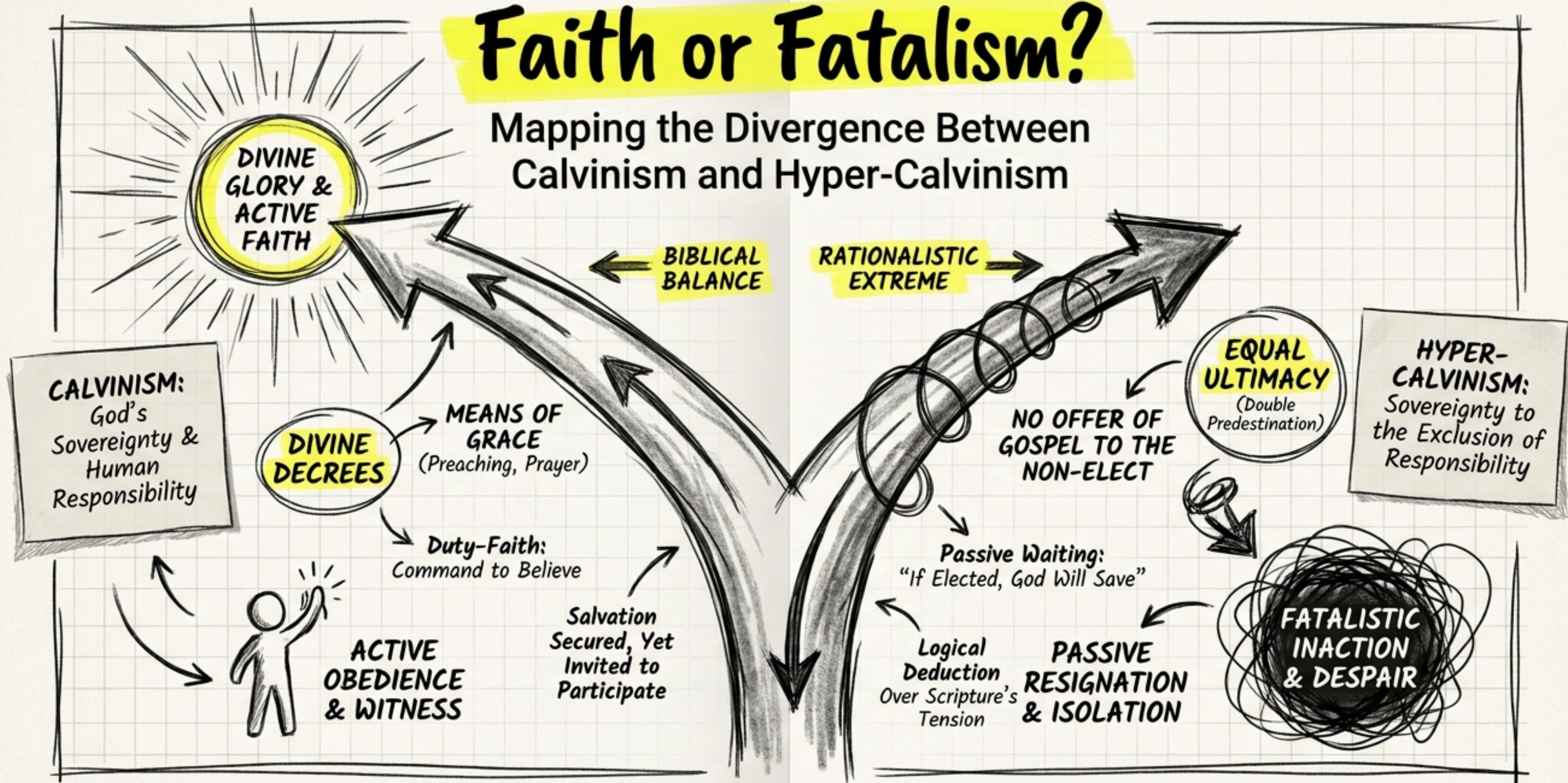


# Faith or Fatalism?

## Mapping the Divergence Between Calvinism and Hyper-Calvinism



Unpacking the theological line where God's sovereignty meets human responsibility.

