

THE ELECT

(CODE NAME)

OPERATION T-U-L-I-P

ANOTHER MASS MEETING of fallen angels and demons great and small is convened. Again the grave warning is pronounced: "Something must be done. Missionaries are still going out. Not as many as before because we were successful in our last joint project to get the saints to sign on the **credit** line. (See 'Give the Demons Credit') Many are presently so bound up with debts they'll never get to the fields and cannot support those who want to go. However, we still are faced with that stubborn 2% of those who dedicate themselves and are getting out to the fields and confusing our people. One of the enemies is that missionary Will Tellum. In fact, the Victor E. Family just left for a new field. We have got to make a plan that will stop the mouth of Will Tellum."

False Prophet, renowned inventory of evil devices, bolts to his feet. "A plan, yes, we need a plan. The plan must be so shrewd that we can even deceive the very elect. That's it! **ELECT!** We'll name our plan **The Elect.**"

Lucifer fumes, "False Prophet, you've lost your mind. What are you talking about --**The Elect?** You must know that's a doctrine of some Christians. What kind of a plan would that be for us?"

"Clever, my father. Clever as the devil, er...umm... clever as yourself. We'll defeat Will Tellum with doctrine, time-proven doctrine of our own. But we must not slip up. We've got to turn the Scriptures upside down using a verse here, picking another there, taking them from their contexts. Change the basic meaning... just a little. Confuse the ultimate issue. Use logic and human reasoning. Yes, to defeat Will Tellum, we must use the Scriptures as he will listen to nothing else."

"Okay, okay, F. P. What's in your cranium now? Spit it out so we can join in the game, interrupts old Serpent."

"Our plan," begins False Prophet, "will be called **The Elect**, code name to be **Operation Tulip**. We have got to convince Will Tellum and all his co-visionaries that God does not want **all** to be saved, but only the elect. We've got to convince them that God does not love all the world, only the elect whom God selected long before the world began. But crucial to all is that Christ did not die for all the world, only for the elect."

"Stop!" roars Lucifer. "This is an impossible plan. Will Tellum knows the Bible as well as we do. He quotes that horrible verse constantly: 'God so loved the **world** that He gave His only begotten Son that **whosoever** believeth in Him, should not perish,' and that equally terrible verse: '—God is not willing that **any** should perish.' Your plan cannot possibly succeed."

"Simmer down, my father, simmer down," soothes False Prophet. "Did not I tell you we must change things a little? We must add a little meaning here and another little change of idea there. Use logic and reason to our advantage. Even a minute addition to these versus will do wonders and change meanings to opposites. To the word **world** we only inject this thought: **of the elect**. Now it will say, 'God so loved the world of the elect...' Anyway, we all know **world** has several meanings."

"But, F. P., even if we can convince them by adding that small idea, how will this hinder missions?"

"Elementary, dear father! Will Tellum feels that the Church is responsible to tell every person in the whole world that God loves him and that Jesus Christ died for him. If Tellum no longer believes that God loves every person in the world and died for every person, then Tellum can't tell 'em anymore of God's love for the world and Christ's death for them all due to this simple reason: he does not know who Christ died for. He must think ahead, 'If I go to a man and tell him Christ died for him and wants to save him, but he is not one of the elect, then I am lying to him. When he says that he does not believe that Christ died for him, then really he believes the truth and I am telling him a lie! The result is I become a liar and the unbeliever believes the truth. So better I go slowly telling anyone that Christ died for him.' We must get Will Tellum to begin questioning like this, you see?"

"F. P., you are clever as ever. Your plan will work. It reminds me of the good old days before William Carey, when the believers didn't worry about our people and just stayed home thinking that it was fate that people were born in our kingdom. Ready, all ye little helpers? Let's go for Operation Tulip!"

WILL TELLUM has now returned to his field of Paganland where he is attempting to preach in Forgotten Village. It is not an easy work. Superstition, fear, darkness, tradition and ignorance are everywhere. Learning the language has brought Will to his knees again and again. Sickness and death have surrounded his family. The battle with fleas, rats, roaches, ants, dogs, cats and other vermin is a daily affair. But with patience and love Will has endured all and made his dwelling the place of God's light in the darkness. Before he came to Paganland, God had laid its burden upon Will's heart. He believes wholeheartedly that God loves all the citizens of Paganland and sent His Son to die for each one. He is also willing to give his life to reach these people so that their blood will not be on his hands. He believes they have a free will and that it is now their only hindrance to salvation. He believes in God's responsibility, the believer's responsibility, and the unbeliever's responsibility. Thus Will has yielded his life for service and suffered extreme hardships with the world missionary forces to win men to Christ.

