



ON THE PRINCIPAL
ARTICLES OF THE
CHRISTIAN RELIGION
JACOBUS ARMINIUS



On the Principal Articles of the Christian Religion : Commenced by the Author Chiefly for the Purpose of Forming a System of Divinity

Jacobus Arminius, James Nichols



Jacobus Arminius (1560 -1609), the Latinized name of the Dutch theologian Jakob Hermanszoon from the Protestant Reformation period, served from 1603 as professor in theology at the University of Leiden. He wrote many books and treatises on theology, and his views became the basis of Arminianism and the Dutch Remonstrant movement. Arminius wrote that he sought to teach only those things which could be proved from the Scriptures and that tended toward edification among Christians (with the exception of Roman Catholics, with whom he said there could be no spiritual accord). His motto was reputed to be *Bona conscientia paradus*, meaning, A good conscience is a paradise. Arminius taught of a preventing (or prevenient) grace that has been conferred upon all by the Holy Spirit and this grace is sufficient for belief, in spite of our sinful corruption, and thus for salvation. Arminius stated that the grace sufficient for salvation is conferred on the Elect, and on the Non-elect that, if they will, they may believe or not believe, may be saved or not be saved. William Witt states that Arminius has a very high theology of grace. He insists emphatically that grace is gratuitous because it is obtained through Gods redemption in Christ, not through human effort. Arminius referred to even faith as being received from God as a gift.

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