

Preaching the Truth about Man's Total Depravity

Pastor Jose Maldonado

Hillburn Drive Grace Baptist Church

Nov.30, 2014

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. 7 And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. 8 But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand."

Isaiah 64:6-8

We began last week on the Sovereignty of God as we are taking a break from our studies on the plagues of Egypt and will pick them up in January. As we come to the end of 2014 this December 29th will be the 25th year I have been the Pastor of Hillburn Drive Grace Baptist Church and as we conclude 2014 I would like to speak on those precious truths that have been the foundational soteriological doctrines of this church from its inception on December 29, 1989. I will speak this on the 5 remaining Sundays on the Five Points of Calvinism to which we preach, teach and embrace in this church, not just by name but by practice also. As I mentioned last week I call myself a Calvinist only as the essence of our soteriological belief, not because I follow John Calvin. Now, in truth I prefer to call myself a Sovereign Grace Baptist instead of a Calvinist. This we shall consider the first of the five points which is called: TOTAL DEPRAVITY:

This needful subject of Total Depravity is no doubt neglected by modern Christendom and has been put on a shelf instead of being in the pulpit. If the preacher neglects to preach on Total Depravity he is basically shunning to declare the whole counsel of God as Paul would tell us in Acts 20:27. To those who refuse to speak on this subject woe be unto them because you cannot in anywise speak on the Living and True God of the Bible if you leave out the teaching of man's sinful depravity as their awful condition before a Thrice Holy GOD!

The letter "T" is the first letter on the acrostic TULIP which represents the Five Points of Calvinism or the Doctrines of Grace. The "U" is for Unconditional Election, the "L" is for Limited Atonement, the "I" for Irresistible Grace and the "P" for the Perseverance of the Saints. There are 5 things I want to share with you this morning:

- I. The Implication of this Doctrine for Man.**
- II. The Impoverishment of Man.**
- III. The Impotence or Inability of Man.**
- IV. The Impending Doom of Man.**
- V. The Intervention of God for Man.**

The Prophet Isaiah incriminate all men, all women and all children, that is; all of us by his first statement in verse 6: *“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...”* Let us consider our first point:

I. The Implication of this Doctrine for Man. I want us to see this first point under two headings: A. What I mean by Total Depravity and B. What I do not mean by Total Depravity.

A. What I mean by Total Depravity. I want to define this word first, I’m using the World Book Dictionary:

- 1. Total:** The word total is an adjective...being or making up the whole or complete, that is; the entire thing. For example: The total cost of the house was \$100,000, that’s the entire cost, the whole cost. This word also means complete, i.e. absolute or complete. The lights went out and we were in total darkness.
- 2. Depravity:** The quality of condition of being depraved. The word depraved means corrupt, bad, wickedness and comes from two Latin words: **“DE”** which means intensive or thoroughly and **“PRAVAS”** which means crooked or wrong.

B. How is total depravity applied to us or how did we get or receive this depraved nature.

- 1.** We received this sinful and depraved nature because of the fall of Adam. Adam is our representative. Romans 5:12, *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”*
- 2.** We then mean by this doctrine that man from birth are born into this world as sinners. We are born into this world as a sinner totally depraved, that is; the whole of our being, our entire being, yea our complete being which reaches to all the faculties of the soul renders us totally sinful.
- 3.** Therefore, we mean by this doctrine that man is thoroughly sinful and thus totally depraved in his sinful nature and action in himself and before God, that is; by this doctrine the whole being of man has been affected by the fall and by sin so much so that this corruption extends to every single part of our being, both body and soul. By total we mean that the totality of sin has reached every faculty of man; in his mind, his will, his conscience, his heart and so forth.
- 4.** Therefore, there is not spark of goodness before God, not can we do

anything spiritually good outside of God because sin has so mightily affected us that we are totally depraved before man and God.

