

II

**SERIES: "LAST...BUT NOT LEAST":**

An In-Depth Study of MALACHI - the Final Prophet of the Old Testament Era-  
PART VII - Malachi and ELECTION

"T. otal Depravity"

WEDNESDAY, February 4th, 2009

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I. This, the FOUNDATION building block for "Calvinism", consists of 2 words which are NEVER recorded even once in the Bible. In fact NONE of the PHRASES which make up the acronym, T.U.L.I.P., are found ANYWHERE in the entire Bible!!!

II. Calvin offered up a "special definition" for TOTAL DEPRAVITY: "TOTAL INABILITY" - a definition which NECESSITATES both "UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION" and "IRRESISTIBLE GRACE"!

III. It is ABSURD and UNJUST to declare that man is INCAPABLE of repentance and faith BUT THEN to turn around and CONDemn him for failing to repent and believe!

IV. In reality, the KEY issue related to sinners and their continuing in a state of "lostness" is NOT INABILITY, BUT UNWILLINGNESS (Psalm 10: 4; \*\* John 5: 40)

V. There is not a single verse in the Bible which supports Calvin's idea/teaching of "INABILITY". On the CONTRARY, there ARE countless verses which declare otherwise. (i.e. Acts 17:30 - QUESTION? What kind of "God" would COMMAND people to do something which they are actually UNABLE to do???)

VI. Martin Luther said that the doctrine of "T.otal Depravity" was "the Hinge upon which the whole Reformation turned"!

VII. As a result of this doctrine, Calvinists insist that "REGENERATION must precede SAVATION" (i.e. you must be 'BORN AGAIN' before you can be 'BORN AGAIN'). YET, the Bible consistently, with NO exception - teaches the exact opposite in verses such as II Timothy 3:15 and Galatians 3:26. Calvinists insist that there is an 1) "ENABLING grace" AND 2) a "REGENERATING grace"

(New Birth)  
NOTE: Regenerating grace (according to Calvinists) comes first and is accomplished by God alone.

- VIII. The doctrine of "Total depravity as taught by Calvin, was first developed by St. Augustine. In any case, having **NO ROOTS** within Scripture, it is most certainly a doctrine contrived by human REASONING.
- IX. The Bible makes it clear that Salvation is a "GIFT" -  
**QUESTION:** What "ABILITY" does it require to receive a "GIFT"??
- X. The Great COMMISSION (Mark 16:15) implies and assumes the ABILITY of Every man for receiving the Gospel!
- XI. Sadly, the appalling CONSEQUENCE of this teaching is as follows: God could save all mankind but deliberately withholds from multitudes the SALVATION He gives to the "ELECT"! Furthermore, this would mean that the One Who is "LOVE" - (not Who simply HAS "LOVE") - LACKS love for ALL mankind...which is CONTRARY TO ALL SCRIPTURE (see James 3:17, "without PARTIALITY")  
*'Love' is →*
- XII. A closer look at Calvinism reveals a severe problem: it's DENIAL of God's INFINITE LOVE FOR ALL!
- XIII. Standing in the face of such false humanistic logic are scores of verses within the Scripture which most CLEARLY lay out the undeniable SEQUENCE of events for salvation:
- Luke 8:12
  - Mark 16: 16
  - Acts 16: 31
  - Romans 1:16
  - I Corinthians 15: 1 - 2
  - Ephesians 2: 8
  - I Timothy 1:16
- XIV. Clearly, believing in Christ unto salvation is not the RESULT of regeneration - but the CAUSE of it!
- XV. The UNIVERSALITY of God's offer of salvation is repeated often throughout the Bible. (John 1:37; 4: 10; Revelation 22: 17; Isaiah 45: 22). The "ELECT" are not the only ones in view!  
 (+) (Is. 55:1)