

## **Biblical Reasons to Dismiss the Doctrine of Total Depravity**

### **(T) – Total Depravity**

The doctrine of Total Depravity (The first letter "T" in TULIP)

1. Calvinism teaches that before a person can choose God, he must first be born again and holds that being spiritually dead means you cannot choose God without God making you born again first.
  - i. Calvinism holds that being born again comes before faith.  
Not the other way around.
2. Non-Calvinists hold that God draws all in a general sense, and some respond favoratively toward the gospel call.

### ***Calvinist Dictionary***

#### **Depravity**

1. To a Calvinist, "depravity" means:  
dead spiritually and mentally, men are not capable of responding to the gospel, nor responding to the glory of God on their own, they are the walking dead, both spiritually and mentally.
2. For the Calvinist, most people have been predetermined not to respond to the gospel of Jesus, whether they know it or not.
3. starting in  
**Romans 8:5** [For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.](#)  
(notice "live according to the flesh" comes before "set their minds on").
  1. They the sinner determine for themselves to set their minds on the flesh, not God.
  2. It follows that the way we live determines the way we live.
  3. **Romans 8:13** [For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.](#) (notice once again it's how we live).  
Ah yes, it's a personal choice... to live according to the spirit, by doing what? Putting to death the deeds of the body/flesh.
  4. Death to Flesh/deeds=life

#### ***Dead***

#### **Lazarus**

1. Calvinism affirms that just as Lazarus could not come out of the tomb without Christ calling him out, so neither can a spiritually dead person respond to Christ's gospel call without being

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born again first.

The non-calvinist would respond that of course God calls people, but that does not mean people are not making a choice to follow God or that God is actively making it impossible for others to do so.

### Ephesians 2:1-3 (dead in trespasses and sin)

#### Ephesians 2:1-3

1. And you were dead in your transgressions and sins,
2. in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience,
3. among whom we all also formerly conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

#### 1. John MacArthur Commentary:

“How can a person who is dead in sin, blinded by Satan...exercise saving faith? A corpse could no sooner come out of a grave and walk.” —John MacArthur Jr., *Saved Without a Doubt* (Colorado Springs, Colo.: Chariot Victor, 1992), 58.

- a) If we are to understand the meaning of "dead in trespasses and sins," we must recognize the frequent metaphorical use of "dead" in Scripture:

#### 2. you were dead in your transgressions and sins

- a) This must occur sometime after birth, since the Bible elsewhere affirms God does not deem little children who do not know the difference between evil or good yet as being guilty before God
- b) When does someone become spiritually dead?  
It seems transgressions has something to do with it.  
We see disobedience to God and carnal living.  
The spiritual deadness results from the wages of sin being death.  
We wouldn't say a 1 year old infant is sinning and neither does the Bible.

#### 3. by nature children of wrath

- a) Is this an original sin and/or a total depravity doctrine?  
Meaning we are born under wrath because we are born after Adam.  
Paul does not explicitly say that
- b) Our nature is a sinful nature before we are converted.  
That does not mean we are born guilty before God.  
But we are born with a handicap in that given long enough, we will reach an age of accountability and ultimately rebel against God.

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- c) Romans 1 says that the wrath of God comes upon those who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

### Ephesians 4:17-19 (alienated from God)

#### Ephesians 4:17-19

17. This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,

18. having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

19. who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

#### 1. having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God

i. The previous verse said you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk.

ii. Before Jesus came, the Gentiles were majority unsaved.

At the beginning of the 1st century, the Church was mostly composed of ethnic jews. So talking of a Gentile was almost the same as talking about a lost person.

iii. Gentiles were in a majority way alienated from God.

Paul is saying not to be like them.

#### iv. Recall Ephesians 2:1-2

1. And you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

2. in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience,

a) Dead does not mean you can't do anything.

It is a condition.

It means dead, as in being alienated from God. If you are spiritually dead, you are alienated from God and are a dead man spiritually, awaiting condemnation.

You are in a condemned status.

b) v18 adds to Ephesians 2:1-2. Gentiles who are not Christians are spiritually dead; they are alienated from God.

c) Nothing in this passage is suggesting that God must make one born again before he can repent as the Calvinist doctrine of Total Depravity would suggest.

What we do see is that when someone is alienated from God because of their sin, they are said to be dead in their sin and trespasses.

Not that they are unable to be saved unless God makes them born against first.

#### 2. who, being past feeling

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- i. Do unsaved people have no feeling at all? Of course they sense things physically. They have no spiritual feeling. No spiritual sensitivity toward the things of God. Their hearts are numb toward moral issues. They have no warm feeling toward God and no regret or godly sorrow over their sin.

### **Metaphorical uses of Dead in scripture**

#### ***As good as dead – weak***

##### **Revelation 3:1 (but you are dead)**

##### **Revelation 3:1**

1. "I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead."

1. Here, dead mean "good as dead".
2. Jesus called people in Churches to repent in Revelation 3, which is something that He expected them to do.  
But until they do, they are as good as dead.  
Yet these so-called "dead" people are expected to make choices, which is not possible in Calvinism.

##### **Hebrews 11:12 (as good as dead)**

1. Compare: **Hebrews 11:12**

12. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore."

##### **Romans 4:19 (already dead)**

##### **Romans 4:19**

19. [Abraham] did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb...

#### ***Condemned to death***

##### **Genesis 20:3 (you are a dead man)**

##### **Genesis 20:3**

3. But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, "Indeed you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife."

