

I answered, I have no power to judge of the sincerity of any man. We cannot tell who is saved, But God knows His own. God knows those who are sincere, those who belong to Christ and we have a right to know it ourselves. We have a right to know that we have sincerely turned to Him and called upon God to take our lives and to direct us through life and to use us for Himself. We have a right to know whether we have sincerely done that or whether we have not. So a person has a right to know that he is saved, but we have no right to know that the other person is saved.

I tell you if you believe in Christ, if you have from your heart accepted Him as Saviour, if you have placed your confidence in Him you are saved through all eternity but whether you do it or not is between you and the Lord and He only knows. If you have truly believed in Christ you may fall into sin, you may fall aside, but you will sometime come back. Even if it is on the last breath of life you will if you truly have believed in him. God knows those who are His own. So rightly understood this fifth point is one to give us real assurance, great help, great blessing. But the term can be very misleading.

So I think this TULIP has done great harm. It has done harm in giving people a false idea because of these very unfortunate terms that were selected to make an acrostic and it has done great harm by making people get a false idea of what Calvinism is. So it is by all means unfortunate that such a terminology developed.

Anyone who truly believes in the Scripture must believe in the greatness of God. Must believe that God controls all things. The man who does not believe in God is in darkness. He is in a world in which there is no meaning at all. He is in a world which no one can understand. I've known people who have been willing to speak frankly with me as to what they thought their atheistic ideas led to. One man said to me, a professor in a state university, a man of very excellent character having been brought up in a fine Christian home and been turned away from the teachings in which he was brought up, he said, All we can do is to build on a firm foundation of unyielding despair! What a belief! What an attitude! Of course many many don't think.

Many simply echo the words they have heard. Many simply do not realize what the world is if it is not a creation and that which is completely controlled by the mighty God.

When I was in college a speaker gave an illustration that impressed me very much. If you think of this great complicated universe with all its forces moving in all these directions, he said you can compare it to a great flywheel a hundred miles in diameter going around 1000 revolutions a minute. He said on the edge of the flywheel there is a little fly. The fly thanks the flywheel was made for the fly. He said that's the attitude of so many human beings. The flywheel was made for the fly.