# Can God's grace go too far?

## The Promise

One group marvels at God's unstoppable sovereignty in salvation.



## The Extreme

Another pushes that sovereignty to an extreme that actively discourages faith and evangelism.

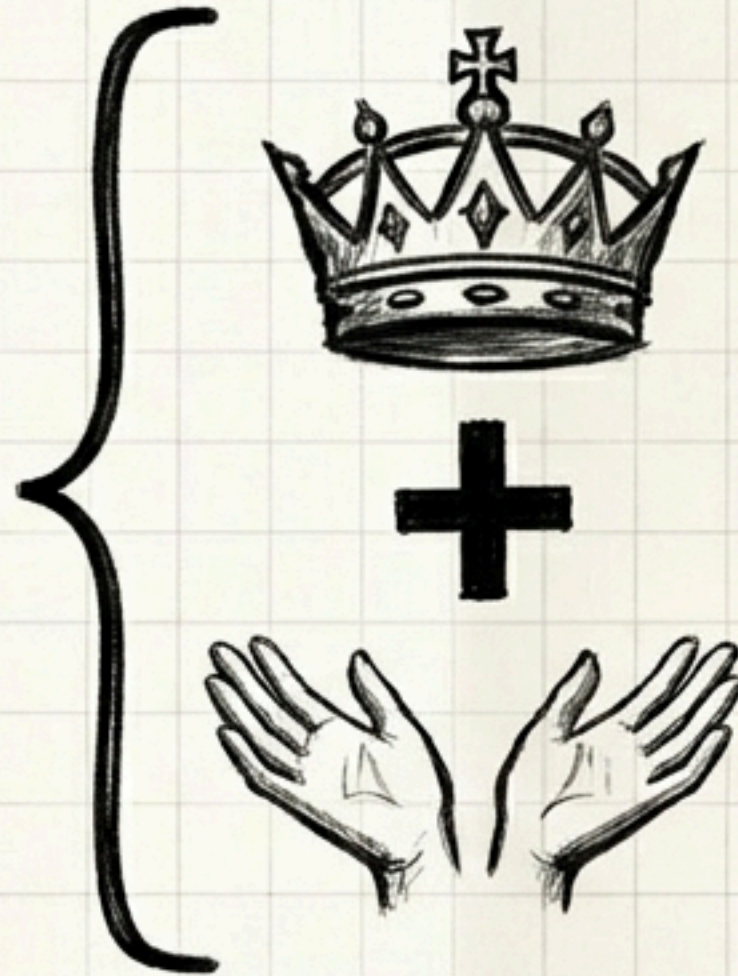
This is a debate that has shaped churches for centuries. The difference comes down to one question: Are we called to **active faith**, or **passive fatalism**?

# The Baseline: Orthodox Calvinism

Named after 16th-century reformer **John Calvin**, this theological framework rests on a crucial balance.



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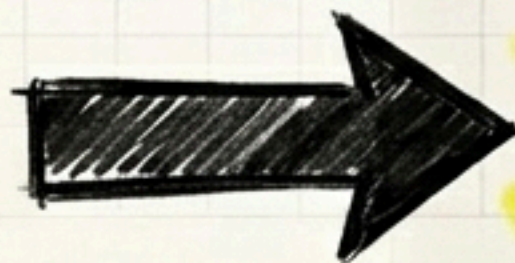


## Absolute Sovereignty

Strong affirmation of God's complete control over salvation.

