quite possibly considerable evidence against, it. As for predestination, yes and no, more later.

Item (3): Probably correct but needs clarification.

Item (4): Absolutely erroneous. Man can do something to promote (or reject) his own salvation. Remember Acts 2:37? "Men and brethren, what shall we do? - Peter's answer is well known to Pentecostal people - He said, among other things, "Save yourselves from this untoward generation." Also, how about Paul's statement in Acts 13:46, "Seeing ye put it from you and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life" --

Item (5): Wasn't Judas Iscariot chosen? I suppose according to Calvin he will be one of the elect.

Calvin's doctrine was a reaction to the extremes of Catholicism wherein a man could redeem himself by good works, a doctrine they widely abused and exploited, both then and now.

I think the key question here is "Can man choose to accept or reject salvation?" Moses (Deut. 30:15 to 20) gave the Israelites their choice of life or death. Certainly I would hope that Christians have an equal freedom. I believe the general consensus of Biblical philosophy is that mankind did not deserve salvation; it was a free gift from God. But individually, men must decide whether to accept or reject it. And I believe acceptance is not an instantaneous thing, but is a life-long condition. One can relinquish his position at any time, and "fall from grace". Only those who die in grace are forever sealed and saved.

It was during the 17th and 18th centuries that modern physical science was established by Galileo, Newton and others. The great success of Newton's laws of motion in explaining the motions of the heavenly bodies temporarily blinded the great thinkers into accepting a materialistic philosophy of nature something as follows:

According to Newton, if one knows the velocity and position of all solid bodies (more properly, particles) in a closed system (for an approximate example, the solar system) then one can predict all future velocities and positions for any given time; and because the mathematical equations are symmetrical with respect to time, he can retrace the history of the system, likewise calculating the velocities and position of all bodies for any prior time.

The ability to predict the return of Halley's comet was the first great success; the eclipses of the moon and sun, the tides of the earth and motions of the planets, stars and other celestial bodies were other notable successes. At one fell swoop, superstitious awe and fear of the heavens was destroyed. Man could now foreknow future events with great precision, at least on the heavenly scale. The reason was, the underlying laws predetermined the trajectories of these bodies; they were restrained to move as they did. There was nothing random or chancy about it; if only man could obtain the necessary data, he could calculate their destiny with certainty. In other words, here was predestination in the world of inanimate matter.

As the nature of matter became better known, the atomic theory was invented to explain electrical and chemical phenomena. At first, Newton's laws were uncritically applied to the extremely small world of the atom, just as if it were a microcosmos complete with a sun and planets. Chemistry showed that living