5. Thus, natural man is born depraved totally, not in parts, in degrees, in sections or in spots but **THE WHOLE OF HIS BEING IS DEPRAVED!**

C. What I do not mean by Total Depravity:

1. Total depravity again means that man is depraved or corrupted in all the faculties of his being, but it does not mean that man can be as bad as they may become. We have no doubt a sinful propensity but it does not mean we may become as wicked as the devil. We must remember that total depravity is not a question of degree but of extent.
2. In their book on the Five Points of Calvinism, Steele-Thomas says, "*The word total does not mean that each sinner is as totally or completely corrupt in his actions and thoughts as it is possible for him to be...because the word total is used to indicate the whole of man's being that has been affected by sin. That corruption extends to every part or the whole being of that person.*" We must understand that some men are more corrupt than others, but the potential or propensity is the same in all of us. This is for some a hard pill for some to swallow and if not careful self-righteousness will come out when we say regarding someone committing a heinous crime, "*Oh, I would never do that.*"
3. I do not mean by total depravity that the sinner can perform or do all the wickedness he is capable of doing, but please understand this: **IT IS NOT STRICKLY WHAT THE SINNER DOES: BUT WHAT HE IS!**
4. Lastly, I do not mean by total depravity that man does not have a conscience or that man may not perform outward works of charity in the aspect of moral goodness, but that his sinful nature affects his so called good works or good deeds because they are also stained and affected by sin.
5. Notice what Isaiah says so clearly in our chief text: "*But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...*" Not some of, but all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags in the sight of God, that is, all the good works and deeds. Now it might look good before man but before a HOLY God who knows all about you 24/7, that is; every sin, every thought, every action and every deed is stained by sin. Do you think that doing a good deed will undo all the sins that you have committed before God? Remember also that when you do; do a good deed it's not to boast or tell your friends about it, but it's about **LOVING** your neighbor which is the essence of the 10 commandments.

II. The Impoverishment of Man.

- A. Isaiah 64:6 tells us that we are all UNCLEAN. This word in the religious sense means to be polluted or defiled in and contaminated. When applied in the moral sense it mean that we are depraved in our sins (bankrupt and ruin), that is; we stand before God unclean and polluted because we are stained in our sins.
- B. In case anyone thinks that they have been exempt from this contamination the word of God says in Romans 3:23, *“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* Eccl.7:20 says, *“For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.”*
- C. When we consider how did this happen or how can it be that we are all born into this world with such a sinful nature, we must look to the Garden of Eden where it all began with Adam and Eve. The Bible tells us clearly that Adam and Eve were the only ones created without sin. Eccl.7:29, *“Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.”* The first man and woman were created upright and holy and for a time served God acceptably.
- D. In Genesis 2:16&17 God commanded Adam, *“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”* Some call this a covenant of works which no doubt put Adam in a conditional state of either obeying or disobeying.
- E. In Genesis 3 we have the history of the awful fall and the awful effects it has had on the whole human race since then. We know that Satan came and tempted and deceived Eve and she partook of that forbidden fruit. The difference was that Adam was not deceived, he WILLFULLY PARTOOK of the forbidden fruit and the whole world was plunged in sin and depravity. (Gen.3:1-10) Notice the words of Gen.2:16 and 3:11, *“And the **LORD God commanded** the man... (3:11)...Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof **I commanded thee** that thou shouldest not eat?”* Because of this DISOBEDIENCE of Adam he fell from his original state of holiness and uprightness and long the distance of that fall. Romans 5:12, 17-19 clearly shows the effects of this sinful act of Adam as our representative, but also the righteous act of Christ as the representative of all those whom He SAVES!: *“Wherefore, as **by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: 17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one;** much more they which receive abundance of*

grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) 18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