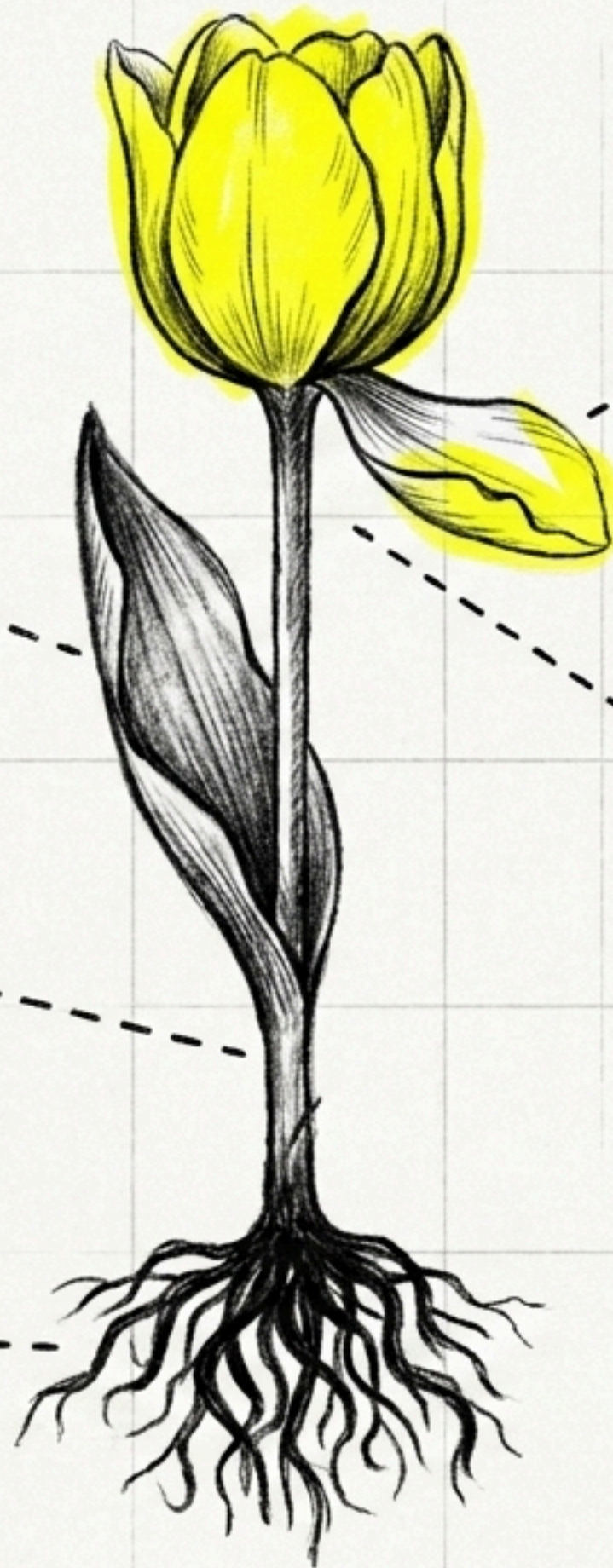
## Faithful Action

An uncompromising emphasis on evangelism and living faithfully.



True Calvinism never pits God's control against human responsibility.

