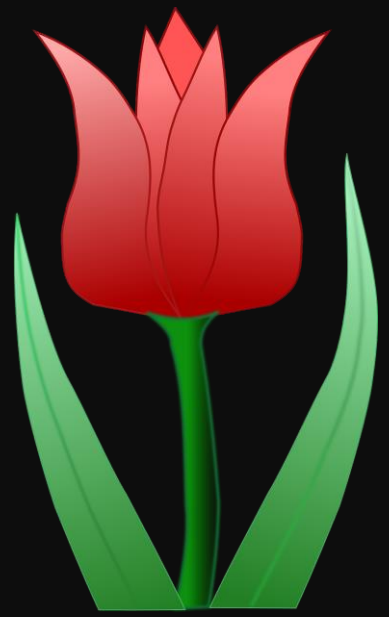


Mid-Week Methodism

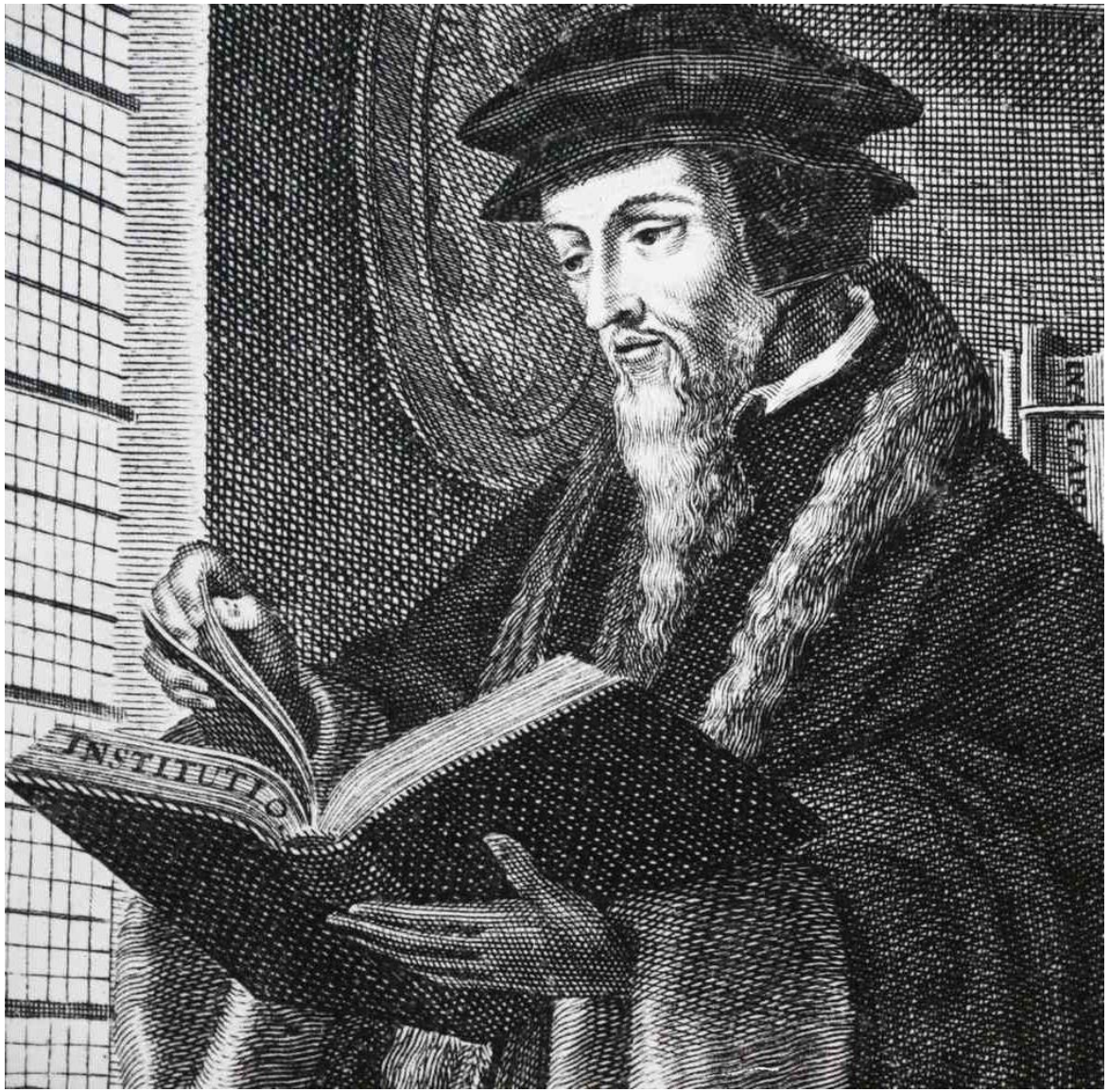
Tiptoeing Around the TULIP

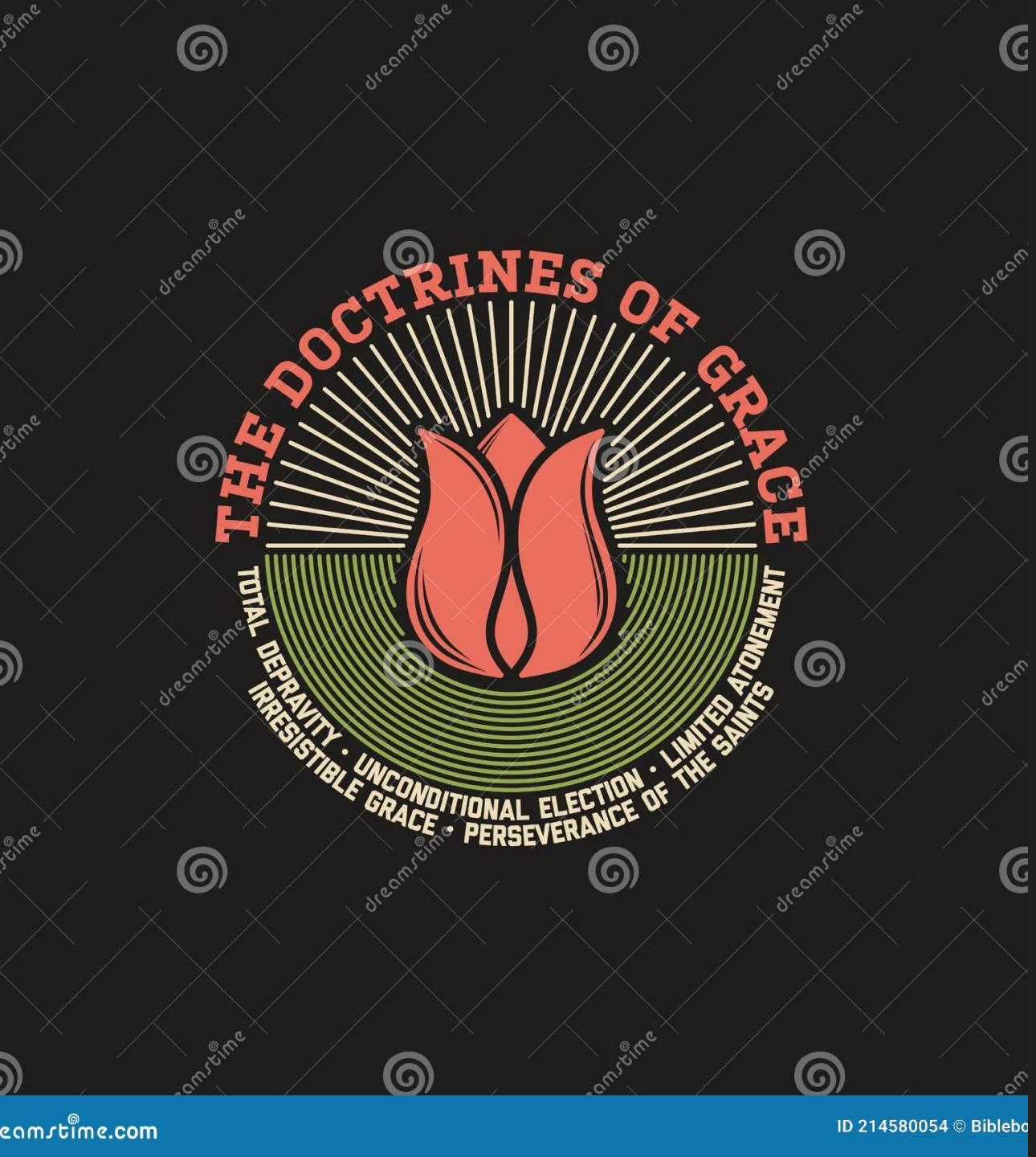
The United Methodist Church

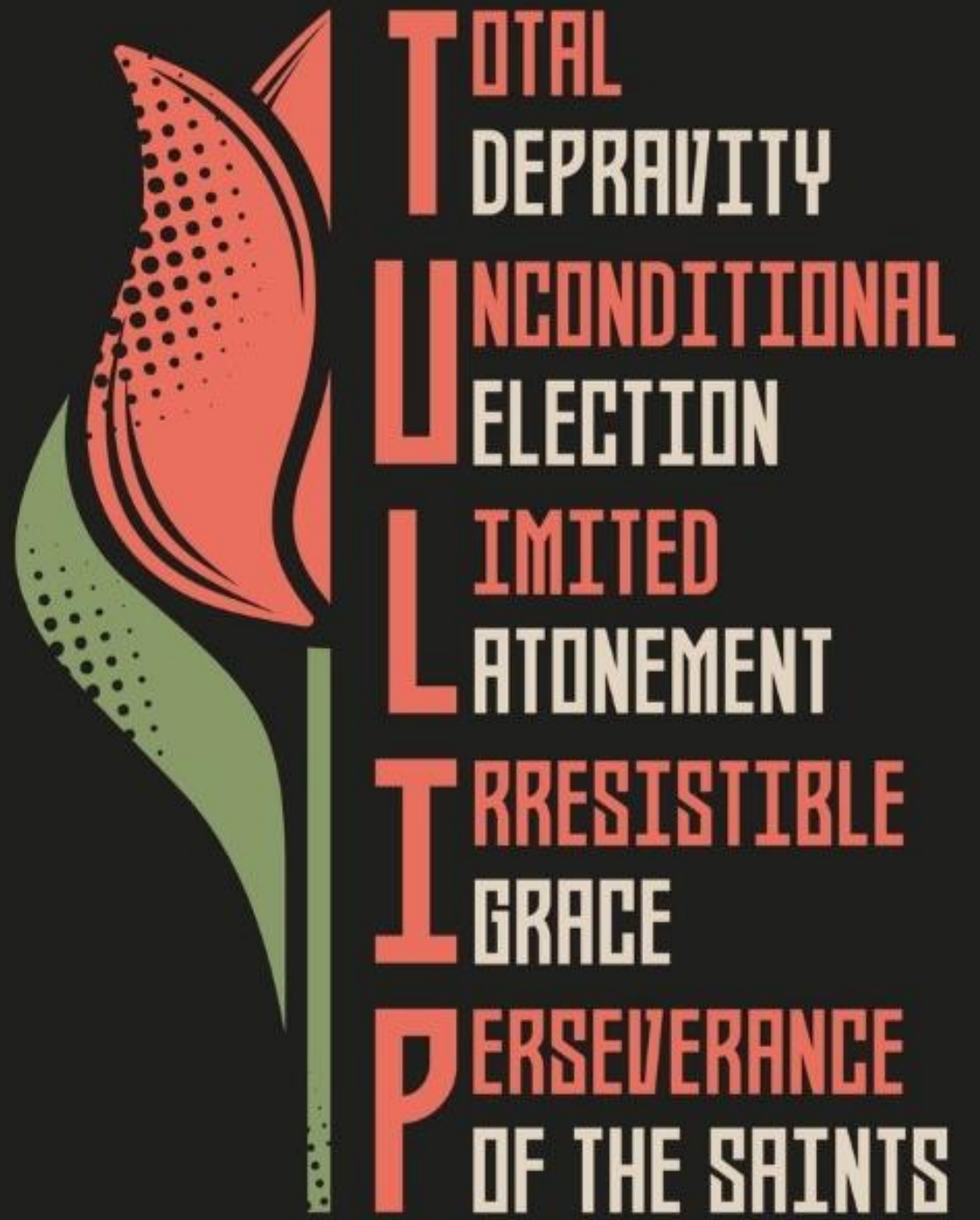
July 10, 1509 – May 27, 1564

