

CONVICTIONS AND PREFERENCES

Leader's guide: Bi15-3

Lecture time: 34 min.
Discussion time: approx. 30 min.

Lecture handling Lecture instructions

- Lecture Bi15 helps people to evaluate the task at hand and the consequences before making hasty, not thought out decisions. You don't want a bunch of people making a hasty enthusiastic response of the sanguine variety and then not carry through with it come next academic year.

Discussion instructions

- After the lecture finishes, have everyone form small groups as usual.
- Direct the students to fill in the questionnaire during the discussion.

Prayer instructions

- For the Worship and Prayer Time. From time to time or in some areas there are heated discussions about the doctrines of Calvinism and Arminianism. Let us take a lengthy time to pray about this issue this evening. **Arguments are satanically based!** Brothers we need peace in this area!!! May I ask you to let us try to simplify the issues for our prayer time. Perhaps the following might help. Calvinism is a good doctrine, but no Calvinists are perfect. So we could perhaps say that Calvinism covers 40% of the real truth. Arminianism has a few flaws and shortcomings as well and no one claims perfection. So perhaps that good doctrine also covers 40% of the truth. We now in our limited human ways have firmly explained about 80% of the truth. That leaves another 20% that is purposefully kept hidden by God and cannot be discovered or explained by men. Dear brothers, this leaves little room for bitterness and arguments, does it not? *These two doctrines merely picture **two sides** of the truth.* Like with many other items in Scripture the hidden, secret purposes of God are how He in His holiness and perfection nevertheless desires to work with and use limited fallen human creatures. The co-working of God and man — personified in the earthly body and ministry of Jesus — is one of the most frequently occurring **principles** throughout the Bible. Discussing these two doctrines is similar to two ants discussing who you are. Let us pray — and let LOVE have its sweet way.

Pass-out material instructions – Be sure everyone receives a copy of the student notes

Practical assignments

- During your meeting take time to have the men make a complete list of their convictions (in short list type format)
- Discuss a plan with the men as to how you will follow-up next time on this assignment. Perhaps a small group discussion format may be the way to have accountability and have them share their results.

Special adaptations for unique groups

- Select a group of outsiders to share this lecture – be a witness