

## **Introduction**

1. Some thoughts that are crystallized into words spread like cancer ([2 Tim. 2:17](#))
  - a. One such system of thought was made popular by John Calvin, a 16th Century reformer, known as Calvinism
  - b. TULIP
    - i. Total Hereditary Depravity/Original Sin/Adamic Sin
    - ii. Unconditional Election/Predestination
    - iii. Limited Atonement
    - iv. Irresistible Grace
    - v. Perseverance of the Saints/Once Saved Always Saved
  - c. Each of these teachings depend upon one another so if one falls, they all fall
2. Calvinism forms the basis of a number of false teachings including:
  - a. “Faith only” salvation
  - b. “Once saved always saved”
  - c. Direct operation of the Holy Spirit in conviction and conversion of sinners
  - d. “Born sinners” / “sin nature”
  - e. Infant baptism

## **I. Total Hereditary Depravity: Defined**

1. Total
  - a. “comprising or constituting a whole: entire” (Merriam-Webster)
  - b. “absolute, utter” (Merriam-Webster)
2. Hereditary
  - a. “genetically transmitted or transmittable from parent to offspring” (Merriam-Webster)
  - b. “received or passing by inheritance or required to pass by inheritance or by reason of birth” (Merriam-Webster)
3. Depravity
  - a. “a corrupt act or practice” (Merriam-Webster)
  - b. “the quality or state of being depraved” (Merriam-Webster)
4. When all three definitions are combined, we have the meaning that each person is completely corrupt or evil from birth, and they received this nature from their parents going all the way back to Adam and Eve

## **II. Total Hereditary Depravity: Some Twisted Passages**

1. [Psalm 51:5](#)
  - a. This passage says nothing about David’s personal sin, but rather his mother (ancestor)
  - b. David was the tenth generation of an illegitimate union between Judah and Tamar ([Gen. 38](#); [Dt. 23:2](#); [Mt. 1:3-6](#))
2. [Psalm 58:3](#)

## May 12, 2024, AM Sermon – Calvinism: Total Hereditary Depravity

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- a. The wicked go astray, not born astray
  - b. Infants cannot speak as soon as they are born, let alone lie
  - c. They also do not have teeth ([Ps. 58:6](#))
  - d. This is hyperbolic (exaggerated) language which describes the swiftness to which man sins ([Rm. 3:23](#))
3. [Romans 5:12](#)
- a. Death spread to all men, not sin!
  - b. If sin spread to all due to Adam's sin, then why not Christ's righteousness for He died for all? ([Rm. 5:19](#); cf. [2 Cor. 5:14-15](#))
4. [Ephesians 2:3](#)
- a. by nature (*physis* G5449 *foṓ*-sis) a mode of feeling and acting which by long habit has become nature (Thayer 660)
  - b. Not born sinners, but became sinners by continued evil conduct to the point it became second nature ([Jer. 13:23](#) "accustomed")

### III. Total Hereditary Depravity: Refuted

1. If mankind is totally depraved, then they cannot get any worse
  - a. Yet, we read of those who will grow "worse and worse" ([2 Tim. 3:13](#))
  - b. Yet, we read of such a thing as a "noble (honest) and good heart" ([Lk. 8:15](#))
2. Mankind is the offspring of the holy and righteous God ([Ac. 17:28](#))
  - a. God made man upright ([Ecc. 7:29](#))
  - b. God is the Giver of the spirit ([Heb. 12:9](#); [Ecc. 12:7](#))
  - c. We are born into the world innocent ([Ps. 106:37-38](#))
  - d. Consider accountability ([Rm. 7:7-12](#))
  - e. If man is born a sinner, then this implies Jesus was born a sinner ([Gal. 4:4-5](#); [Heb. 4:15, 7:26](#); [1 Pt. 2:22](#))
3. Sin is an individual choice ([1 Jn. 3:4](#); [Jm. 4:17](#))
  - a. Good or evil must be done ([Rm. 9:11](#))
4. The guilt of sin is carried by the one who sinned and righteousness by the one who is righteous ([Eze. 18](#))

### Conclusion

1. We will be judged individually based upon what we did in our own body ([2 Cor. 5:10](#))
  - a. Not a one of us will bear the guilt of someone else's sin ([Gal. 6:4-5, 7-8](#))
2. Christ told us to become as little children to enter the kingdom of heaven ([Mt. 18:3](#))
  - a. We are to be born again ([Jn. 3:1-5](#); cf. [1 Pt. 1:22-23](#))
    - i. Not to a state of total depravity, but a new creation ([2 Cor. 5:17](#); cf. [Eph. 4:24](#); [Col. 3:10](#))
    - ii. Generation ([Ac. 17:28](#))→Degeneration ([Col. 2:13](#))→Regeneration ([Tit. 3:5](#))