John Calvin

Protestant Reformer







eamstime.com
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Total Depravity: Humankind has been utterly ruined by the Fall to the point that there is no good and no possibility for redemption anywhere in us. We merit and can merit nothing but wrath and destruction. This means that only a Sovereign God acting in Sovereignty can deliver us from an eternal destiny in Hell. There is absolutely nothing we can do ourselves to contribute to or take away from God's activity to save us.

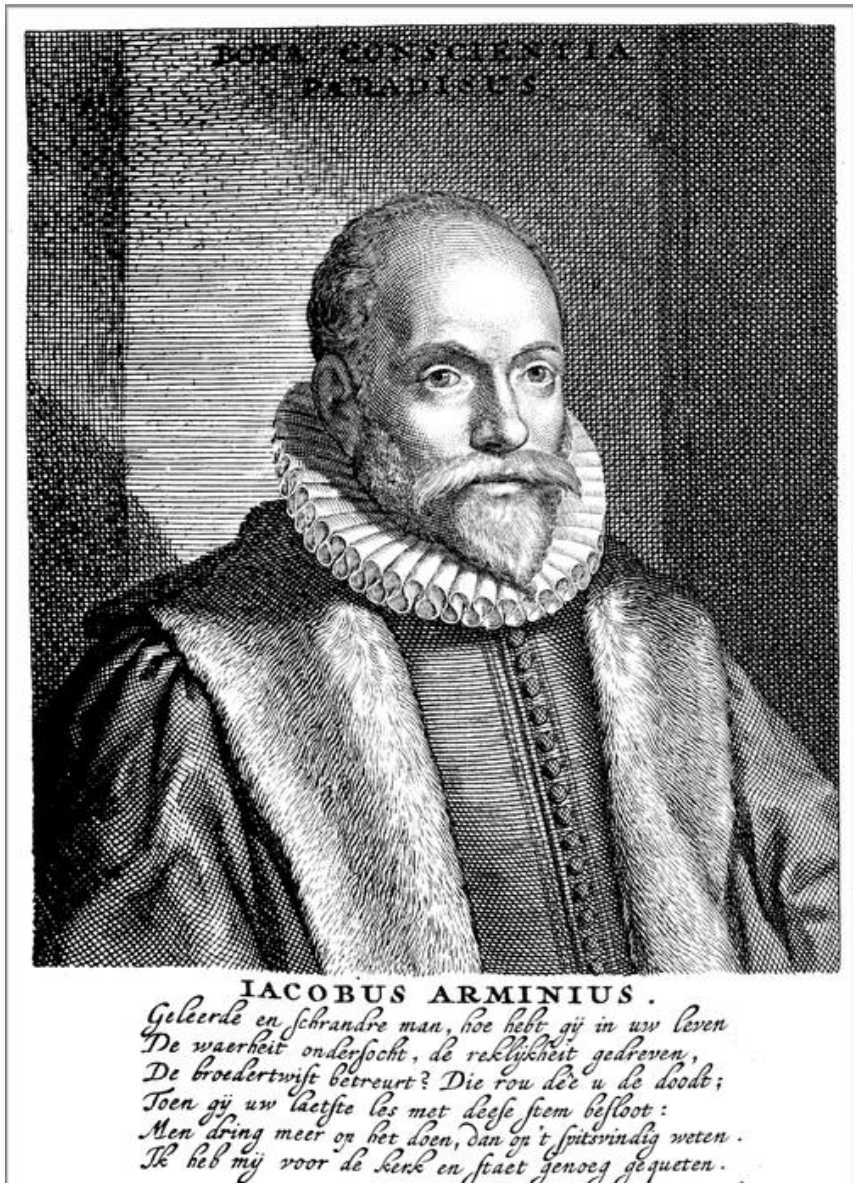
Unconditional Election: As such, God's decision to save us can be and is based on no conditions we can or could ever generate. God has chosen, based on God's own criteria, whom to save and whom not to save, long before we were ever born.