# The Anatomy of Calvinism: TULIP



**I - Irresistible Grace**  
God's call to salvation cannot be resisted.

**L - Limited Atonement**  
Christ's death was specifically intended for the elect.

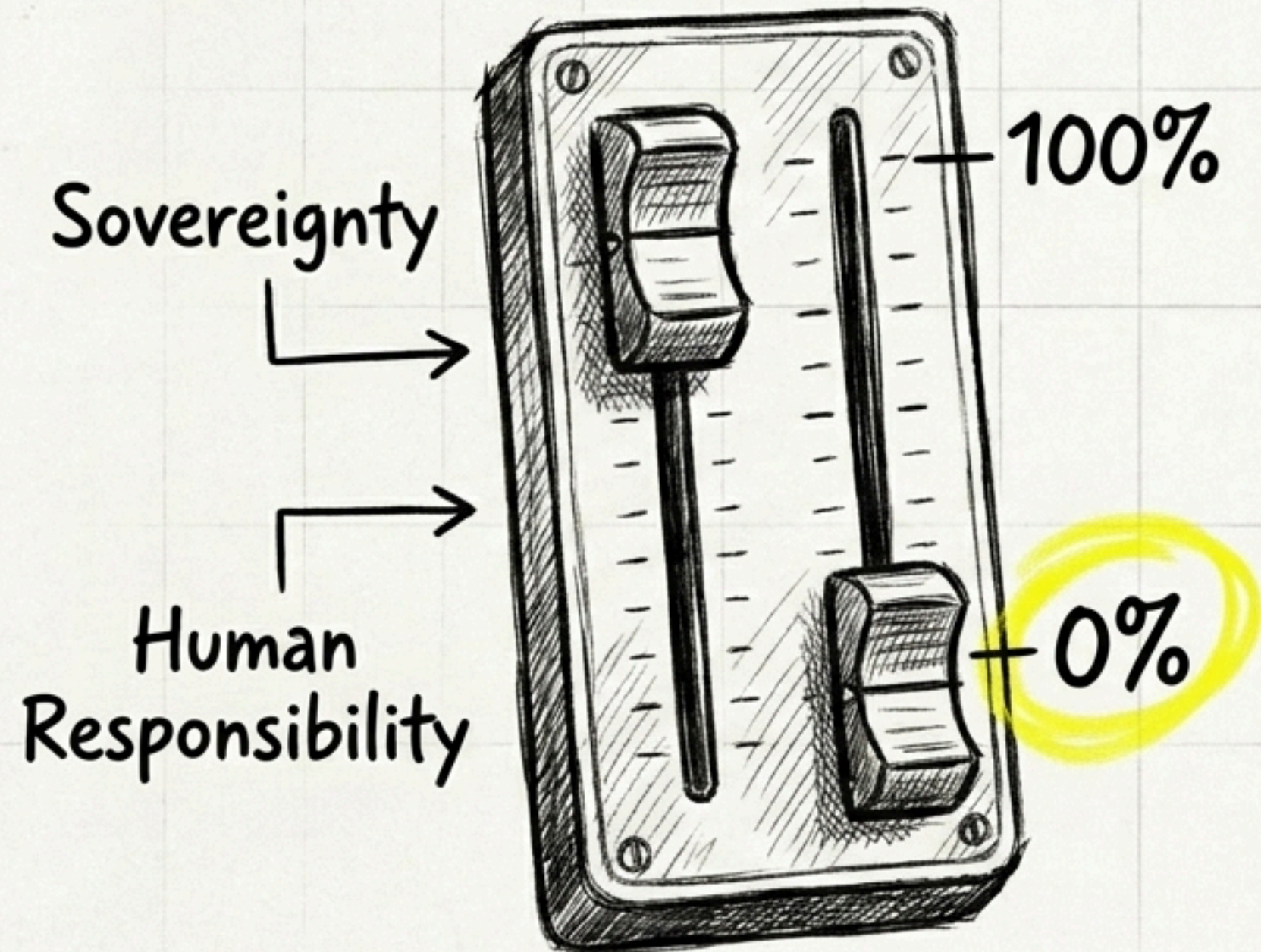
**U - Unconditional Election**  
God chooses who will be saved, not based on anything we do.

**T - Total Depravity**  
Humans are sinful and cannot choose God on their own.

**P - Perseverance of the Saints**  
Those God saves will never truly fall away.

# The "Hyper" Mutation

Hyper-Calvinism takes the core tenets of Calvinism and pushes them to theological extremes.



## The Result:

- Human responsibility to respond in faith is downplayed or rejected entirely.
- Evangelism becomes optional.
- Missions are heavily neglected.

## The Flawed Logic:

Why bother calling people to faith if God's choice is already made?

# The Scriptural Collision

## The Distorted Anchor

### Romans 9

Hyper-Calvinist Use: Distorted to justify inaction and theological silence, focusing exclusively on God's election.

## The Ignored Mandate

**Matthew 28:19:** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.

**2 Corinthians 6:2:** Now is the time of God's favor, behold, now is the day of salvation.

The Bible consistently calls for active faith, repentance, and evangelism. It never calls us to sit back.

