

UNDERSTANDING THE "T" IN TULIP

Selected passages

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. **Total depravity:** Man is helpless to accomplish his own salvation. Man is dead within his trespasses and sin.
- B. **Unconditional election:** God does not choose you based on any conditions. God would elect some for eternal life and condemn others to eternal death.
- C. **Limited Atonement:** Jesus only died for those whom He knew were chosen by God the Father.
- D. **Irresistible grace:** If God wants to save someone, that person will not be able to "resist" or "reject" the grace of God. They will be saved no matter what.
- E. **Perseverance of the saints:** If you're truly born again, you will persevere and not permanently turn away from the faith. You cannot lose your salvation.

II. THE UNDERSTANDING OF "TOTAL DEPRAVITY" WITHIN A BIBLICAL RESPONSE:

A. Their definition of "Total Depravity":

Quote: This simply means that man inherits the guilt of Adam's sin (*Rom. 5:12*) and is by nature a child of wrath (*Eph. 2:3*). The corruption of sin extends to his mind as well as his will; consequently, no one seeks God. Because man is dead in trespasses and sins, God must regenerate him and even grant him the faith to believe. Thus, the doctrine of total depravity leads directly to that of unconditional election- a dead man cannot respond to the gospel's appeal.

B. The breakdown in logic that attacks a form of justice that God holds within his nature and character. (*Psalms 89:14; Psalms 11:7; 2 Thes. 1:6-7; Col. 3:25*)

C. The false doctrine of regeneration preceding faith (*2 Tim. 3:15; Gal. 3:26*)

1. Understanding the Calvinistic stance on regeneration and sovereign grace:
2. A defense of the passage used by leading Calvinist for this stance:
(*John 6:63-68*)

III. Application:

- A. The breakdown of "total depravity" is crucial because the other points of Calvinism hinge on this being true. If "total depravity" fails, then so does the other points of Calvinism.