Limited Atonement: God created the means to deliver us from the merited consequences of our total depravity through the death of Jesus, his Son, on the cross. On the cross, Jesus suffered the consequences of God's just wrath and judgment on behalf of all whom God had elected for salvation, but only for these.

Irresistible Grace: Just as there is nothing humanity can do to change our depraved state, there is also nothing those who have been elected can do to resist the gracious initiative and power of God to bring them to salvation through what God had accomplished for them in the atonement.

Perseverance of the Saints: The result of all the above is that those whom God has elected to salvation and acted to save in the atonement and in the ongoing and irresistible work of the Spirit cannot but actually "persevere unto the end," that is, those who are elect cannot help but be faithful and thus experience the promised salvation.

https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-do-united-methodists-believe-once-saved-always-saved-or-can-we-lose-our-salvation



Arminius attempted to reform Calvinism. He lent his name to a movement—Arminianism—which resisted some of the Calvinist tenets (unconditional election, the nature of the limitation of the atonement, and irresistible grace). The early Dutch followers of his teaching became known as Remonstrants after they issued a document containing five points of disagreement with mainstream Calvinism, entitled *Remonstrantiæ* (1610).

Jacobus Arminius

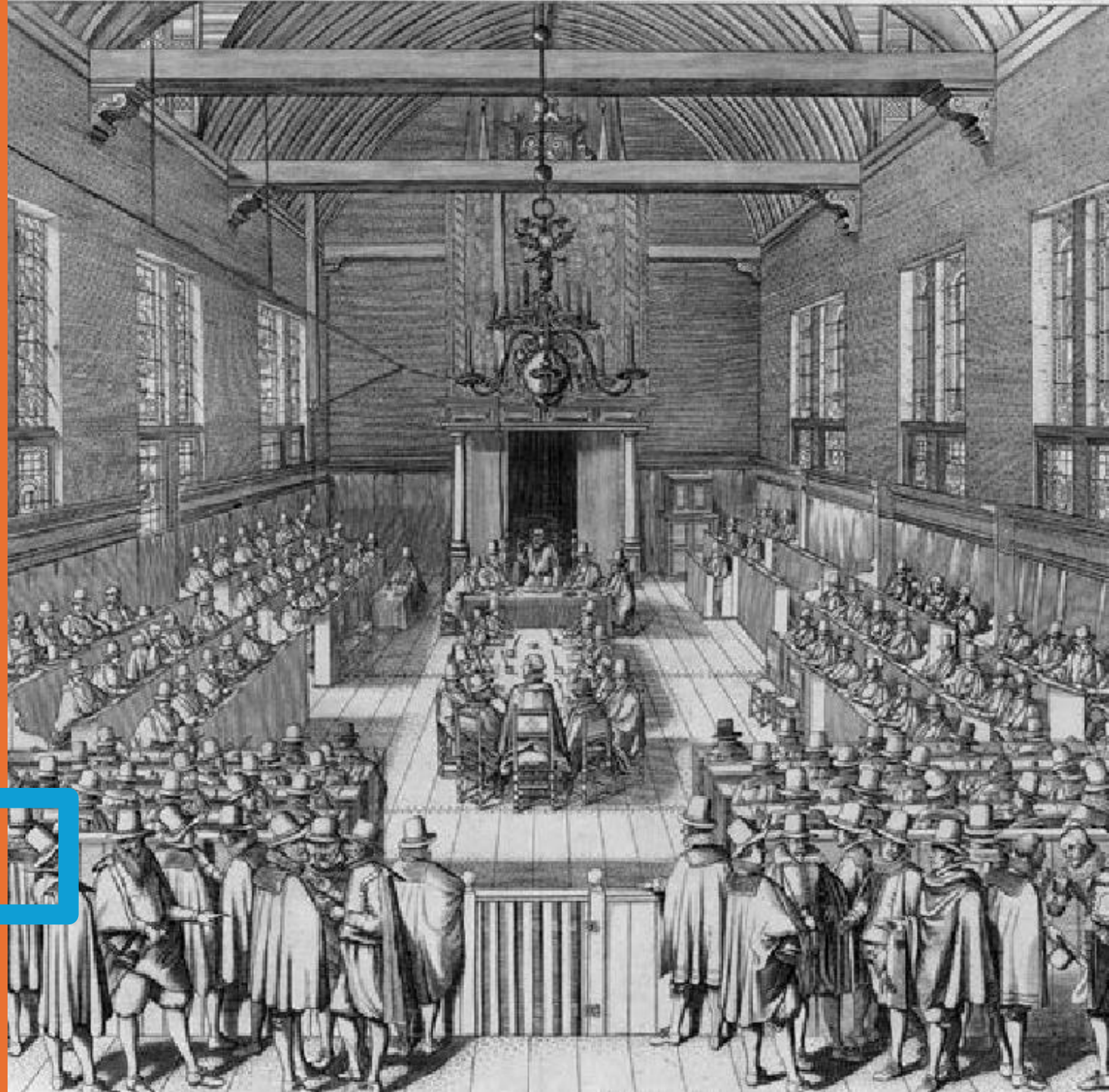
October 10, 1560 – October 19, 1609

Synod of Dort

November 13, 1618

Affirmed the Five points of Calvinism