- F. Therefore, man's depravity is Total, Universal and Inherent! We have seen how that man's depravity has affected the whole being of man and each and every faculty of the soul is stain with sin, but the depravity of man is also universal. By this we mean that the whole human race is affected by this act of Adam and thus every person born into this world regardless of where he lives is born depraved or as the Word of God says we are all born spiritually dead in trespasses and sins. In Gen.6:5 and Psalm 14:2 & 3 shows the awful malady of our depravity where Paul in Romans 3 puts it all together to show the extent of this effect: Romans 3:9-23: *"What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; 10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: 15 Their feet are swift to shed blood: 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways: 17 And the way of peace have they not known: 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes. 19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."*
- G. Not only is depravity total, universal but it is also inherent: C. D. Cole says, *"The depravity of man, the depravity of nature is transmitted to all men by natural generation. Life begets life and that which is born of the flesh is flesh."* Even David makes reference to this in Psalm 51:5, *"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."* Isaiah 48:8, *"Yea, thou heardest not; yea, thou knewest not; yea, from that time that thine ear was not opened: for I knew that thou wouldest deal very treacherously, and wast called a transgressor from the womb."*
- a. The early appearance of sin in every child is proof that depravity is inherent, those of you who have and have had children know this by experience. Now, we know that every child has a different disposition in various ways, in their conduct, in their temperament, in their personality and in their manners and or behavior, some are

more obedient than others. Let me just ask a few simple questions and by no means am I saying that they are always this way, for there are many times that our children melt our hearts with their love and hugs and kisses, but here we go:

- b. Did you send your children to a school of rebellion? Did you send your children to a school of disobedience? Why then is your child rebellious to the one who loves them the most? Why then is your child disobedient to the one who loves them the most?
- c. Why is your child always wanting its way? If he or she does not get their way, they throw a fit or a tantrum. Sad by true but children by nature rebel against the authority of their parents. Why would a child raise their hands against the person that loves them the most if we happen to tell them no? What are the first words they usually learn? Mine and no.
- d. Did you sent your child to the school of lying? How do they know to lie? Why would they lie to the person that loves them the most? I think David let us know in Ps.58:3 he says, "*The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.*" The baby cries and cries not because its hungry or needs a diaper change, but because they want to be held.
- e. Did you sent you child to the school of fighting, biting, pushing and scratching? If you were to take 2 two year old children and put a toy between them, what's going to happen? I'm sure one will say to the other one, you go first and the other will say, no, you go first. Oh no whoever gets the toy first will say, mine and put it behind their back, now no doubt they might share but if will not be long before they fight for the toy. Listen I can go on and on, but I think you know what I mean.
- f. Children do not become sinners by learning sin of because of their environment, remember Adam and Eve were in the best environment ever in the Garden of Eden and they still disobeyed God. They don't become sinners because they sin, no they sin because they are sinners. This again is the end result of the fall of Adam, everyone born into this world are sinners, yes totally depraved sinners.

III. The Impotence or Inability of Man.

- A. Not only is man born into this world impure that is unclean and

impoverished that is bankrupt in sin, but man is also born impotent. Isaiah 64:6 & 7 again says, *“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. 7 And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee...”*(This spells inability) When God told Adam in Gen.2:17, *“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”* it means that sin would be brought into the world with two effects, sin would produce death both physically and spiritually. This again is why Paul says in Romans 6:23, *“For the wages of sin is death...”* and Ezek.18:20, *“The soul that sinneth, it shall die...”* This is physical death, we will all die one day because of sin, but then there is also the aspect of being dead spiritually. Eph.2:1 makes this point clear; *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.”* Paul is speaking to the Ephesians saints who were presently Christian, but he was making the point that before they were Christians, they were dead spiritually in trespasses and sins. In other words every person born into this world is born spiritually dead in trespasses and sins and remain that way until God saves them or until they die physically. Many who refute total depravity say that the word dead here in Eph2:1 does not mean dead like a corpse, but I beg to remind them that it is the same Greek word used by Paul in Eph.1:20 used of Christ being raised from the dead. It is the Greek word ‘**nekros**,’ which means to be lifeless, deceased and destitute of life, but again it is in the Spiritual application in Eph.2:1.