# The Diagnostic Scorecard

	Calvinism ✓	Hyper-Calvinism ✗
Evangelism	Strongly encourages aggressive evangelism.	Minimizes or entirely rejects evangelism.
Human Responsibility	Humans are responsible to respond to God in faith.	Downplays responsibility, emphasizing God's choice alone.
Assurance of Salvation	Encourages believers with the bright hope of perseverance.	Leads to spiritual apathy or crushing despair.
The Gospel Call	The gospel must be preached universally to all people.	Questions the need for a universal gospel call.

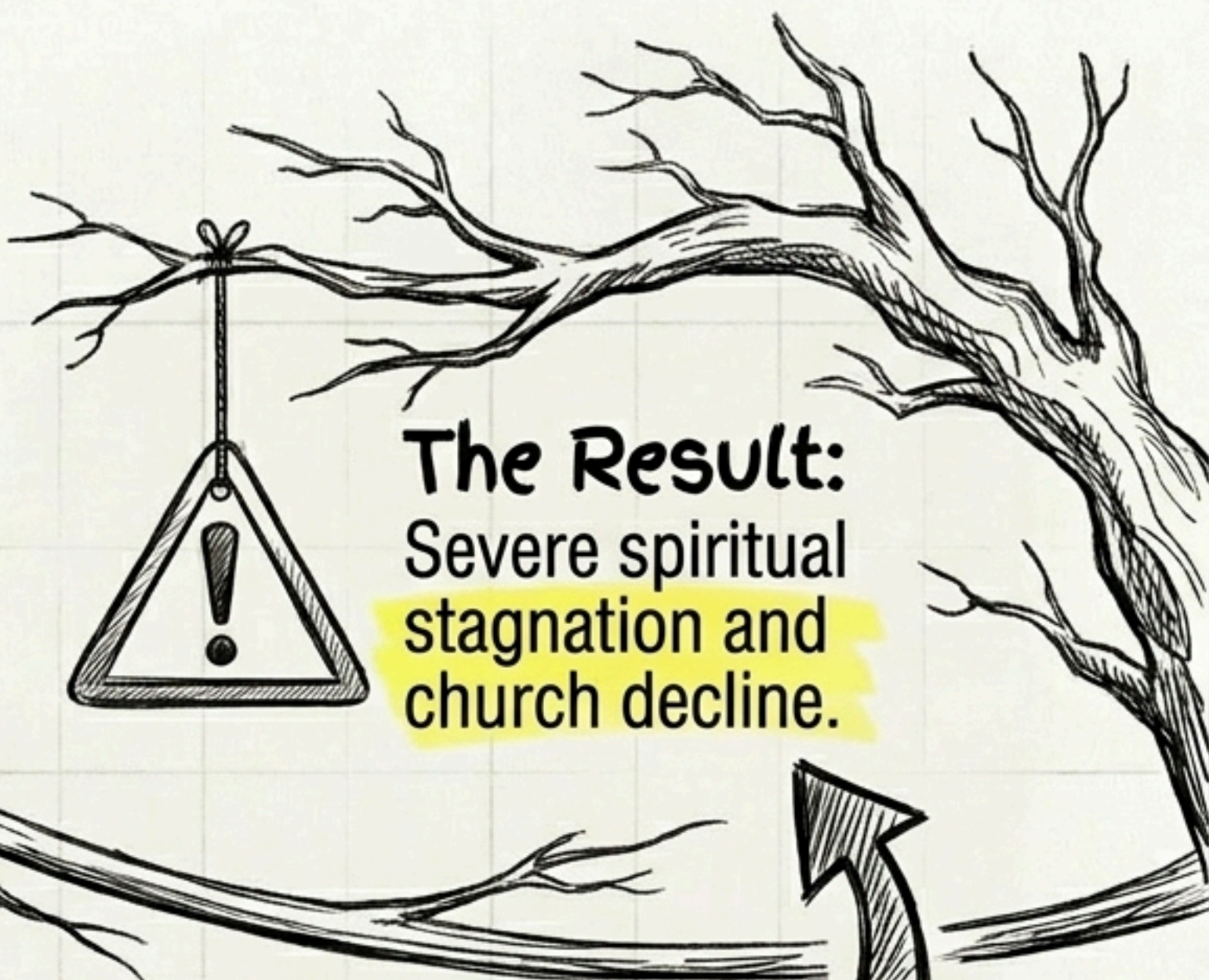
# Historical Warnings & Stagnation

## The 18th Century Decline

Emerging prominently in parts of England, hyper-Calvinist churches became deeply reluctant to freely preach the gospel to non-believers, assuming God had already determined the outcome.