ONE NIGHT AFTER an exceptionally hard day of ministering to the lost, Will returns home exhausted. Pushing the door open, he is surprised to see a man sitting on a bench reading a book. **The Sovereignty of God** by A. W. Pink. The stranger quickly introduces himself with his professional card: I. M. Tulip.

"Good to see you, Will. I am making a survey trip to see how the missionaries are doing."

Will is so happy to see him that he immediately begins to pour out his heart about the thousands in Paganland that have never heard the Gospel--about the harvest that is so great and the laborers so few--about the hopeless, superstitious beliefs of the people. He speaks with tears streaming from his eyes: "They even bury people alive! We must reach this land before Christ comes. Please tell the people at home that we need more men, more equipment, and especially more prayers!"

For another hour Will continues with his heart longings for Paganland.

Mr. Tulip has patiently listened and now begins to speak. "Will, I see how very frustrated you are. But I have real words of comfort for you. If you understand the Scriptures as I do, you will not be standing here in tears. Your problem is doctrine, Will. You must understand that God did not say He loves all the people of Paganland. All of them will not be saved, only those who are chosen. We call this 'election'. And even more comforting than that, you do not have to be so concerned anymore because He will certainly save all that He has chosen to save. None of them will be lost, not one. God is not willing for any of His chosen ones to perish. And really, it is fruitless to preach to those whom He has not selected as they will not be saved. God loves those who receive and He did not send His Son to die for those who do not receive. So relax, dear Will, God is sovereign; He knows what he is doing. If you don't reach the elect, someone else will; they cannot possibly be lost if God selected them and Christ has died for them. They are predestined to be saved and God will save them without your great concern. Remember, 'God will have mercy upon whom He will have mercy.' Just read Romans 9: it is all there. Read, Brother, Ephesians 1. God has predestined us for salvation; the others are not saved, they are lost.

"I'm going to leave you this book that explains it all. I sleep well at night. I do not worry about the lost. I witness of my faith in Christ as time and opportunity permit. If those whom God has selected hear my testimony, God will open their hearts. He will give them life. He will give them faith and they cannot resist such gifts. They will be saved. This is God's work, not yours, Will. You cannot convince the unbeliever. This is the word of God and He will work on those whom He has elected long ago. The election cannot be changed because God is sovereign."

Will is stunned. "Do you mean that God gives a man life **before** he believes? I have always taught that **If** a man believes, God will give him eternal life. Eternal life is the result of believing."

"Yes, Yes, Will. But let us use your own logic and reason. The Bible says the unbeliever is dead in sin. Now, Will, can a dead man believe? He needs life. To those whom God selects, He gives life; then He gives them faith so they can believe. Finally He pours on irresistible grace and, of course, the man believes. He has been elected and predestined so surely God is going to save him."

Slumping down on the bench, Will is greatly disturbed. He recalls his hundreds of hours of language study, his child's place in the cemetery, his sick wife, the hours and days of hiking through Paganland trying to reach every village.

"In vain?" Will questions. "You mean God would save those He has selected even if I stayed in the USA? Have I been a fool? All my prayers for the lost--in vain? God doesn't intend to save them anyway? He does not love them all? He did not send His son to die for them? All in vain?"

Mr. Tulip smiles warmly. "Cheer up, Will, not all is in vain. You did reach those whom God planned to save. Let me show you some verses." Opening His Bible, he proceeds directly to several verses, adding a word or two here and there to explain them more fully, also turning a few versus so that they are very convincing, especially when taken along with Tulip's logic and reason.

Will admits his confusion, but says he wants to pray and study the matter.

WILL DOES NOT SLEEP that night. Rather he prays on his knees with his Bible open before him, "Show me the truth, Lord. Please show me the truth. I only want Your will to be done." Studying on and on through the night from verse to verse, he finds truth coming to light verifying that God does love all the people of Paganland and that He did send His Son to die for them. "For God so loved the world...Whosoever believeth...Whosoever will...I would have gathered you...But ye would not...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved...Come unto me...He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world...He that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son...In whom ye also trusted after that ye heard the world of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom after ye believed ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." Verse after verse opens up before him until Will's faith is fully restored. He thanks God for victory.