- B. Therefore everyone born into this world is born DEAD spiritually. There are many verses for the following points but because of space and time I will keep it to 1 or 2 verses to each of my points, not because there is not many verses on this subject but again because of time and space.
1. Therefore every born in this world is born spiritually dead and separated alienated from God because of sin.
 2. Everyone is also born blind spiritually even as Christ told Nicodemus in John 3:3, *“...Except a man be born again, **he cannot see the kingdom of God.**”*
 3. Everyone is also born deaf spiritually and cannot hear the Word of God, oh they can hear physically, but not spiritually as Christ told those in His day in John 8:43 & 47, *“Why do ye not understand my speech? even because **ye cannot hear my word.**”* *“He that is of God heareth God’s words: **ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.**”*

Jer.5:21, *“Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which **have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not.**”*

4. The Fall also affected the mind: Eph.4:17 & 18, *“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.”* Romans 8:7, *“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”*
5. The Fall also affected the understanding and we saw this also in Eph.4:17 & 18 and also Jer.5:21, Romans 1:31, *“**Without understanding**, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful.”*
6. The Fall also affected the conscience, we see this in Titus 1:15, *“Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; **but even their mind and conscience is defiled.**”*
7. The Fall also affected the feelings and emotions and of course the heart: Jer.17:9, *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”* Let Christ expose everyone’s heart in Mark 7:21-23, *“For **from within, out of the heart of men**, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”* Matt.15:18 *“But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.”*
8. There are many other things but because of time let’s get to the one which gives Arminian’s fits, the will and yes the fall also affected the WILL of MAN, so that man’s will is not free spiritually. The will is in bondage to sin and thus man does not have a FREE WILL spiritually: Take your argument with Christ not with me for He clearly showed that the of man is not free: John 1:12 & 13, *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, **nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man**, but of God.”* John 5:40, *“And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.”* John 12:39 & 40, *“Therefore **they could not believe**, because that Esaias said again, 40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.”* Jer. 13:23, *“Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard*

his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.” Job 14:4, “Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.” Romans 9:16, “So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.” Man’s will is in bondage to sin, religion and Satan and it takes the Omnipotent Power of God’s Holy Spirit to raise a dead sinner from its spiritual death!

9. Thus, we see that the effects of the fall affected the whole human race and the whole being of man that is all its faculties were affected by sin as Isaiah 1:6 says, *“From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.”* Therefore everyone is born into this world spiritually dead, blind, deaf which has affected the heart, mind, understanding and will of man rendering all of us Totally Depraved. If man is to recover from his depravity he needs outside help, that is; man needs someone besides himself to deliver him and that person is none other than God HIMSELF!

IV. The Impending Doom of Man.

- A. Man in their present state of depravity are lost and without Christ. Man outside Christ have no hope of heaven in and of themselves. They stand before God condemned in their sins awaiting the impending doom of a Christ less hell. Paul writing to the Ephesians in Eph.2:12 says, *“That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.”* What a way to live and worse what a way to die, having no hope and without God, again this is the condition of all men born into this world because of the stain and effect of sin in us.
- B. Isaiah clearly spells out our status before God in Isaiah 59:2, *“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”* Isaiah 64:6 & 7, *“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. 7 And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.”*
- C. God makes it very clear in His Word the Bible regarding the condition of man and the impending doom that will follow if man does not get their hearts right with God through the person of His beloved Son Christ, even Christ gave many warnings: Mark 1:15, *“And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”* In Luke 13:5

