

## God's Sovereignty in Salvation

### Part 1

#### Total Depravity (or Radical Depravity or Total Inability)

The corruption inherited from Adam and now inherent in every human being permeates every part of our nature, including every faculty and power of both soul and body. It affects the entire human race and it affects every part of or the totality of every human being.

##### 1. Unbelievers cannot act contrary to his nature.

Jeremiah 13:23 (NASB95)

<sup>23</sup>*"Can the Ethiopian change his skin Or the leopard his spots? Then you also can do good Who are accustomed to doing evil.*

Matthew 7:18 (NASB95)

<sup>18</sup>*"A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.*

##### 2. Unbelievers cannot enter God's Kingdom

John 3:3 (NASB95)

<sup>3</sup>*Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

John 3:5 (NASB95)

<sup>5</sup>*Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

##### 3. Unbelievers cannot do anything spiritually good

John 8:44 (NASB95)

<sup>44</sup>*"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

John 15:4-5 (NASB95)

<sup>4</sup>*"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.*

<sup>5</sup>*"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.*

##### 4. Unbelievers cannot believe or even understand the truth

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NASB95)

<sup>14</sup>But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

**5. Unbelievers cannot obey and please God**Romans 8:7-8 (NASB95)

<sup>7</sup>because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,

<sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

**6. Unbelievers cannot come to Christ for salvation apart from divine intervention**John 6:44 (NASB95)

<sup>44</sup>"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

**Unconditional Election (or Sovereign Grace)**

Unconditional election says that God chose certain individuals unto salvation before the foundation of the world; not based on any foreseen response or obedience on their part, i.e. faith, repentance etc. Not based on any virtuous quality foreseen in man.

**1. It is eternal**Ephesians 1:4 (NASB95)

<sup>4</sup>just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

Revelation 17:8 (NASB95)

<sup>8</sup>"The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.

2 Timothy 1:9 (NASB95)

<sup>9</sup>who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

## 2. Biblical Evidence

### John 15:16 (NASB95)

<sup>16</sup>"You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

### Acts 13:48 (NASB95)

<sup>48</sup>When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

### Romans 8:29–30 (NASB95)

<sup>29</sup>For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

<sup>30</sup>and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

### Romans 11:5–6 (NASB95)

<sup>5</sup>In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice.

<sup>6</sup>But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

### 1 Thessalonians 1:4–5 (NASB95)

<sup>4</sup>knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you;

<sup>5</sup>for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

### 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NASB95)

<sup>13</sup>But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

### 1 Peter 1:1 (NASB95)

<sup>1</sup>Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen

Romans 9:6–23 (NASB95)

<sup>6</sup>But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel;

<sup>7</sup>nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED."

<sup>8</sup>That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.

<sup>9</sup>For this is the word of promise: "AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON."

<sup>10</sup>And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac;

<sup>11</sup>for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls,

<sup>12</sup>it was said to her, "THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER."

<sup>13</sup>Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."

<sup>14</sup>What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!

<sup>15</sup>For He says to Moses, "I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION."

<sup>16</sup>So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

<sup>17</sup>For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH."

<sup>18</sup>So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.

<sup>19</sup>You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?"

<sup>20</sup>On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it?

<sup>21</sup>Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?

<sup>22</sup>What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?

<sup>23</sup>And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,