NEXT MORNING Mr. Tulip is up at dawn to clinch the matter. "You know, Will, this is a great truth about election. My very name upholds the fact. Here, let me show you:

- T — Total depravity**
- U — Unconditional election**
- L — Limited atonement or redemption**
- I — Irresistable grace**
- P — Perseverance of the saints."**

Will marvels at Tulip's zeal and replies, "But none of those catchy phrases is found in the Scriptures. Does the Bible say 'total depravity' or does it say: 'All have sinned'? You would have me believe that the unsaved man is so completely dead that he cannot even believe in God or Jesus Christ unless God first gives him life. This is not what the Bible teaches. If this were the case, after we are saved, we are said to be dead to sin; then according to your interpretation of **dead**, it would be impossible for us to sin again. Such is very evidently not the case for you are trying to overcome my vision for souls with this strange doctrine.

"Furthermore, the Bible does not say that those who received life from Him became believers. It says:

Everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:15,16.

"That is just the reverse of what you believe, Mr. Tulip. To those who believe, He gives life; belief first, then life. John 3:16 does not say the world of the elect. We may not add our ideas to the World of God. If, as you say, the unbeliever can only sin, what about Cornelius in Acts 10? He was not saved before Peter went to him, and yet the angel says in verse 4: 'Thine prayers and thy alms are come up for a memorial before God.' Also we read this in Romans 2:14,15:

Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.

"The Bible declares that man is a sinner and can never attain to the righteousness of God. But it does not say that man cannot repent and believe the gospel. The Bible teaches that anyone (whosoever) can believe the gospel and be saved.

"Concerning 'unconditional election' there are several verses opposing such teaching:

This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3,4.) The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9;) For, Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (Romans 10:13.)

"Your major premise is 'limited atonement' which you have at the center of your TULIP. Please look up 2 Peter 2:1—3:

But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

You will note in the passage that these are false prophets and false teachers who teach destructive heresies. They are the damned. However, it is also clear that the Lord bought them (even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them). According to your TULIP, Christ only bought the elect; thus, if those **bought** are the elect, then these false prophets mentioned must be the elect. The verse says they denied the Lord. You are changing Scriptures to provide doctrine.

"Romans 9 is not teaching personal salvation. Truly, the Lord will have mercy on whom He will have mercy, but according to Romans 11:32: 'God has bound all men over to disobedience in that he may have mercy on them all.' Today God has mercy on all whom He concluded in unbelief, not meaning 'all the elect' as you add.

"Now let's take a look at 'irresistible grace'. What does Acts 7:51 say? 'You stubborn people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears. You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!' What does it say: they **resisted** the Holy Spirit, but you say this is impossible. See also Matthew 23:37. Did not Jerusalem resist? God said 'I would' but Israel 'would not' so they were not gathered.

"Finally your last point 'perseverance of the saints', Mr. Tulip, whereby you say God gives us power to persevere to the end. Would you have me believe that this perseverance is eternal security? Surely this is not the Biblical doctrine of eternal security. Our persevering has nothing to do with our salvation. Matthew 24:13 is related to the Tribulation and not to the Day of Grace. We are not saved because we persevere; we are saved because **He promised us** that if we believe, He would save us. If we were saved by our persevering, I fear many of the saved would eventually be lost. Romans 4:5 makes it clear that works (persevering) has nothing to do with salvation. Mr. Tulip, your five principles are not upheld by the Word of God!"

Whereupon Mr. Tulip gasps, "You sound like an Arminian!"

"I must admit," says Will, "that I have not read Arminius or Calvin; I prefer to study the Word of God itself, Mr. Tulip, let us read again the Word in 2 Thes. 2:10—14:

They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness. But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Note verse 10 again: 'They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.' They are going to perish because they refused to love the truth. According to Tulip theory, unless God gives sinners life and faith and irresistible grace, they cannot possibly receive truth.

"What is the truth, Mt. Tulip? Is it not the gospel? And what is the gospel according to 1 Cor. 15:1-4? 'Christ died for our sins.' Is this not the truth of salvation? What if I go to one of your non-elect and tell him the truth of the gospel: 'Christ died for your sins.' He replies, 'I do not believe it.' Now according to TULIP Christ only died for the elect, so Christ did not die for this non-elect person to whom I am witnessing. What then is the result? He believes that Christ did not die for him; so then, I the believer am

lying to him when I tell him Christ died for his sins. I the liar will go to heaven and this non-elect will go to hell even though he believes the truth that Christ did not die for him!

"However the passage in 2 Thessalonians says that God has a cause for sending the perishing a strong delusion that he should believe a lie. It is because he refused to love the truth that he might be saved. Can you honestly say before God, Mr. Tulip, that God did not want this man to receive the love of the truth and be saved? This is hideous. You are saying God tells us to believe (which is impossible without a special work of God), and then when God does this special work we **must** believe. There is no choice at all in the whole matter. This goes against the whole bulk of Scripture and certainly opposes the basis of salvation that whosoever will may come. Actually then all my labors and yours as well are in vain."

Tulip sees the problem clearly but cajoles. "You must read this book by Pink."

"I have found something about Mr. Pink also," says Will. "I would like to read it to you. S. Fisk, in his book **'Divine Sovereignty and Human Freedom**, writes:

Dr. Gaebelrn was once asked to comment on a very pronounced Calvinistic book, A. W. Pink's The Sovereignty of God, in this question submitted to Our Hope magazine: 'Do you think Mr. Pink's book, The Sovereignty of God, is scriptural? I recently read this book and it has upset me as no other book I ever read. I was attacked by terrible doubts as to God's justice and His very Being.' Dr. Gaebelrn's strong reply followed: 'Mr. Pink used to be a contributor to our magazine. His articles on "Gleaning on Genesis" are good, and we had them printed in book form. But when he began to teach his frightful doctrines which make the God of Love a monster, we broke off fellowship with him... The book you have read is totally unscriptural. It is akin to blasphemy. It represents God as a Being of Injustice and maligns His holy character. The book denies that our blessed Lord died for the ungodly. According to Pink's perversions He died only for the elect... You are not the only one who has been led into darkness by this book. Whoever the publisher is, and whoever stands behind the circulation of such a monstrous thing has a grave responsibility. It is just the kind of teaching that makes atheists.' (our Hope, Vol. 37, No. 11 May 1931, p 684)

"You see, Mr. Tulip, I am not alone in my thinking on your theory. But I must also say this, that what men say is not the issue. Human reasoning contradicts itself. What does God say? The Word clearly teaches that God did not select which individuals would be saved, but He selected the manner in which they would be saved: **by believing**. God predestined Jesus Christ to die for our sins at Calvary. He also predestined to save all who would believe; We have believed, so in this sense, He predestined us for salvation,

not because He chose us as individuals but because we believed and He has predestined to save all who believe. This is in perfect accordance with 2 Thes. 2:13. Otherwise you have God using a grab bag with the names of all the people in the world inside. He reaches in and pulls out a certain number of names. These He saves; the others cannot be saved. There would be no other way of choosing since your total depravity doctrine says He could not possibly find anything worth saving in you or me. The only way would be the grab bag system and His Word doesn't indicate such. You say that God has no desire to save the non-elect, rather He forces all the elect to be saved. Is this the teaching of Scripture? In all our preaching and teaching, whether it be to believer or unbeliever, we are asking people to make a choice; but according to TULIP men have no choice at all. The non-elect are born in sin without an active will and are destined for the lake of fire and there is no possible way they can be saved.

"The Bible declares that God loves the world and sent His Son to die for the world as written in 2 Cor. 5:14,15:

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for him who died for them and was raised again.

Here it is plain that He died for all. Would you dare to add 'all the elect' to what has been written?"

"Will," says Mr. Tulip, "you have given me much to think over. I see now that if I am wrong, TULIP is a very dangerous doctrine because it really takes the edge off preaching the gospel. I am removing the responsibility man has to preach the gospel to all. And I must admit that the writings of men have channeled me into a certain set of Scriptures while ignoring a host of others. I can see, Will Tellum, that you are actively engaged in the business of **seeking the lost** while I have been concerning myself with theories for **seeking the elect**. My journey has shown me that salvation is today abounding where the gospel is circulating freely and being impressed upon man. It fits with the goal of 'to the ends of the earth' and 'to every creature under heaven.' "

CHRIST IN YOU the hope of glory: whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: whereunto I also labour, striving according to his mighty working, which worketh in me mightily. Col. 1:27—29.

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V. Anderson, T.C.M., P.O. Box 96, Cope, Colorado 80812