Christ says, *"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."* John 8:24, *"I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."* In Psalms 7:11-13 David shares these fearful words, *"God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day. 12 If he turn not, he will whet his sword; he hath bent his bow, and made it ready. 13 He hath also prepared for him the instruments of death; he ordaineth his arrows against the persecutor."* Ps.50:21 & 22, *"These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes. 22 Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver."* You do not want to come before God without Christ when you die, because the God of the Bible is a consuming fire: Hebrews 12:29, *"For our God is a consuming fire."* Deut.32:35 is also a fearful text used by Jonathan Edwards in his famous sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," *"To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste."* Remember again the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 6:23, I didn't read the whole verse last time but I want to now *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* The second part of the text leads us to our last point this morning:

V. The Intervention of God for Man.

- A. Our chief text again sets this forth in Isaiah 64:6-8, *"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. 7 And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. 8 **But now**, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand."*
- B. Thank God for His intervention or all of us would be without hope. I thank God for the but's of the Bible some of them are very special: We have one here in Isaiah 64:8 and then of course my favorite but of the Bible in Eph.2:1-5, *"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4 **But God**, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved.)"* In verses 1-3 we see man's condition before God and in verses 4 & 5 we see God's intervention!

- C. Reminds me also of the time of Noah in Genesis 6:5-8, “*And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. 7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. 8 **But Noah found grace** in the eyes of the LORD.*” God intervened for Noah, look also at verses 17 & 18, “*And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die. 18 **But with thee** will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.*” I think that Noah never got over the but’s in his life, I know I haven’t gotten over Eph.2:4. Old Joseph from the Old Testament never got over his but either, notice Acts 7:9, “*And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: **but God was with him.***” Joseph used that but against his own brothers in Gen.50:18-20, “*And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants. 19 And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? 20 **But as for you**, ye thought evil against me; **but God meant it unto good**, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.*” Yes, let me tell you the buts of the Bible do some preaching, amen and amen! Notice again Romans 6:23, “*For the wages of sin is death; **but the gift of God** is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” Titus 3:5, “*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, **but according to his mercy he saved us**, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.*”
- D. Isaiah is right in Isaiah 64:8, “***But now, O LORD**, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and **we all are the work of thy hand.***” So is Jonah when he says in in Jonah 2:9, “*...salvation is of the LORD.*” Salvation is the complete work of God in the heart of a sinner. Salvation is not God doing His part and the sinner doing his part.
1. As many say, the sinner takes the first step and God does the rest.
 2. The sinner meets God halfway and God will do the rest.
 3. The sinner cooperating with God.
 4. The sinner contributes something to salvation.
- E. No, no, no, salvation is the complete work of God in the heart of a sinner. Salvation is not synergistic, that is, man does his part and God does his part, no salvation is monergistic, it is all of GOD! Salvation is the work of God’s HAND, again Isaiah 64:8, “*...**we all are the work of thy hand.***” Christ is the author and finisher of our faith. Salvation is the regenerating work

of God in our hearts as clearly shown in Ezek.36:26 & 27, “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.”

- F. For a totally depraved sinner to recover and be saved He needs an outside source and that source is GOD HIMSELF! Thus we see the importance of the gospel of grace, that is; to take the gospel of Christ to sinners.
- G. Regeneration/Conversion is the only recovery for totally depraved sinners, oh to God that if you're are outside Christ this morning that you will call upon Him to save you from your sins. We pray this morning that you sue God for mercy and forgiveness of sins for this is the whole purpose of Christ coming into the world to save sinners from their sins. No matter how deep the stain of sin is, the GRACE of God is GREATER than and all sins: Romans 5:20 & 21, “Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But **where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:** 21That as sin hath reigned unto death, even **so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life** by Jesus Christ our Lord.”
- H. Though we believe in the inability of man to save himself, we also uphold, believe and preach in man's responsibility, the sinner must believe and the sinner must repent of their sins, will you not do this this morning and come to God in repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Romans 10:9-13, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Ps.72:12-14, “For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper. 13 He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy. 14 He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in his sight.”
- I. Thus we warn and admonish all sinner to repent and believe the gospel of Christ: Acts. 20:21, come then this morning in: “...repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Let's PRAY: