

You talk to somebody 50 times and you may make no impact upon him. The 51st time they may come to Christ. You may speak to someone else once and they come and rejoice in the Lord. God knows what the situation is. He wants you to be diligent. He wants you to be active and He will use your activity.

People have such a misunderstanding about this term five point Calvinism. There is no such thing as a five point Calvinism. Look at Hodge's theology, for 100 years the great book of Calvinistic theology. Look up 5 points of Calvinism in there in the index, and you won't find it. You have the 5 points of Arminianism there. The Arminians who attacked Calvin attacked 5 particular points, but those are not the primary points of Calvinism at all. And somebody unfortunately in answering the 5 points of Arminianism found that they could be worded in such a way as to make an acrostic with using the word TULIP. Therefore in some cases used titles for them that easily give an utterly false impression. Like Limited Atonement --- there's nothing limited about the atonement! The Atonement is sufficient for all though it is efficient for the elect. There is Particular Atonement, no question about it. But Limited Atonement is a term that they made in order to get an acrostic. And acrostics can be helpful, but they can be very harmful in giving a false impression.

So God wants us to be builders and as it says here "let every man take heed how he builds thereon." Every man is to build thereon. I have known people who you might call exactly what is said here. What we were criticizing. I have known people who felt what's the use of trying to lead anybody to the Lord. If they're going to be saved they will be saved. Why help somebody to grow in grace? If they are going to grow in grace, God will take care of it! But let's have a big argument to convince them of the truth of Calvinism. Well, that's utterly inconsistent of course. We're not going to be saved or lost because we believe in Calvinism or not. But I believe we will receive great comfort (from it) in understanding the Scriptures. But we are going to be saved or lost according to whether or not we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and God wants us to be His instruments to witness to others.

We hear about great Christian workers doing a great work and spending millions of dollars to build great beautiful cathedrals. Wonderful buildings, glass cathedrals, etc. I think that's wood, hay and stubble. It may look be very pretty. It may be very attractive today. Perhaps there's no harm in it, but it will be swept away by the fire. But what they have done to reach people for the Lord Jesus and what they've done to help people to grow in grace, that's the gold, silver, and precious stones and that's what God wants each of us to think about and work on, and it should be so important to us that we are not going to fight over little issues to prevent it.

I was at an ordination one time, and the address was given by a man who said, I went to be pastor of a church, and I found that the people there thought it was a sinful human indulgence to go fishing. So then I felt it was my Christian duty to go fishing and show them I did not agree with them on it." I think that's utterly silly. That may be an extreme case, but it's easy for us to take the attitude, I'm going to do the way I want to do, the way I think things should be done." Paul said, I will be all things to all men that I may win some to the Lord." As you go out into your work to serve the Lord, It may be that you're going to work among the people who are working along the water-front, Or you are going to work down in the bowery. Then it may be best you dress and look like a hobo!