

Radical Depravity (Part 2)

Understanding the true depth of man's fallen nature can arouse a shudder, but sadness and fear should not remain the final response. On the contrary, properly understanding the depravity of man's condition leads to a correct and exalted view of the true grace of God in salvation. This lesson continues to explain man's spiritual tragedy, and encourages us to respond in thankfulness and to bestow compassion upon the lost, for if not for the grace of God, we too would remain in bondage to sin and Satan.

I. The Spiritual Deadness of Natural Man

- a. A spiritual dead man, like a corpse, contributes nothing to his own salvation (John 5:25).
 - i. Those trapped in their trespasses and sins are spiritually dead.
 - ii. Although the permission to receive the call of the gospel exists, the spiritually dead does not possess the ability, for their entire being remains mortified.
- b. As with Ezekiel and the valley of dry bones, the power of the Holy Spirit must work in the inanimate corpses of the spiritual dead to engender life.

II. Man's Depravity Creates Spiritual Inability.

- a. John 6:44ff: No one can place their belief in Jesus as the savior without instigation by the Holy Spirit.
- b. John 15:5: "Apart from Me, you can do nothing" (John 6:66).

III. Man's Depravity Creates Spiritual Bondage to Sin.

- a. John 8:34: Everyone who sins remains in the bondage of slavery to sin.
 - i. The slave must obey his master.
 - ii. The slave must respond to the demands of his master.
 - iii. No other master holds authority over the slave.
- b. Only the Son can set a slave to sin free, but a slave cannot serve two masters.

IV. Man's Depravity Creates Spiritual Bondage to Satan.

- a. John 8:44: Natural man is born into the family of Satan.
- b. He remains of his father the Devil until the intervention of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 4; Eph.2:2; 1Tim. 2:26).

V. Man's Depravity Creates Spiritual Deafness.

- a. John 8:43, 47: Natural man cannot hear with understanding the free call of the gospel.
- b. Although natural man physically receives the mandate to repent and believe in Jesus Christ, only the Holy Spirit can institute proper understanding in the heart of man.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Psalm 14:1–3; John 1:1–18; 3:1–21, 36; 5:24–30; 6:41–71; 8:31–47; Romans 3:9–20; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 2 Corinthians 4:3–4; Ephesians 2:1, 5, 13; Colossians 2:12–13