TULIP



John Wesley

June 28, 1703 – March 2, 1791

John Calvin (5-point Calvinism) ~ inspired by Augustine ~ Election & Predestination

Total Depravity - Human beings are so affected by the negative consequences of original sin that they are incapable of being righteous and are always and unchangeably sinful; human freedom is totally enslaved by sin so we can only choose evil.

~**Nothing but a dirty rotten sinner**

Unconditional Election - Since human beings can only choose evil, God by His eternal decree has chosen or elected some to be counted as righteous, without any conditions being placed on that election.

Limited Atonement - The effects of the Atonement, by which God forgave sinful humanity, are limited only to those whom He has chosen.

Irresistible Grace - The grace that God extends to human beings to effect their election cannot be refused, since it has been decreed by God.

Perseverance of the Saints - Since God has decreed the elect, and they cannot resist grace, they are unconditionally and eternally secure in that election.

~**Once saved, always saved**

John Wesley (Wesley's Practical Theology) ~ inspired by Arminius ~ Free Will

Deprivation - Human beings are sinful and without God, incapable (deprived) on their own of being righteous; however, they are not irredeemably sinful and can be transformed by God's grace; God's prevenient grace restores to humanity the freedom of will.

~**Bent toward sinning & born with a divine spark**

Conditional Election - God has chosen that all humanity be righteous by His grace yet has called us to respond to that grace by exercising our God-restored human freedom as a condition of fulfilling election.

