

Neher: When you talk about changing people's terminology, a lot of times I've seen literature, as I've tried to find literature that would be helpful, which has used the Five Points system as a sort of bridge to show Calvinistic distinctives. Like the Steele and Thomas book, for instance. Instead of using a book like that, say if we were going to teach a S.S. class, what do you think would be the most helpful way to deal with a group which would be perhaps prejudice against Calvinism, but we have free reign to teach and . . .

AAM: I would think the best way would be to use Scripture passages and bring it in incidentally as the Scripture brings out the divine control. We're not part of a hit and miss thing, but God has His hand on everything that happens. God has a purpose in it all. He has a purpose for us. One of us is born into a poor environment in the heart of Africa, or China, and another is born in opulence. God knows all about that. He put us there. He has a definite purpose in mind. He is interested in developing us in line with His plan and to say it's all hit and miss is completely contrary to Scriptreal approach. God has planned the whole thing, but He also has given us responsibility and we have to make decisions. To say you can't make decisions except as the grace of God enables you to, of course. But you certainly feel as if you are making a decision, and you certainly feel as if you are ^{deciding} ~~denying~~. In fact, the strongest books for divine election that present grace as if it were so completely foreplanned that there is nothing in the world you can do about it, they will go into tremendous attacks upon the wickedness of wicked men that don't accept the Lord and the hardness of their hearts, etc. Well, that implies a choice on the part of those people. It implies that man has a responsibility. Our choices are real choices. They are not just going through a motion. I think that's obvious to anyone who studies Scripture. To me that's the great vital thing in Calvinism that saves it from just a hit and miss universe that we can't help. But I don't think the Lord sends us here in order to eexplain all the mysteries of the universe. He sends us here into a universe that is so complicated that no human being can possibly