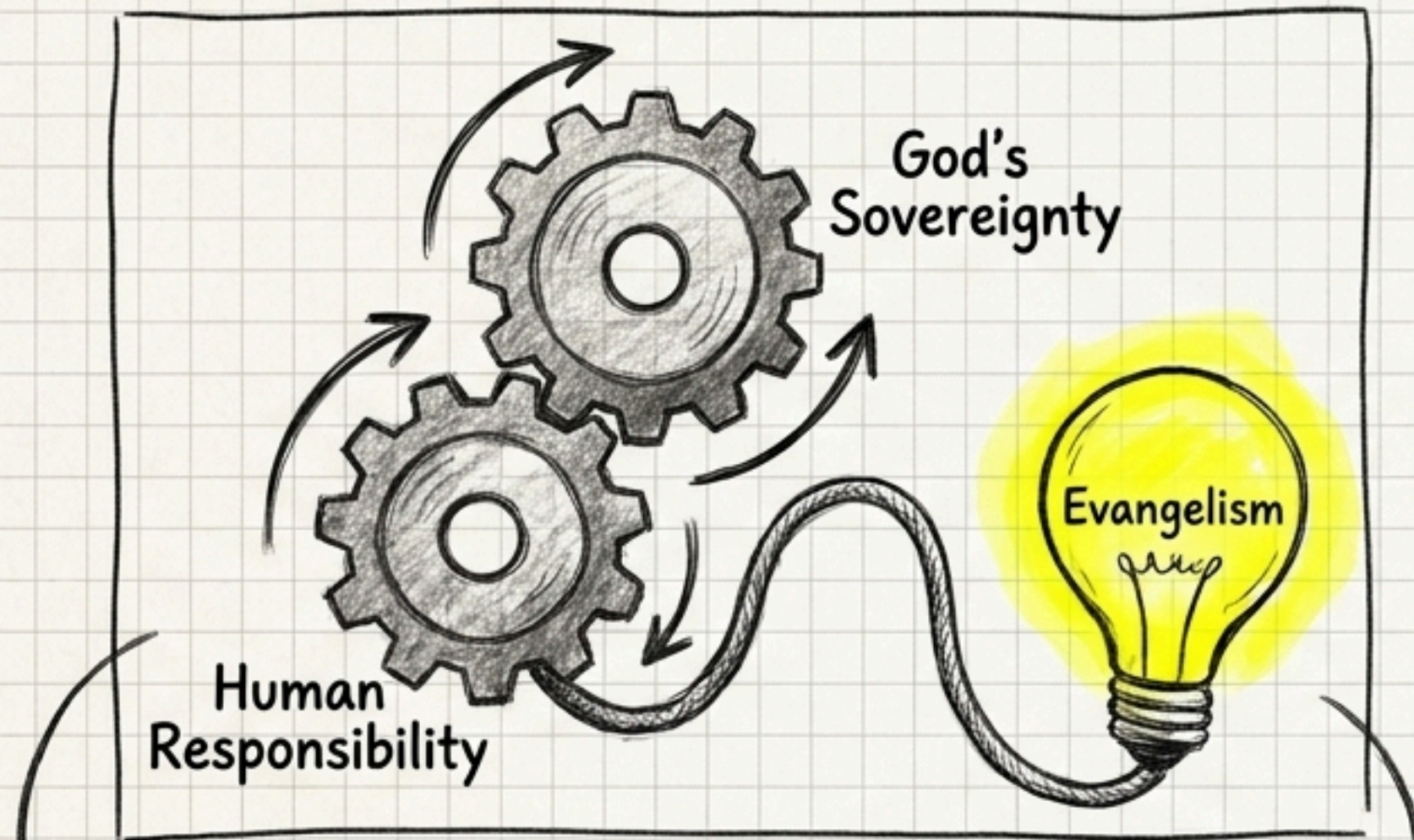
## The Irony

John Calvin himself explicitly warned against taking God's sovereignty to these extremes. He insisted on holding both the majesty of God and the responsibility of humans in high regard.



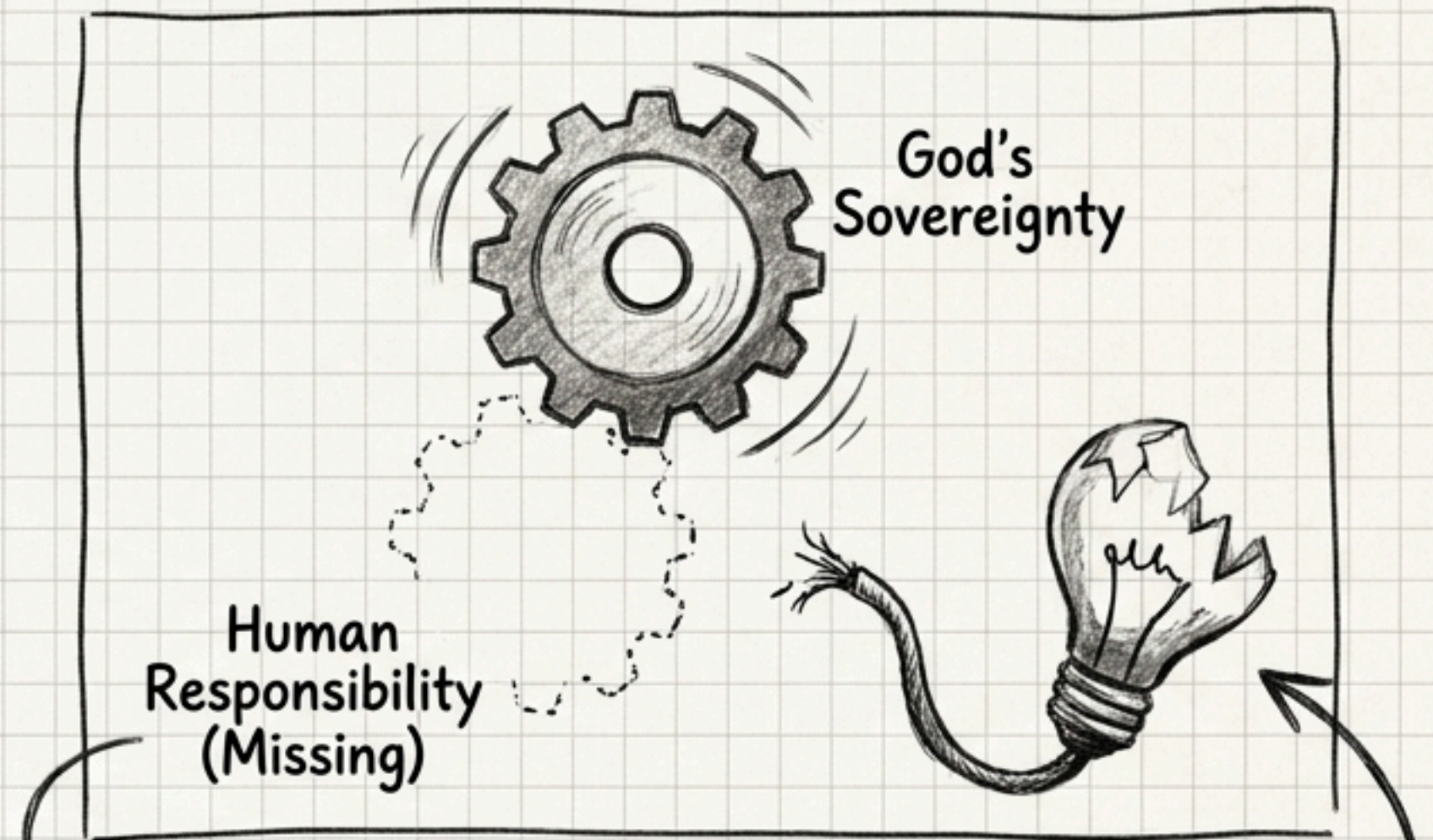
**The Result:**  
Severe spiritual stagnation and church decline.

