

# *Total Depravity of Man*

## PREDESTINED POSITION

### **Romans 8:28-30**

28. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been **called according to <sup>1</sup>his purpose**. 29. For those God <sup>2</sup>foreknew he also <sup>3</sup>predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30. And those he predestined, he also <sup>4</sup>called; those he called, he also <sup>5</sup>justified; those he justified, he also <sup>6</sup>glorified.

### **Everything that follows is predicated on this doctrine!**

*\* Revulsion: "God saw something good in me and therefore chose me."*

*We will look at each of these because they are outlined in our text and it is impossible to move on to Romans 9-11 without having laid this groundwork.*

1. Sovereignty - God, Almighty Over All (Romans 8:28) *His Purpose*
2. Foreknowledge - God knows the end from the beginning, the cast of the dice. (Romans 8:29a) *He Foreknew*
3. **Total Depravity** of Man - total absence of good in man. Considered in retrospect. (Romans 3&7) *He chose*
4. Predestination - God pre-orders, selects, foreordains all things after the council of his will. (Romans 8:29b) *He Predestined*
5. Election - God chooses to have mercy. (no man come to me except the Father draws him) (Romans 8:30a) *He Called*
6. Free Will - man's responsibility (Romans 8:30a) *He Justified*
7. Perseverance of the Saints - wheat and weeds, true and false, real and unreal, born again and still born, and profess-ers and possessors. (Romans 8:30a) *He Glorified*

*These are not doctrines for the unsaved. These are doctrines for believers to consider in retrospect, after being saved, looking back, give glory to God. These are not things every believer should be mature enough to consider, understand and eventually embrace.*

# Total Depravity of Man

John 6:44

- ?? No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. KJV
- ?? NIV "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.
- ?? No man is able to come to me if the Father who sent me does not give him the desire to come: and I will take him up from the dead on the last day. BBE

*"A mouse was caught by its tail in a trap the other day, and the poor creature went on eating the cheese. Many men are doing the same. They know that they are guilty, and they dread their punishment, but they go on nibbling at their beloved sins."*  
C.H. Spurgeon

Without an adequate understanding of the Biblical teaching concerning the total depravity of man we cannot appreciate the grace, sovereignty, predestination, and election of God.

## Suggested Reading

- ?? Total Depravity by John Piper
- ?? Human Depravity by R.C. Sproul New!
- ?? The Bondage Of The Will by Martin Luther (book)
- ?? How God Works in Men's Hearts from "Calvin's Institutes" (Vol. II, Book II, Chap. 4).
- ?? Concerning the determination of the Will by Jonathan Edwards
- ?? Human Inability by Charles Spurgeon, 1858
- ?? Free Will Refuted by John Calvin
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- ?? More Thoughts on Man's Depravity by John Newton
- ?? What does the Bible teach about election? By John MacArthur jr.
- ?? Lostness of Mankind, by L.L. King
- ?? A.W. Pink, Sovereignty of God  
(ie) Man's will in salvation

# Tulip

tulip - n. 1. a plant from the lily family bearing colorful, cup-shaped flowers 2. the Reformed system of doctrine which exalts the God of heaven and earth for the salvation He gives to man.

1. Total Depravity of Man
2. Unconditional Election
3. Limited Atonement
4. Irresistible Grace
5. Perseverance and Preservation of the Saints

*Is God Sovereign or is He not? Is he sovereign or has he delegated sovereignty to the sovereignty of the human will?*

(ie) In the light of compassionate outpouring over the Tsunami.  
*The triumph of the human spirit.*

The image of God is still reflected in every man but the ability to persist in it is not.

## I. Definition of the Total Depravity of Man

### Total Depravity (Spurgeon)

?? Man's will is powerless to respond to God.

?? Man's mind is darkened, so not to understand.

?? Man's conscience is deaf, so not to be convicted.

?? Man's heart is deceitful, so not to be convinced.

?? Man's affections are depraved, so not to feel.

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(ie) RC Sproul on the utterly or totally depraved.