##### **Exodus 12:33 (we are all dead)**

##### **Exodus 12:33 (Young's Literal)**

33. And the Egyptians are urgent on the people, hasting to send them away out of the land, for they said, and "We are all dead."

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**2 Samuel 9:8 (a dead dog as I)**

**2 Samuel 9:8**

8. Then he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?"

**2 Samuel 19:28 (my father's house were but dead men)**

**2 Samuel 19:28**

28. For all my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king."

**Romans 8:10 (the body is dead because of sin)**

**Romans 8:10**

10. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

1. Those who are spiritually dead will be condemned to death if not made spiritually alive in Christ.

### ***Dead to sin***

There are Bible verses saying the Christian is dead to sin.

That doesn't mean the Christian cannot sin anymore in a literal sense.

So to say dead in sin before you are saved doesn't mean you can't do anything, including having faith.

### ***Dead to God or alienated from God***

**Romans 7:9-11 (I was once alive without the law)**

**Romans 7:9-11**

9. I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.

10. And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death.

11. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.

**Luke 15:24 (my son was dead and is alive again)**

**Luke 15:24**

24. "...for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

1. Surely the son was making decisions while he was dead (alienated from his father).

**Romans 6:2 + Galatians 6:14 (dead to sin)**

Do the metaphorical expressions "dead to sin" (Romans 6:2)

and "crucified to the world" (Galatians 6:14)

preclude/prevent any wrongdoing by the believer? (see also Colossians 2:20/3:3)

If not, then how can one's being dead in sin be forced to mean incapable of doing any good?

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### **Matthew 8:21 (let the dead bury their own dead)**

#### **Matthew 8:21**

21. Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."

22. But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

#### 1. let the dead bury their own dead

- a) Let those who are spiritually dead bury the dead.  
Any unregenerate person can do that.  
But only Christians can follow Jesus which non-Christians cannot do.
- b) It does not therefore follow that the man talking to Jesus could make no choice in the matter to follow Jesus.
- c) Unbelievers can bury the dead. Any spiritually dead person can bury dead people.
- d) Jesus was calling him to be a preacher to travel with Him.  
Only a spiritually alive person could do that.
- e) Nothing in this passage is a negation of an unbeliever being able to make a decision to choose God.

### **Colossians 2:13 (you being dead in your transgressions)**

#### **Colossians 2:13**

13. And you being dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive with Him, having graciously forgiven us all our transgressions.

#### 1. dead in your transgressions

- i. The Calvinist sees the word 'dead' and equates the inability for a human to make any spiritual moves toward God unless he is first made spiritually born again by God first.
- ii. Elsewhere we see the word 'dead' being used to describe a state of being.  
If you trespass against God, you are good as dead. Condemned. You're a dead man walking. The judgment is so sure. So certain. It's just a matter of time. You're building up wrath for the day of judgment.
- iii. Dead does not mean one cannot make moves toward God or is unable to accept the gospel of Jesus without first being born again first.
- iv. Of course God made the first move. Jesus came.

### **The Prodigal Son (comes to his senses)**

#### 1. The prodigal son comes to his senses.

It doesn't say the father irresistibly drew his son.

That militates against the idea of total depravity, where the sinner is unable to make any decisions concerning accepting the gospel message.

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2. The prodigal son was 'dead' to his father.  
We say that today too. "You're dead to me" – with regards to relationship.

### ***Guilty from being birth?***

This touches on the doctrine of Original Sin.  
But does being born make you guilty before God?  
Or does guilt come when you reach an age of accountability?

### **Genesis 6:5 (wickedness of man – evil continually)**

#### **Genesis 6:5**

5. Then the LORD[fn] saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

1. This is certainly speaking of people from right before the Great Flood.
  - i. The description was based off of the behavior of the people.
  - ii. It does not follow that all men today are equally evil in behavior, or that they were born that way.
2. Of course people are born with a sin nature, but this does not affirm that humans are born guilty before God.

### **Psalms 51:5 (David conceived in sin)**

#### **1. Psalm 51:5**

5. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
And in sin my mother conceived me.

1. Did David's mother sin by bearing David?  
Would not seem so.
  - i. Was David an illegitimate child? We are not told he was.
  - ii. If I someone today said they were born in sin, you would likely believe they were born out of wedlock, being a bastard child.  
Even in that case, the baby isn't the one sinning.
  - iii. Does a single-celled embryo at conception sin? Wouldn't seem so.
2. Truly, no one had to teach any of us to sin. It is part of the corrupted, human nature, ever since Adam.
3. Is there a difference between being "born in sin" and being born guilty?
4. We are born with a sin nature, but are we born with guilt?  
If so, infants are damned.

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5. The context of this Psalm was David saying how guilty he was for murdering Uriah and David's adultery. David was expressing how exceedingly sinful he was.  
It can easily be understood as poetic license for David to say he was born in sin, or even that he was sinful before he was born, which can be seen as David expressing his totality of acknowledging his own, complete, admission to his guilt before God.
  - i. To make the text a universal, speaking of all children before they are born is to go beyond the text.
6. If given enough time, a baby will come to the knowledge of right and wrong as he grows up, no longer being a baby at some point and being accountable to God for rebellion against Him.

### **Romans 5:12 (Adam brought sin. Death through sin)**

#### **2. Romans 5:12**

**12.** Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

1. Sin has infected the world.  
Through Adam, sin entered the world.  
It does not say that happens at birth.
  - i. Does that mean the whole human race is guilty for Adam's sin in a federal sinship?
  - ii. Did death spread because Adam sinned, or because we sin?  
Paul said because "all" sin.  
So all that sin get death.
  - iii. Death spread because all sin. Individually or under federal headship?
    - a) Babies are not sinning because they cannot choose between the good and the evil, but still die because they are living in and affected by a cursed world.  
That does not mean they are guilty before God as an infant.
  - iv. Individually, because because all sinned
  - v. **Romans 3:23** says all have sinned individually.  
**23.** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
    - a) No one is condemned for Adam's sin, but their own.

### **Isaiah 7:15-16 (before the boy will know)**

#### **Isaiah 7:15-16**

- 15.** "Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good.



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16. "For before the boy will know to refuse evil and choose good, the land whose two kings you dread will be forsaken.

1. before the boy will know to refuse evil and choose good – age of accountability.  
Before the boy gets to that age, the threat against Judah would be gone.  
There was a prophecy which given, whereby it would happen before the boy comes to an age of accountability for his actions.
2. Apparently there is an age where someone can choose the good.  
Regeneration isn't the only thing that makes it possible to choose the good.

### **Matt 19:14 For such is the kingdom of heaven**

1. also paralleled in Mark 10:14 and Luke 18:16
2. Jesus seems to say children are good with God, at least until they reach an age of accountability where they have to decide for themselves whether they want to continue to be such.

### **Why are people condemned**

I it is when people love darkness rather than light, when presented with the truth.

You are not condemned by what you didn't know, but what you did know.

Babies don't know anything.

### **1 Corinthians 15:22**

#### **1 Corinthians 15:22**

22. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

1. True, but an infant being moral because of Adam's fall does not make him guilty before God.
2. Adam brought forth physical death.  
Christ brings forth spiritual life.

### ***God does not ordain sin***

#### **Jeremiah 19:5**

##### **Jeremiah 19:5**

5. "(they have also built the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or speak, nor did it come into My mind),

1. The Israelites were doing things that God said He never told them to do.
2. If Calvinism is true, God made them do it.

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### ***God expects people to choose***

#### **Isaiah 56:4-5**

##### **Isaiah 56:4-5**

4. For thus says the LORD:

“To the eunuchs **who** keep My Sabbaths,

And **choose what pleases Me**,

And hold fast My covenant,

5. Even to them I will give in My house

And within My walls a place and a name

Better than that of sons and daughters;

I will give them[fn] an everlasting name

That shall not be cut off.

1.

#### **Isaiah 66:3 (So will I choose their delusions)**

##### **Isaiah 66:3**

3. “He who kills a bull is as if he slays a man;

He who sacrifices a lamb, as if he breaks a dog’s neck;

He who offers a grain offering, as if he offers swine’s blood;

He who burns incense, as if he blesses an idol.

**Just as they have chosen their own ways,**

And their soul delights in their abominations,

4. **So will I choose their delusions,**

And bring their fears on them;

**Because**, when I called, no one answered,

When I spoke they did not hear;

But **they did evil** before My eyes,

**And chose** that in which I do not delight.”

1. God through Isaiah was saying the Israelites were offering the right stuff, but with the wrong heart. For the wrong reasons.
2. God didn't say "this is happening because you're totally depraved, what else could I do...". Instead, God said the delusions was because of their behavior. Their evil choices.

#### **Ezekiel 33:11 (turn from your evil ways)**

##### **Ezekiel 33:11**

11. “Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but

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that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’

1. God sure seems to believe that people can make free will decisions.  
Why would God ask people to do something if He knows He made it impossible for them to do?
2. Is God a bad economist who wastes His breath so much, telling people to do things that He ensured that they cannot do?

### **Hebrews 3:15 (do not harden your hearts)**

#### **Hebrews 3:15**

15. while it is said:

“Today, if you will hear His voice,

Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”[fn]

1. Hebrews quotes Psalm 95:7-8.  
Why would God tell the Israelites not to harden their hearts if He was the one who pre-determined whether they would or wouldn't harden their hearts?

### **Acts 17:30 (God commands all to repent)**

#### **Acts 17:30**

30. “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

1. Calvinism separates a general call and an effectual call.  
Why would God tell people to repent who He keeps from doing so?  
That is a God of Greek philosophy.

### **Romans 1:20-21 (hearts darkened because reject God)**

#### **Romans 1:20-21**

20. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

21. because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

1. Became. They were at one point not futile in their thoughts.
2. The 1st century Jews knew God in a way the Gentiles did not, yet many of them rejected God and their hearts were darkened.
3. God wants folks to do the right thing, which makes no sense if God is actively keeping them from doing so.

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### **John 1:12-13 (born, not of blood, but of God)**

#### **John 1:12-13**

12. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

13. who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

1. Is this passage saying people were born again without being willing to be born again?
  - i. I usually understand this passage to be saying that I cannot "will" someone else to be born of God. I did choose for myself to "will"/desire God to make me born again, though.
  - ii. Do we know anyone who got saved who didn't want to be saved?
  - iii. Calvinists hold that God makes you willing.
2. Limited Negative is a figure of speech – "not only A, but also B".
  - i. One example is Jesus saying "I did not come to bring peace, but a sword". Jesus came to primarily bring peace, but there will also be a sword aspect because of all the divided families and relationships that result, is what Jesus meant.
  - ii. Another is Jesus saying "don't work for the food that perishes, but work for the food that gives eternal life". That doesn't mean Jesus wants us to quit our jobs and never work for physical food.
  - iii. Another is Jesus saying "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil". We are to ask God to deliver us from temptation, and also to deliver us from evil. We know we will be led into temptation, but don't let that be the end of it. We want to overcome it.
  - iv. So in John 1, John is saying that people who are born again are born not only of the flesh, but also of God.
    - 1.

### ***Born again through faith***

### **John 3:9 (how can a man be born again?)**

#### **John 3:9**

9. Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"

14. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

15. "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but<sup>[fn]</sup> have eternal life.

1. Jesus said belief is necessary to be born again, not the other way around as Calvinists believe.

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### **John 11:25 (believe first)**

#### **John 11:25**

25. Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

1. Believe – have life.
2. Not, born again, then believe, then have life.

### **John 20:31 (and that believing you may have)**

#### **John 20:31**

31. but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

1. Which comes first?  
The living, or the believing?
2. You first believe, then you are born again and have eternal life.

### **Acts 16:31 (Phillipian Jailer)**

#### **Acts 16:31**

31. So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

1. Believe, then saved.
2. Not born again, then believe, then saved.
3. Paul didn't say "be born again", then you can believe.

### **Romans 5:2 (access by faith into this grace)**

#### **Romans 5:2**

2. through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

1. We have access by means of faith in order to get grace, not being born again first.
2. The faith must be there before the grace can be obtained.

### **Romans 10:17 (faith comes by hearing)**

#### **Romans 10:17**

17. So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1. Not faith comes by being born again.
2. No one is going to have faith without hearing the gospel message first.

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### **John 8:31-32 (the truth shall make you free)**

#### **John 8:31-32**

31. Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

32. "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

33. They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?"

1. The Calvinist says "you are a slave of sin – a slave can't believe".  
But the that Jesus is talking to can.
2. Jesus told the Jews they were slaves of sin and that they needed to be set free by Him.
3. They are slaves until they are set free.
4. Jesus doesn't say they have to be born again before they can want to become free.
5. You have to continue in Jesus' words and believe in Him before He can set you free.

### **Hebrews 4:2**

#### **Hebrews 4:2**

2. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them,[fn] not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

1. Them
  1. Were the unbelieving Israelites who did not end up entering the promised land.
2. not being mixed with faith
  1. We aren't told the word did not profit them because they were not elect.
  2. It was because it was not mixed with faith.

### **1 Peter 1:23 (born again through the word of God)**

#### **1 Peter 1:23**

23. having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,[fn]

1. Hearing the word of God can result in being born again, if there is believing faith.

### **Galatians 3:26 (sons of God through faith)**

#### **Galatians 3:26**

26. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

1. you are all sons of God

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1. means born again.
2. You are born again(sons of God) through faith, which makes you born again.
3. Not born again so you can have faith.

### **Ephesians 1:13 (believed, then sealed)**

#### **Ephesians 1:13**

13. In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

1. This is consistent with faith/belief comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17).
2. Believed is in the past – then you are born again (get the Holy Spirit)

### **Ephesians 2:8**

#### **Ephesians 2:8**

8. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

1. through faith
  1. You get grace through faith.
  2. Not that you get faith from being born again.

### **Colossians 2:11-13 (you, being dead in your trespasses)**

#### **Colossians 2:11-13**

11. In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins[fn] of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

12. buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

13. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

1. So the way you are born again is through faith.
2. You had to believe while you were dead so that you could believe and come alive.
3. having forgiven you – you are forgiven when you believe.
4. You believed first. Then are made alive second.

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### **1 Timothy 1:16 (for this reason I obtained mercy)**

#### **1 Timothy 1:16**

16. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

1.

### **Deuteronomy 30:11-14,19 (This commandment is not too hard for you)**

#### **Deuteronomy 30:11-14,19**

11. "For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. (ESV)

11. "For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off.

12. "It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'

13. "Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'

14. "But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

19. "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

1. The better translation of v11 is 'not too hard' instead of 'not too mysterious'. Youngs Literal Translation says "not too wonderful for you".
2. not too hard – means "not too difficult for you to obey".  
Nor is it out of reach (nor is it far off).
3. If they were totally depraved, then it totally would be out of reach for them.
4. Moses said the word was near to them.  
They didn't have to go into heaven to get it (which would be impossible for them).  
The task of obedience set before them was doable.  
It was doable.
5. They did not have the excuse of the Gentiles in that God didn't reveal Himself directly to them as He did with the Israelites.

### **Proverbs 1:28-30**

#### **Proverbs 1:28-30**

28. Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;  
they will seek me diligently but will not find me.

29. Because they hated knowledge  
and did not choose the fear of the LORD,



## **Biblical Reasons to Dismiss the Doctrine of Total Depravity**

30. would have none of my counsel  
and despised all my reproof,

1. Wisdom is personified as the words that God speaks.
2. These are people who God will ignore because it was too late.  
They did not call God while He was near.  
They are too far gone, and under God's judgment, like Pharaoh.
3. Though these people are definitely not the 'elect' in any sense according to Calvinism, they are said to be diligently seeking God – but it's too late for them.  
Yet Calvinism holds that you can't seek God if you aren't born again.  
These guys are seeking God but are not born again.

### ***Parable of the Sower***

#### **Luke 8:15 (dead people can have good hearts?)**

##### **Luke 8:15**

15. “But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

1. Did the unregenerate person heard the gospel of Jesus with a noble and good heart before having been born again, as a pre-requisite of being born again?  
Seems like it.
2. Are there people with good and honest hearts?  
I thought there was total depravity...  
Does the Bible really teach total depravity?
3. Here Jesus does give us the impression that there is something about people which determine whether they will or will not accept the gospel of Christ.

### ***1 Corinthians 2:14 (natural man cannot receive spiritual things)***

##### **1 Corinthians 2:14**

14. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1. The Old Testament Jews without the Holy Spirit couldn't understand spiritual things, so God told them things they could understand, such as a kingdom and a king.
  - i. Along these lines, Jesus told the Jews that John the Baptist was Elijah to come, if t hey could receive it, which they didn't, because they were not spiritually discerned.
  - ii. The calvinist would say the Gospel is of the Spirit of God.  
But what is the context?

## **Biblical Reasons to Dismiss the Doctrine of Total Depravity**

Paul begins the chapter saying that he had to give them the basics because they needed milk. They were spiritually immature. They couldn't take solid food.

- iii. In contrast, Paul said he speaks the wisdom of God to more mature Christians – the deep things of God. Those are the things the natural man cannot receive.  
So the immature Christians were saved,  
but immature Christians could not receive the deep things of the Spirit of God.
- iv. In both cases, Paul was talking about Christians.
- v. Paul wasn't talking about receiving the gospel, but the deep things of God.

### ***Acts 16:14 (God opened Lydia's heart)***

#### **Acts 16:14**

**14.** Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

- 1. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul
  - i. Lydia was a worshiper of God.  
She was one of the faithful remnant of Israel.
  - ii. She was not totally depraved. The Calvinist totally depraved person does not seek God.  
She was, apparently. She worshiped God.

### ***1 John 5:1 (whoever believes, is born of God)***

#### **1 John 5:1**

**1.** Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.

- 1. Calvinists use this verse to say that those who believe are born again first.
- 2. The non-Calvinist affirms that those who believes in Jesus is born of God, except that faith preceeds being born again – the opposite of what Calvinists believe.
- 3. But John is giving 4 main ways/tests someone can know if he is in Christ and truly saved.
  - 1. Do you believe in Christ?
  - 2. Do you follow God and His laws?
  - 3. Do you love the brethren?
  - 4. Do you have the Holy Spirit?
- 5. This was just one of those verses. If you have Christ, you are therefore born of God.

## **Biblical Reasons to Dismiss the Doctrine of Total Depravity**

### ***Romans 3:10-13 (none righteous, no one seeks)***

Romans 3:10-13

10. As it is written:

“There is none righteous, no, not one;

11. There is none who understands;

There is none who seeks after God.

12. They have all turned aside;

They have together become unprofitable;

There is none who does good, no, not one.”[fn]

13. “Their throat is an open tomb;

With their tongues they have practiced deceit”;

“The poison of asps is under their lips”;

1. This is quoted from Psalm 14:1-3 and repeated in Psalm 53:1-3.
  1. Sins of speech are listed in both psalms.
2. There is none righteous, no, not one
  1. Not on our own.  
David was righteous before God because he had the faith of Abraham.
3. There is none who seeks after God
  1. This seems to agree with the Calvinist doctrine of Total Depravity at first glance.  
But it doesn't say there is no one who can seek after God.  
After all, David did.
4. There is none who does good, no, not one
  - 1.

### ***Psalms 143:2 (no one living is righteous)***

Psalms 143:2

2. Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, For in Your sight no one living is righteous.

1. in Your sight no one living is righteous
  - i. There is some hyperbole used here since obviously, David would have been deemed righteous by God because David had the saving faith of Abraham in God.
  - ii. Anyone who is guilty before God and does not have the faith of Abraham is not deemed righteous by God.
  - iii. This verse does not have any weight in affirming belief in the Calvinistic Total Depravity doctrine. It does not say anything about man being unable to have faith in God without God making him born again first.

## **Biblical Reasons to Dismiss the Doctrine of Total Depravity**

### ***Jeremiah 17:9 (Heart Deceitfully wicked)***

**Jeremiah 17:9**

9. "The heart is deceitful above all things,  
And desperately wicked;  
Who can know it?"

1. But who is the verse talking about?
  1. Jeremiah was describing the people of Judah right before the Babylonian exile.  
This was a prophetic denunciation of his generation at that time.  
This can be true of a lot of people, but is not applicable to all people necessarily.
2. If this passage has no hyperbole at all, then we should conclude that the heart is so deceitful "above all things", that humans are incapable of adhering to any truth statement, including Christianity. But we do have those whom do become Christians. Do Christians have hearts that are so self-deceived that Christians have reason to doubt that anything in the scriptures are true?
3. The Calvinist view of this verse is is therefore a self-defeating interpretation that undermines Christianity. There is a failure to view the context of the passage and see that Jeremiah is certainly using hyperbole with "all". Surely, none of us live as if our desires (our hearts) deceive us on every thought we have. Surely the Christian believes God is good.  
Is that deception? See the problem?  
This description applies to lots of people, but not to Christians. They have been given a new heart.
4. Wicked and desperately wicked: is Jeremiah saying all people of all times are desperately wicked? Jeremiah is speaking of the men of Judah here. Maybe he is or isn't applying that description to all people at all times. Why must we assume it is for all if the context does not demand it?
5. In this passage, we see the Calvinist attempt to apply a local principle globally, which is a pattern we will often see a lot more of.

### ***Jeremiah 13:23 (Can a leopard change it spots?)***

**Jeremiah 13:23**

23. Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots?  
Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.

1. The only reason these folks could not do good is because they were accustomed to doing evil.
  - i. This is a condition they presumably picked up after being born.  
They became this way.  
They conditioned themselves to that way.

## **Biblical Reasons to Dismiss the Doctrine of Total Depravity**

Not that they were relegated to a Total Depravity state since birth.

The people of Judah were said to be so stuck in their ways so that they would not change.

2. So are there people accustomed to doing good?

Where is the Total Depravity doctrine here? Doesn't seem to be there.

### ***Romans 1:18 (Total Depravity of man proof text)***

1. What verse says this chapter is talking about all people?

#### **i. Romans 1:18**

**18.** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

a) It didn't say all, but all who suppress the truth.

b) Have all people done this?

c) Do all sinners suppress the truth?

Those who become Christians seem to not suppress the truth.

d) But God is angry with those who do suppress the truth.

e) Some of these people are homosexuals.

The rest of the passage shows these people and their society going from bad to worse.

There are unbelievers who do not fit this description.

### ***Romans 1:28 (gave them over)***

#### **Romans 1:28**

**27.** and in the same way also the males abandoned the natural function of the female and burned in their desire toward one another, males with males committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

**28.** And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them over to an unfit mind, to do those things which are not proper,

1. It seems God's punishment for evil is to let people go their own way, without Him.
2. People do things to get like that.
3. With that said, this passage does not prove the Calvinistic doctrine of Total Depravity, meaning that no one can have faith in God without God making him born again first, preceding faith.

### ***Romans 7:18 (in me nothing good dwells)***

#### **Romans 7:18**

**18.** For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.

## **Biblical Reasons to Dismiss the Doctrine of Total Depravity**

1. in me ... nothing good dwells
  - i. This sounds like 'total depravity', right?
2. for to will is present with me
  - i. Paul says he has the will to do good before he says he has trouble figuring out how to perform the good.
  - ii. Paul said he has nothing good in him when he is acting according to the flesh, but that he wills to do good.  
Calvinism holds that an unbeliever cannot want to do good.  
Paul is saying that even in the flesh, he still desires to do good.  
It's just hard to do.

### **Who seeks God?**

#### **2 Chronicles 15:2,4,15 (If you seek Him, He will be found)**

##### **2 Chronicles 15:2,4,15**

2. And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: “Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.
4. “but when in their trouble they turned to the LORD God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them.
15. And all Judah rejoiced at the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and sought Him with all their soul; and He was found by them, and the LORD gave them rest all around.

1.

#### **2 Chronicles 19:3 (Someone prepared his heart to seek God)**

##### **2 Chronicles 19:3**

3. “Nevertheless good things are found in you, in that you have removed the wooden images from the land, and have prepared your heart to seek God.”
  1. God, speaking to an individual, tells him that he has prepared his heart to seek God.  
It doesn't say God prepared his heart.

#### **2 Chronicles 34:3**

##### **2 Chronicles 34:4**

4. For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images.

## **Biblical Reasons to Dismiss the Doctrine of Total Depravity**

### **Psalm 34:4**

#### **Psalm 34:4**

4. I sought the LORD, and He heard me,  
And delivered me from all my fears.

1. With all these verses, the Calvinist will say only the "regenerate" who have been born again seek God. None of these passage seem aware of that.

### **Acts 17:11-12 (Bereans were more fair-minded than)**

#### **Acts 17:11-12**

11. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

12. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.

1. This is spoken of the Bereans.
2. They weren't saved before they believed.
3. But what led to their believing? Searching the scriptures.

**Romans 10:17** – faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

4. Sounds like they were seeking God.

Why were they seeking God more than those in Thessalonica?

The beforeans were apparently were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica.

5. The Calvinist says you cannot say there was something better in you than someone else that made you accept the gospel over others.  
Luke/Paul seems to have no problem saying that here.

### **Acts 10:1-4 (Cornelius)**

#### **Acts 10:1-4**

1. There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment,

2. a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.

3. About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!"

4. And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?" So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.

1. a devout man
  - i. Who did not know about Jesus and was not regenerated(born again) yet.

## **Biblical Reasons to Dismiss the Doctrine of Total Depravity**

2. Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God
  - i. Calvinists hold that the unbeliever can do nothing to please God at all. God seems pretty pleased with Cornelius – He sends Cornelius the gospel so that he can become a Christian.
  - ii. We have an unbeliever who was seeking God. He prayed to God always.

### **Jeremiah 29:13 (you will seek me and find me)**

#### **Jeremiah 29:13**

13. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

1. It does not way "after you have been born again" or if you are the elect.

### **Hebrews 11:6 (God rewards those who seek Him)**

#### **Hebrews 11:6**

6. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- 1.

### **Isaiah 55:6 (Seek God while He may be found)**

#### **Isaiah 55:6**

6. Seek the LORD while He may be found,

Call upon Him while He is near.

1. Isaiah is telling folks that they should seek God while they can. Hearts can get hardened as time progresses.
2. In the Calvinistic view of election, there is not a limited time window for the elect to be saved. It's going to happen. The elect won't run out of time to get saved. This passage seems to militate against that idea.

### **2 Chronicles 11:16 (they set their hearts to keep after God)**

#### **2 Chronicles 11:16**

16. And after the Levites left,[fn] those from all the tribes of Israel, such as set their heart to seek the LORD God of Israel, came to Jerusalem to sacrifice to the LORD God of their fathers.

1. They set their hearts. Not God doing it for them.



## **Biblical Reasons to Dismiss the Doctrine of Total Depravity**

### **2 Chronicles 12:14 (he did not prepare his heart to seek God)**

#### **2 Chronicles 12:14**

14. And he did evil, because he did not prepare his heart to seek the LORD.

1. It doesn't say because God did not prepare his heart.  
It was Rehoboam's choice not to.

### **2 Chronicles 15:12 (they sought God)**

#### **2 Chronicles 15:12**

12. Then they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;

### **2 Chronicles 20:3 (set himself to seek the LORD)**

#### **2 Chronicles 20:3**

3. And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

### **Hosea 10:12 (seek God, then he rains righteousness on you)**

#### **Hosea 10:12**

12. Sow for yourselves righteousness;

Reap in mercy;

Break up your fallow ground,

For it is time to seek the LORD,

Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

1. Break up your fallow ground
  - i. People can, and are told to seek God.
  - ii. None of these passages mention that the people were regenerate or not regenerated (born again).

### **Romans 3:9-13 (None seeks after God)**

#### **Romans 3:9-13**

9. What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.

10. As it is written:

“There is none righteous, no, not one;

11. There is none who understands;

There is none who seeks after God.

12. They have all turned aside;

## Biblical Reasons to Dismiss the Doctrine of Total Depravity

They have together become unprofitable;  
There is none who does good, no, not one.”[fn]

13. “Their throat is an open tomb;  
With their tongues they have practiced deceit”[fn]  
“The poison of asps is under their lips”[fn]

1. **There is none who seeks after God.**
  - i. Of course those in the unregenerate state do not.  
But those who are regenerated do.
  - ii. **John MacArthur Commentary:**  
““No man seeks after God.” The reason you’re saved is not because you sought God but because God – what? - sought you. And you never responded to seek until God sought you first and moved your heart toward him.”
2. Is Romans an occasional epistle, or a gospel presentation/tract for the entire Church?
  - i. Paul is talking about the hostility between Jews and Gentiles in much of Romans.
  - ii. There was an occasion/incidents that Paul wanted to address.
  - iii. Paul is continually telling Jews in Gentiles in Romans to get along.
  - iv. Romans 1-4 is primarily talking about the Jews, although much of it does happen to apply to sinful man in general.  
Gentiles didn't have the law, so that aspect didn't fit 1st century Gentiles.
  - v. The Jews thought they were better because God chose them and revealed Himself to them first.  
Romans asks 'what advantage' does the Jew have over the Gentile.
  - vi. Paul said Jews had advantages over the Gentiles, but didn't turn out any better than Gentiles.  
Paul then proceeds to quote the prophets to affirm his point:  
Romans 3:9-13
    - a) So Paul was saying that of the ancient Jews who were not better than the Gentiles.  
It was evidence of what he was talking about earlier.  
The Jews were not better than the Gentiles – and that was the evidence.
    - b) Chapter 2 mentions the doers of the law, not the hearers are the law are doing the right things.  
Having the law(being a Jew) does not make you a better person.
    - c) Paul even made the point that the Gentiles are a law to themselves, in that they could live out many principles of the Law, even without having been given it.
3. No one seeks God? They went aside and became unprofitable.

## **Biblical Reasons to Dismiss the Doctrine of Total Depravity**

- i. This isn't the way they were born, but the way they became.
  - ii. Did they go aside and become unprofitable before they were born?
  - iii. Keep reading what Paul quoted – these are decisions people make.
4. There is none that seeks after God?

- i. The Calvinist then says no unregenerate person seeks after God.
- ii. But didn't David seek after God?
- iii. Paul quoted Psalm 14:3 with the "none who does good" quote.

The verse after that,

### **Psalm 14:4**

4. Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge,  
Who eat up my people as they eat bread,  
And do not call on the LORD?

- a) Has David saying people are eating people like bread.  
Obvious hyperbole....  
So David saying none seek after God is probably also hyperbole.  
There are people who seek after God, just not many at the time he was writing that Psalm. Those around him must have been really evil at that time.

- b) The very next verse after that,

### **Psalm 14:5**

5. There they are in great fear,  
For God is with the generation of the righteous.

- A) Says there is a generation of the righteous.  
But I thought there was not one who sought after God?  
Obvious hyperbole.
- B) David mentions no elect and unelect people.
- C) David was saying most of the people in his society at the time were following God and using hyperbolic language to say it.

5. Romans 3 seems to summarize how sinful unregenerate man is.

## ***Why God hardens if total depravity true?***

If Total Depravity is true, then God does not need to harden anyone since they would never come to Him in faith anyway.

This makes nonsense out of God hardening hearts for folks who won't accept Him anyway.

## **Biblical Reasons to Dismiss the Doctrine of Total Depravity**

### **John 12:40**

#### **John 12:40**

40. "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts,  
Lest they should see with their eyes,  
Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,  
So that I should heal them." [fn]

1. These people were under God's judgment just as Pharaoh. Paul says this in Romans 11.
2. Jesus was saying that political Israel was under God's judicial judgment and in a majority-way to be destroyed in the AD 70 judgment. That generation went through a judgment process, beginning with hardening the apostate Jews.
3. If Calvinism's total depravity doctrine is true, all God has to do is nothing and they would still not be regenerated and saved. It makes God look like He is doing overkill.

### ***Romans 8:7-8 (the carnal mind is enmity)***

#### **Romans 8:7-8**

7. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

8. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

1. those who are in the flesh cannot please God
  - i. On its own, this is a good proof-text for Calvinist 'total depravity'.
  - ii. God has called all to live a holy and righteous life that you cannot do unless you are a Christian.  
Paul is saying that non-Christians cannot live the Christian life.  
That doesn't mean the non-Christian can't be saved without God making them born again first.
  - iii. John elsewhere says those who are born of God can't sin.
  - iv. So someone in the flesh can't please God?  
He can at least please God once from the flesh when He gets saved.  
Peter told Cornelius the things he was doing was pleasing to God, which one could possibly say had something to do with the faith Cornelius had in God, even though Cornelius wasn't saved yet.
  - v. Those who are born of God can't practice a life of sin.
  - vi. So as those who are in the flesh can't consistently please God, so are those who are Christians can't consistently practice a life of sin and still be a Christian.

## **Biblical Reasons to Dismiss the Doctrine of Total Depravity**

- vii. Paul was talking about pleasing God as a lifestyle, which he could not consistently do if living in the flesh.

### ***Ephesians 4:4-6 (don't walk like the Gentiles)***

#### **Ephesians 4:4-6**

- 4. This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk **as the rest of** the **Gentiles** walk, in the futility of their mind,
- 5. having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;
- 6. who, being past feeling, **have given themselves over to** lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

- 1. **as the rest of** the **Gentiles**

- i. In the early Church, Gentiles were not immediately the majority of what composed the Church body. So by default, Gentiles were ungodly. Here, "Gentiles" are cited as those who are unsaved.

- ii. God is describing the Pagan Gentiles, but not the condition they were born in.

- 1. They **have given themselves over to**, which is something you decide to do after you are born, not right when you are born. This is a decision.

### ***John 8:44 (your father the devil)***

#### **John 8:44**

- 44. "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. **He was a murderer from the beginning**, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

- 1. Is the unbeliever by default a child of the devil?

Since babies are not guilty before God until they reach the age of accountability, is it the case that they start off as children of God, who have their own guardian angel (per Hebrews), but that changes once they reject the truth in unrighteousness?

- 2. **He was a murderer from the beginning**

- 1. Jesus told this to individuals who wanted to murder Him.

People of whom the devil is said to be their father are those who murder.

Is it possible non-murder-thinking, unregenerate people are children of satan too?

Sure, but it is not clear from the Bible that it is so.

- 1. Not every unbeliever are people who are ones who think murderous thoughts of others as with Jesus.

## **Biblical Reasons to Dismiss the Doctrine of Total Depravity**

### **2. 1 John 3:12**

**12.** not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

1. Cain was said to be of the devil.  
What is the quality which made it so?  
Murder. Not birth.

### **3. Acts 13:10**

**10.** and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?"

1. Here we see someone who is lying (being deceitful) – he is ascribed to be a son of the devil.
2. Was this sorcerer dude that Paul rebuked born like that, or did he become that way at some point in life?
2. The common view is that you are either a child of the devil or a child of God.
3. And in Romans 9, there are those God hardens and those who He does not, where there is no middle ground – though that is not what the passage says.  
Paul did not say all who are not Christians are hardened by God.  
Not "all".
4. Paul, in Acts 17:22-31 said "for we too are his offspring", speaking of God.  
Not in a salvific sense, but from our origins – God made us.  
Satan did not make us.

## ***Ephesians 2:8-10 (saved through faith)***

**8.** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves, [it is] the gift of God; (NKJV) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

**9.** not of works, so that no one may boast.

**10.** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

1. **by grace you have been saved through faith** – is a person saved first(grace) then believes or believes and then has faith?
  1. The chronological order suggests that you must have the grace of God in your life before you can have faith.
  2. It's possible that Paul could be saying we must have faith first, then we get God's grace. That is what Paul says in Romans 5:2...

## **Biblical Reasons to Dismiss the Doctrine of Total Depravity**

2. **and this not of yourselves** – of course we are not saved ourselves, the non-Calvinist would agree to. But the Calvinist pushes this to mean that God has to do something in our lives first before we can possibly have faith to begin with.

Calvinism holds you must be born again before you can have faith.

1. The Calvinist believes that you cannot choose to have faith. God has to give you the ability to have faith.

2. How could God hold anyone guilty for God not giving them the gift they needed to have faith if that is how it works?

3. Paul is not saying faith is a gift of God here.

The word "faith"(Greek: pistus) is a feminine noun.

The word "that" is not feminine (it is gender neutral).

1. So when Paul says "that" is the gift of God. What is?  
That is why we look at the gender of the nouns.

2. It is the salvation that is a gift of God.  
Our works do not give us the salvation.

3. Faith is the means, not the cause of salvation.

4. There is no one who believes faith is a result of works.  
Some believe salvation is a result of works.

But here Paul is saying that salvation is the gift that you can't earn, even with works.

4. **Romans 5:2**

2. Through him we have also obtained access by faith[fn] into this grace in which we stand, and we[fn] rejoice[fn] in hope of the glory of God.

1. In this verse, we come into this grace because of faith.  
Where faith comes first, then we get God's grace.

2. Faith is like the pipe that water(grace) comes.

1. Getting grace first would like getting the water before the pipe is there.

## ***Unbelievers God didn't deem Totally Depraved***

### **Cornelius**

### **Original Righteousness**

1. Calvinism is quick to try and prove Total Depravity, but do not consider Original Righteousness, in that humanity is made in God's image, and have thinking faculties, that even in an unregenerate state, humans can reason that there is truth in morality, and hold to concepts as justice and objective(non-opinion) truth.

## **Biblical Reasons to Dismiss the Doctrine of Total Depravity**

2.

### ***Challenges to Total Depravity***