# Marvel vs. Excuse



## Calvinism

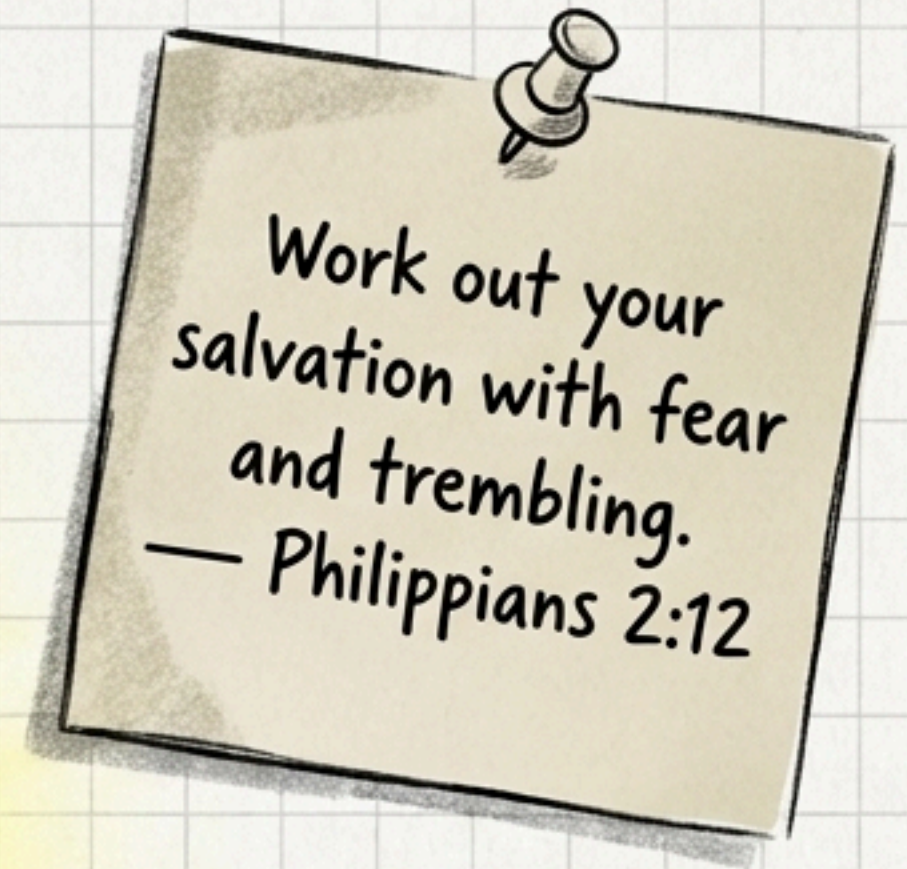
God's sovereignty and human responsibility work together, never against each other. It teaches us to marvel at God's power.



## Hyper-Calvinism

Shows what happens when that marvel becomes an excuse. Removing responsibility destroys the urgency God gives His people.

# Theology Fuels Action



One path fuels faithful action; the other breeds apathy.  
God's grace is unstoppable, but He still commands a response.  
Faith is not passive. Don't let theology paralyze you—let it empower you to live boldly.