



GRACE GOSPEL MINISTRY

Liberating / Grace

TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MANKIND

In the conveyance of the total depravity of man, it is noted that many will vehemently disagree with the idea that man is totally evil and lacks any capability of doing any good without the direct intervention of God's motivation.

Here it is important that a distinction is made between total depravity and absolute depravity. Man in his depraved state does exercise some restraint on all the evil that he is capable of doing. All men are not murderers, bank robbers or rapists, but the fact remains that some are and that all are capable of each and every one of these heinous crimes. Of course, some would say not me! It is important to understand the value of godly influence on the ungodly nature of mankind. The fact that one is totally depraved and has the capability of doing evil does not mean that one will act on this. In order to have any semblance of a civilized society, God must and does exercise His power of restraint on the nature of some men, but one must always remember that the potential for performing any evil deed is possible. So it is not that any one of us cannot commit or perform that which we are capable of, but rather it testifies that God does control the extent to which evil conduct is manifested. God must receive the credit for this restraint, not man.

Man as originally created was made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27).

Originally God said that man was good (Genesis 1:31). Prior to “the fall”, Adam was in a state of goodness. After the fall, man fell under God’s judgment of death. (Genesis 2:17; 3:2-3) We must fully understand that death is in essence separation. This separation is physical and spiritual, a total cutoff from divine life.

In Romans 3:10-18 a vivid description of the depraved nature is noted. The natural man is dead in sin and his lifestyle is patterned after Satan’s blueprint for this age. Man lives in the lusts of the flesh and does the will of the mind of the flesh. The ruler of the authority of the air, namely Satan dominates man’s life (Ephesians 2:1-3).

According to Romans 3:23, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”. So in view of God’s evaluation of mankind, and that is the only one, which matters, mankind is reprobate; he is in a state of immorality, spiritually dead. Mankind is on death row and unable to extricate himself, incapable of any input into his salvation. Therefore salvation is the total work of God. See: “Who are God’s Elect?”.