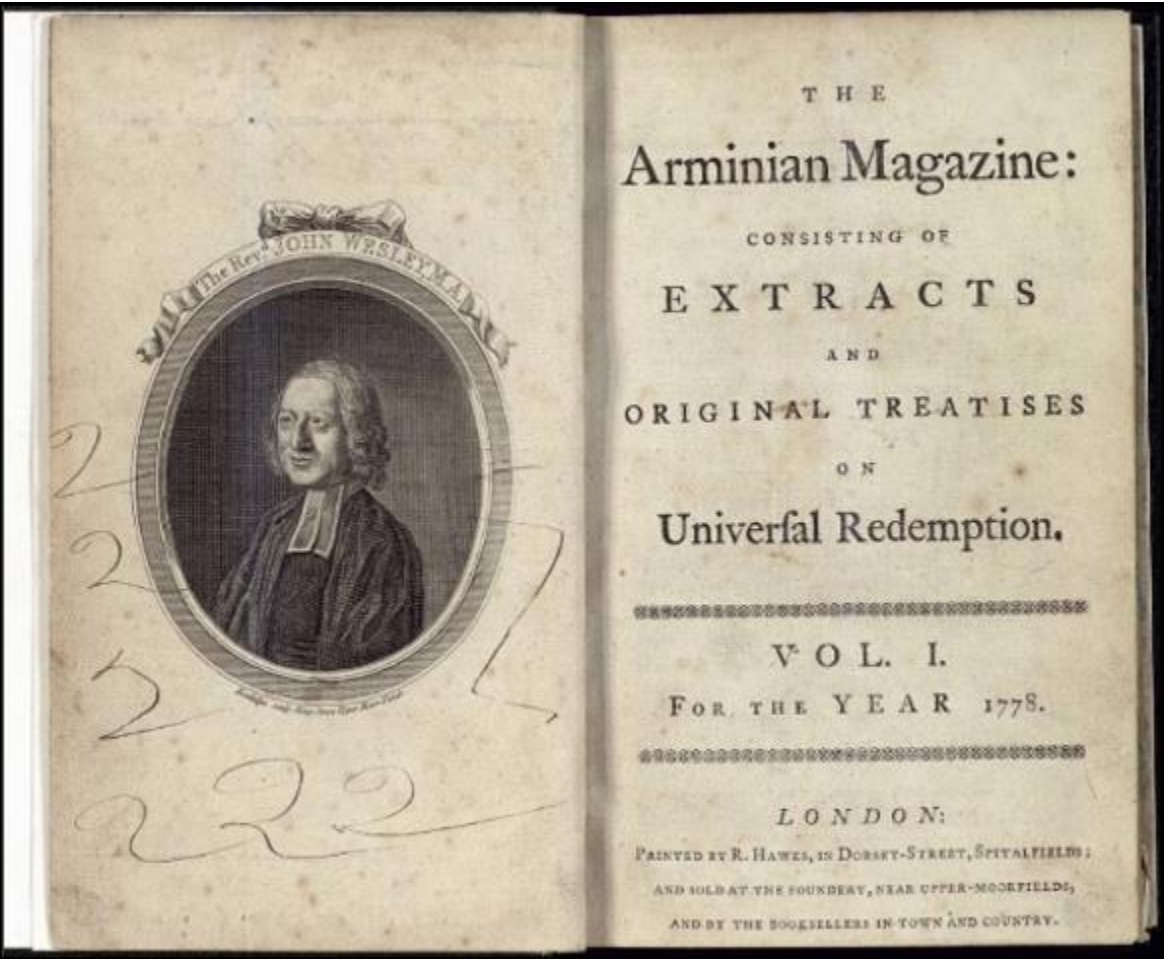
Unlimited Atonement - The effects of the Atonement are freely available to all those whom He has chosen, which includes all humanity, "whosoever will."

Resistible Grace - God's grace is free and offered without merit; however, human beings have been granted freedom by God and can refuse His grace.

Assurance and Security - There is security in God's grace that allows assurance of salvation, but security is in relation to continued faithfulness; we can still defiantly reject God.

~**Backsliding Methodist**

TULIP Calvinism Compared to Wesleyan Perspectives (crivoice.org)



“God is out to save us, one and all."

Though we have no faith we can articulate,
God is out to save us, one and all.

Though our faith may grow dim and our works disorderly,
God is out to save us, one and all.

Though we may lose our way and do terrible things to others,
God is out to save us, one and all.