(ie) John Piper on goodness philanthropic man - *"A Willingly complicit participant against God while imitating goodness."*

## II. Description (word pictures) of the Total Depravity of Man

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|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. Dead     | 8. Contaminated |
| 2. Vile     | 9. Polluted     |
| 3. Wretched | 10. Spoiled     |
| 4. Putrid   | 11. Ruined      |
| 5. Fecal    | 12. Wrecked*    |
| 6. Stinking | 13. Sick*       |
| 7. Rotting  | 14. Malignant   |

(ie) Summer's moth in the hand of the Creator

## III. Depth (Scriptures) of the Total Depravity of Man

?? **Isaiah 1:6** From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness-- only wounds and welts and open sores, not cleansed or bandaged or soothed with oil.

?? **Isaiah 6:5** "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

?? **Jeremiah 17:9** The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

?? **Jude 1:12-13** These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm--shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted--twice dead. They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.

?? **Revelation 3:17** You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

## IV. Desperation of the Total Depravity of Man

1. He has no will but to do evil – (John 6:44)
2. He is enemy of God – (Eph 2:12-16, James 4:4)
3. He is enslaved to sin – (John 8:34, I John 3:8)
4. He follows Satan as a slave – (John 8:44)
5. He is dead in his sins – (Ephesians 2:1-3)
6. He is powerless to turn to God – (Romans 5:6)

### **Conclusion**

*?? How this truth should humble us and make us thankful.*

*?? How this truth should impel us always to plead for mercy.*

*?? How it should rush us to our knees on behalf of others.*

### **Come Thou Fount**

O to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.

## **Sovereignty of God - Pink**

When addressing the unsaved, preachers often draw an analogy between God's sending of the Gospel to the sinner, and a sick man in bed, with some healing medicine on a table by his side: all he needs to do is reach forth his hand and take it. But in order for this illustration to be in any wise true to the picture which Scripture gives us of the fallen and depraved sinner, the sick man in bed must be described as one who is blind (Eph. 4:18) so that he cannot see the medicine, his hand paralyzed (Rom. 5:6) so that he is unable to reach forth for it, and his heart not only devoid of all confidence in the medicine but filled with hatred against the physician himself (John 15:18).

## **Martin Luther**

*The comfort of knowing that salvation does not depend on "free-will"*

I frankly confess that, for myself, even if it could be, I should not want "free-will" to be given to me, nor anything to be justify in my own hands to enable me to endeavor after salvation; not merely because in face of so many dangers, and adversities, and assaults of devils, I could not stand my ground and hold fast my "free-will" (for one devil is stronger than all men, and on these terms no man could be saved); but because, even were there no dangers, adversities, or devils, I should still be forced to labor with no guarantee of success, and to beat my fists at the air. If I lived and worked to all eternity, my conscience would never reach comfortable certainty as to how much it must do to satisfy God. Whatever work I had done, there would still be a nagging doubt as to whether it pleases God, or whether He required something more. The experience of all who seek righteousness by works proves that; and I learned it well enough myself over a period of many years, to my own great hurt. But now that God has taken my salvation out the control of my own will, and put it under the control of His, and promised to save me, not according to my working or running, but according to His own grace and mercy, I have the comfortable certainty that He is faithful and will not lie to me, and that He is also great and powerful, so that no devils or opposition can break Him or pluck me from Him. "No one," He says, "shall pluck them out of my hand, because my father which gave them me is greater than all" [John 10:28-29].

Thus it is that, if not all, yet some, indeed many, are saved; whereas, by the power of "free-will" none at all could be saved, but every one of us would perish. Furthermore, I have the comfortable certainty that I please God, not by reason of the merit of my works, but by reason of His merciful favor promised to me; so that, if I work too little, or badly, He does not impute it to me, but with fatherly compassion pardons me and makes me better. This is the glorying of all the saints in their God.

## **Closing Songs**

*It Is No Secret What God Can Do*

*Come to Jesus, Come to Jesus*

## **Human Will**

## *The Total Depravity of Man*

*“Whosoever will may come...”*

This is true. God opens the gates wide. Many are called but few come in.

?? Romans 3:9-19 What shall we conclude then? Are we any better ? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. 10. As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; 11. there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. 12. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." 13. "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips." 14. "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." 15. "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16. ruin and misery mark their ways, 17. and the way of peace they do not know." 18. "There is no fear of God before their eyes." 19. Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

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?? John 6:44. "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

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?? Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

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?? Eph 2:1-3 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2. in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

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