

How can I understand Arminianism?

In its most basic sense Arminianism is one way that a part of the Christian population. To understand it, some of their basic doctrines will be investigated along with some of the interpretations of the Biblical texts used by Arminianism and compared with the primary alternate view of Calvinism.

1. What is the role of grace in salvation?

2 Corinthians **5:14-15**

Acts **15:10-11**

Romans **4:3-5**

Titus **2:11-12**

Romans **3:23-25**

Genesis **6:7-8**

In Arminian theology, the grace that is extended from God to mankind is extended to EVERY human being. They call it "prevenient grace". Because God extended this grace to all mankind, it remains in the power and the abilities of each person to engage that extended grace in order to be saved. Because grace is extended to every human being, there is nothing the person can do in order to merit or receive the grace. They just need to activate it. The alternative is to view grace as being available to all who will call upon the Lord and that grace has not actually been extended to everyone but it does lie available to be active as God sees fit to activate. Just as Noah was save because God extended grace to Noah and not the rest of the population.

2. What is the role of predestination in salvation?

John **6:64**

Ephesians **1:4-5**

John **2:23-25**

Romans **8:28-30**

In Arminian theology, predestination is based upon the ability for God to know everything that will ever happen in every individual. Predestination then is God knowing the decisions that men would make and those decisions that they make by their own abilities in order to have faith in Christ is what the scriptures refer to as predestination. The alternative view is to view predestination as the divine work of God in the life of an individual in order to bring him into a position of believing God and having faith in Christ. It is God who works in the life of an individual so that he might be saved and apart from God's work in the life of an individual there would be and could be no salvation.

3. What is the role of man's freewill in salvation?

Acts **16:30-31**

Mark **10:26-27**

John **6:65**

John **11:25-26**

John **1:11-13**

In Arminian theology, salvation only occurs as man exercises faith and activates grace by his own abilities. While God extends the grace, it is up to the individual to willingly decide to choose to believe and be saved. The alternative is that salvation is completely and totally the work of God. Without God's direct work in the life of an individual, he never have the faith to believe and thus he will remain forever in unbelief. While man is able to exercise his freewill as he sees fit, it has limitations and boundaries established by God which includes the ability to have faith in the work

of Jesus Christ and receive the gift of salvation. Faith and salvation are the work of God alone apart from man's desire and abilities.

4. What is the security of salvation?

2 Peter **1:10**

John **6:36**

Ephesians **1:13-14**

Hebrews **6:4-6**

John **10:27-29**

In Arminian theology, salvation ultimately resides in the power and ability of the individual to believe. As a result it is also within their ability to choose to cease believing and thus lose their salvation. Salvation is never a guarantee of any kind and it is up to the individual to maintain his relationship with God by exercising faith. The alternative view is to understand that when a person believes, since the faith to believe ultimately comes from God and that no one can come to the Father apart from Christ and no one can come to Christ apart from the Father, that the salvation of any individual is completely the work of God and Christ will never cast away nor let slip away any that come to Him. The security of the believer is assured by God regardless of my own personal temporary lack of faith.

Ultimately what is known is that there will be some who will profess salvation and not actually be saved (Matthew 7:21-23) and whether their salvation is lost or they never had it in the first place, the results are the same, eternal condemnation.