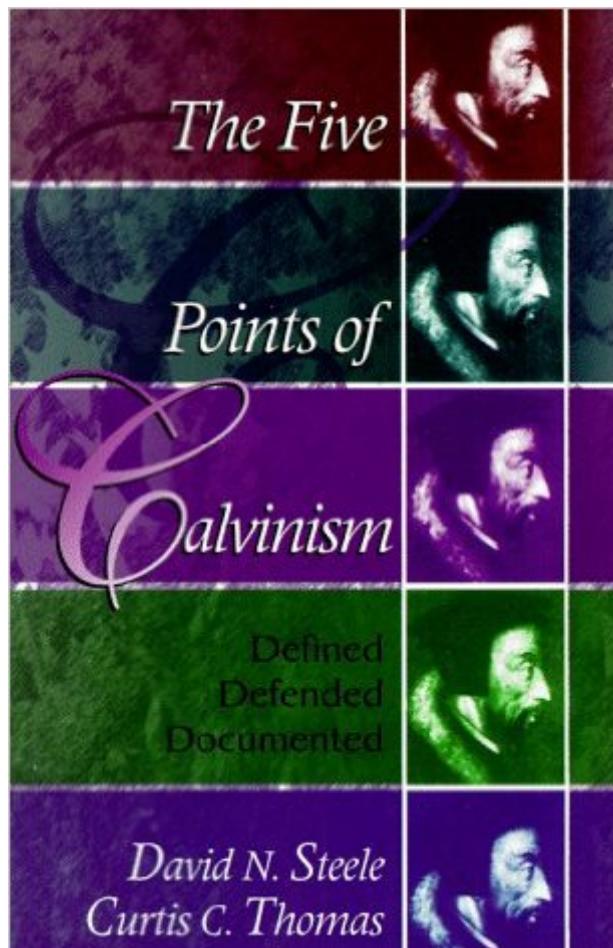


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The Five Points Of Calvinism: Defined, Defended, Documented



Synopsis

Book by Steele, David N., Thomas, Curtis C.

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Customer Reviews

Every disciple should read and study Steele's book, THE FIVE POINTS OF CALVINISM. Wherever you find yourself on the debate of Calvinism, this book is needed to help you learn the five main points of Calvinism first coined at the Synod of Dort. The book deals with both the history, theology, and philosophy of Calvinism and seeks to show that Calvinism is both logical and biblical. The book is an excellent resource for defending or attacking Calvinism because of its popularity and its presupposition that Calvinism can be defended from Scripture. I would highly recommend the updated form of this book with a new appendix on Divine Foreknowledge.

Concise and excellent summary of Arminianism vs Calvinism debate. A great gift and quick read for those with whom you want to discuss the basic core issues of Reformed faith with the unique assurance and hope it brings to the heart through the Word. Long list of biblical references! Especially nice to have numerous reference works listed for further study and scholarly exegesis on the "foreknew" of Romans 8:29. Buy it and hand it out to those in need (besides yourself)!

This little book is a must for anyone interested in knowing exactly what Calvinists believe from true Calvinists. The authors go out of their way to demonstrate their positions from a Biblical point of

view, and they do so in a convincing manner.

There is no shortage of introductory works that attempt to explain the five points of Calvinism, and some of these efforts have been better than others. This work by Steele and Thomas, though 40 years old, is still one of the better introductions around. In this short work, the authors attempt to provide a summary level construction of the five points of Calvinism - what they are, where they come from, and how they differ from other theological systems. Readers who are interested in the historical development of the five points will likely find the concise and summary historical introduction to be satisfactory on an introductory level. This section does not attempt to argue for the truth of Calvinism, but rather sets the historical context for how the 5 points came into being. The comparison chart at the end of this section which contrasts the 5 points of Calvinism with the 5 points of the Remonstrance is very good and has been relied upon heavily ever since this book came out. It is in the second section that the authors attempt to advance a Biblical argument for each of the 5 points. As in other introductory works of this nature, the Biblical argument is made mainly by quoting multitudes of Scripture verses without extensive exegesis. The only significant exegesis is in the appendix, where they provide a more extensive analysis of the foreknowledge question in Romans 8:29, which is quite good. But if this book were anything other than an introductory work, the lack of exegesis (other than Romans 8:29) would be a serious flaw. But as the authors point out, their purpose is to set forth the 5 points and to highlight how, in their view, each point of Calvinism is highly reconcilable to Scripture throughout. What makes this book better than average in this regard is that they do a very good job of organizing each tenet made in each point in a logical fashion and then presenting Scripture passages that touch on each assertion of each point. The result is a highly organized and lucid presentation that stands in stark contrast to the scattered and disorganized presentations of other introductory works. Another plus for this book is that the authors truly seem to recognize that the limited objective of this book calls for more extensive research and analysis by interested readers. In that regard, they compiled an impressive and rather extensive (not to mention highly organized) further readings section at the end. Because the book was written 40 years ago, this resources section is obviously a bit dated, but the compilation presented is excellent in its survey of pre-1960 resources which interested readers can consult for more in-depth theological analysis. In summary, I have personally known folks who were uncommitted in their theology who picked up this book and gained great theological clarity from it, even if they didn't altogether agree with Calvinism. In that spirit, I echo the comments of other reviewers here who have applauded the straight forward clarity and fairness of this book in succinctly outlining the 5

points of Calvinism and why Calvinists believe they are thoroughly Biblical. As an introductory work in theology, this book is very good for what it tries to do.

Many books are written about Calvinism, but the particular strength of this book lies in the richness of Scriptural support. Of course, because of its small size compared to exhaustive works such as Calvin's, it does not cover passages which are seemingly contradictory to this teaching. I have recommended John Murray's book as a response to a reviewer's question about passages that include words like "every man," "the world," and "all." The Steele and Thomas book also shows that one-point, two-point, ...etc. Calvinism is logically inconsistent, though I agree that more must be read on the subject if one is not convinced by this book. I was an Arminian when I first read this book and I could instantly see the problem with my beliefs after I had finished reading it. My next book was John Murray's "Redemption Accomplished and Applied" (0802811434).

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