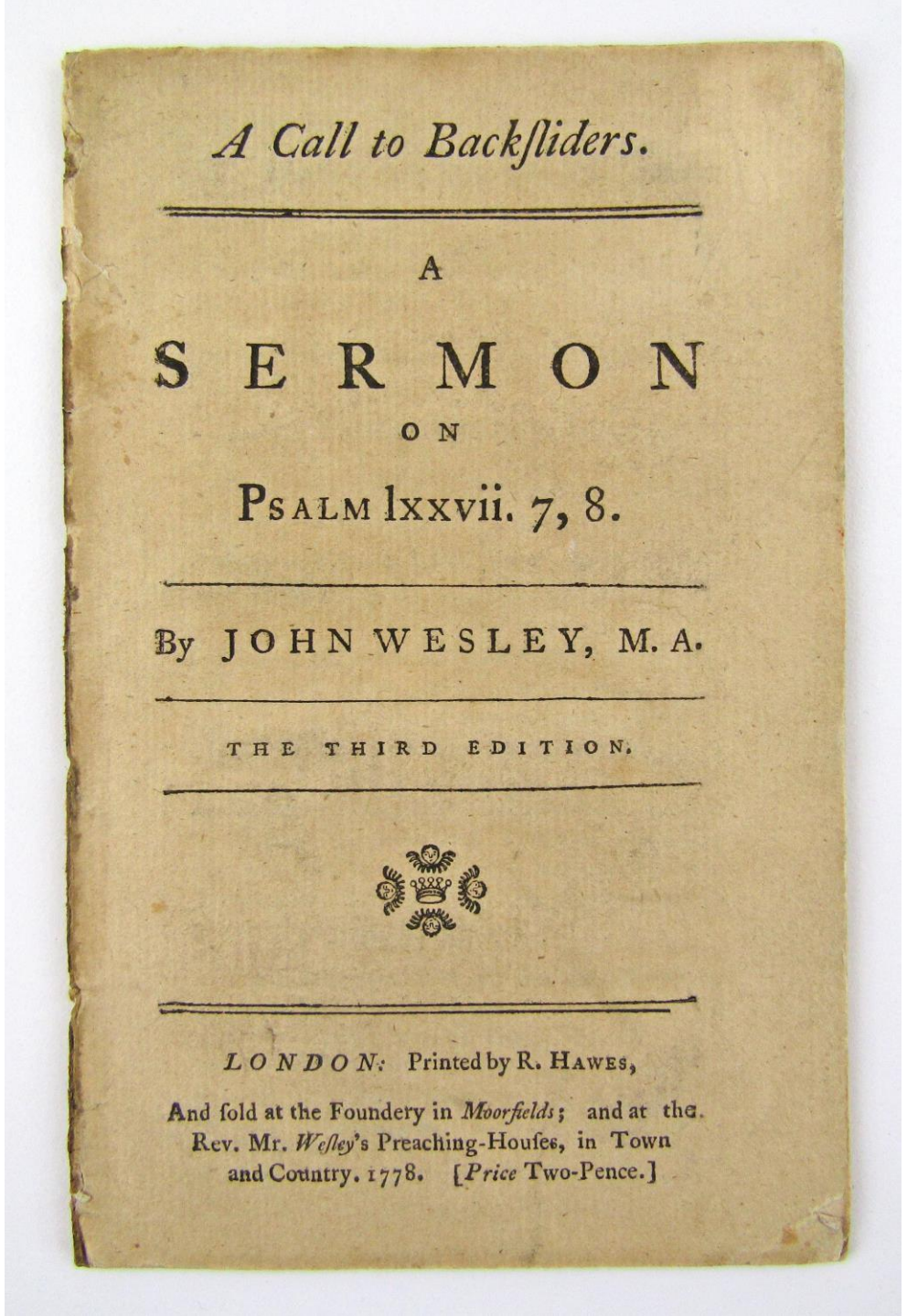
And though for some God's efforts to save may still leave them in spiritual death and Hell,
God is out to save us, one and all.

https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-do-united-methodists-believe-once-saved-always-saved-or-can-we-lose-our-salvation

For further reading:

Do United Methodists believe "once saved, always saved?"
Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards | August 08, 2019

https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-do-united-methodists-believe-once-saved-always-saved-or-can-we-lose-our-salvation



A Call to Backſliders.

A

SERMON

ON

PSALM lxxvii. 7, 8.

By JOHN WESLEY, M. A.

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