

## John 6:37-44

These verses were once quoted by Calvin as a proof-text for God's direct manipulation of man's will unto salvation. However, Calvin actually quoted Augustine, allowing him to word his thoughts on this passage:

"What means, 'Everyone that hath heard and learned of the Father cometh unto me,' but just that 'there is no one who hears and learns of the Father that does not come to me'? For if every one who has heard and learned, comes; assuredly every one who does not come, has neither heard nor learned of the Father; for if he had heard and learned, he would come" (**Book 3**, chapter 24, para. 1)

As in interpreting all passages it is crucial that we do not read into the passage the meaning that we desire it to intend. This is best seen by observing what the passage does not say. Any ambiguity cannot be forced to support our conclusion, but rather it can only mean what is consistent with all of Scripture.

How is one "drawn"? Is it against his or her freewill? Does this verse answer either of these questions? If it does not, then how are the above conclusions supported? Are they not based in assumption?

Man is drawn through God's Word, revealed by the Holy Spirit (II Thessalonians 2:14; James 1:18). How much understanding is required to recognize the end of the goals of this world? Even in this life, one may easily see the ruin that comes from the selfish pursuit and fulfillment of one's lusts. The message of Christ's love, sacrifice, and ultimate victory and the appeal of "glory and virtue" are a few of the primary, gospel themes that call us to Him (I Peter 5:10; II Peter 1:3). It takes little intelligence to recognize the appeal of the gospel; so little, that the proud and educated often do not humble themselves because of its simplicity and unappealing stumblingblocks (I Corinthians 1:26-29). The depth of the gospel is appreciated over time, fully in eternity.