

The Doctrines of Grace

Doctrine 2- The Radical Ruination of Man

Part B/Lesson 1 of 4

Man after the Fall

Genesis 3:1-6

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;

3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"

4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!

5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

With this single act- Adam and Eve- along with the entire human race (who was in the loins of Adam)- lost their "First Estate" – those unique conditions and attributes and relationships that they enjoyed before this moment- and now entered into a *state of being* that is termed "fallen". So it is no coincidence that this event is now called "The Fall"- and with that Fall- Mankind was now "lost" and now needed a Savior.

The Christian Church has consistently affirmed and publicly taught the simple, but profound Truth of the Fall of Man (along with its radical and negative effects on all of Mankind) for over 2,000 years. All of the Apostles taught it, all of the early Church Fathers (those men who led the Church immediately after the death of John- the last Apostle) taught it, and those men to whom God revealed the various aspects of the Reformed Faith (Tertullian, Athanasius, Augustine, Luther, Knox, Calvin, Edwards, Spurgeon, etc.) all taught this Truth.

In addition- the Apostle Paul taught especially deeply and thoroughly about the implications of The Fall on us in his penetrating Teachings found in **Romans** and **1Corinthians**. In addition- Dr. Luke traces the genealogy of Jesus from Joseph to Adam.

It is very important to understand several key aspects of The Fall in order to have a Biblical view of how this Event affected all of us. And in order to do that- we need to define certain terms:

The Fall	That single event when Adam and Eve disobeyed God that brought about Mankind's absolute and total ruin
Fallen	The "state of being" inherent in all of Humankind that denotes "lostness", the loss of those aspects, conditions, and relationships that Adam and Eve enjoyed before The Fall culminating in the absolute and total separation from God
Original Sin	The "nature" and "guilt" that comes from Adam's willful rebellion that is passed from one generation to the next through the seed of the father.
Fallen Nature	The condition of the core of Mankind (brought about by The Fall)- from which all choices, thoughts, and activities flow

Everything Changed

Immediately upon disobeying God- both Adam and Eve were *radically* and *negatively* altered and changed. And that Change was total- in that it affected every area of Man's existence. Another way of saying this is that there is no area of Man's existence that was not *radically* and *negatively ruined* by the Fall- including his desires, will, thoughts, imaginations, effort, and actions. And this radical and negative Change can be understood through several key aspects of Man's Relationship:

- A. Man's Relationship with God
- B. Man's Relationship with Creation
- C. Man's Relationship with Woman
- D. Man's Relationship with Man

Let's examine each one:

A. Man's Relationship with God

Before The Fall- the Bible teaches that Adam had an unrestricted and unfiltered Relationship with God. God Personally "walked" (fellowshipped in spiritual union) with Adam, and Adam personally "walked" with God. The best way to describe this Relationship is "Love". God genuinely loved Adam, and Adam genuinely and naturally loved God.

And from this Divine Relationship- it was the *normal* and the *natural* desire of Adam to love, serve, and obey God. It was his "nature" to do so. But after Adam decided to willfully rebel against God and sin- the human *nature* of Man was changed and the wonderful Relationship of Love was destroyed. The result of Man's nature being *radically* and *negatively* ruined is that Man's loves and affections and desires were transposed from God onto "other things". Man does not now normally or naturally love God. We no longer have either the *ability* or the *desire* to love God

or the things of God- hence *no one* in their lost and fallen condition even seeks after God.

Romans 3:9-18

9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;

10 as it is written,

"THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

"THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

11 *THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,
THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;*

12 *ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS;
THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD,
THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."*

13 *"THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE,
WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,"
"THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";*

14 *"WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";*

15 *"THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,*

16 *DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,*

17 *AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."*

18 *"THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."*

So- not because of individual acts of sin that we periodically manifest- but "by nature"- all of Mankind is now fallen and underneath God's Wrath.

Ephesians 2:1-4

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

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

3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

In fact, Human Depravity is so pervasive that in order for *anyone* to love God after The Fall- God must do something Sovereignly to that person first.

1John 4:19

We love (God), because He first loved us.

Fallen Man now loves, desires, enjoys, and seeks after Sin, Self, and "things that are passing away", rather than God. So it isn't that fallen Man periodically

sins- it is far worse than that. The Bible teaches that fallen Man actually *loves* his sin and he *enjoys* disobeying God. The insulting and humiliating Truth about the Fall is that as a result of Man's willful rebellion against God- all of Humankind now *naturally* and *normally* seeks to rebel against God and God's Will.

John 3:19&20

19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

Romans 10:21

But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.

And one the most damaging facts about this is that every time new technology is invented- one of the first uses of that new technology is for someone to devise ways to sin with it. And this makes us all to be in a far *worse* condition than most people are willing to accept. But it gets even worse.

Because while it is true that fallen Man does *not* normally or naturally love God, or the things of God- Man *does*- by nature- hate God, and he looks at the things of God as being patently absurd, and he has absolutely no inclination to be in fellowship with God.

1Corinthians 2:14

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.

Now the word that was translated here into English as "foolishness" is the Greek word, "*mooria*" which means: *something that is patently absurd to the point that it earns nothing but utter contempt*. So the "foolishness" in this verse is not something that is funny or humorous- but that – to the unsaved fallen Man- God and the things of God are so ridiculous that they merit no serious consideration by any thinking individual. In short- they are utterly detestable. So there is a natural hostility to God and the things of God by the fallen individual that is now part and parcel to his nature.

Also notice the two verbs in this verse. They both illustrate fallen Man's condition. The first part says that fallen and unsaved Man *does not* (normally or naturally) **accept the things of the Spirit of God** while the last part says that he *cannot* do so. The first indicates fallen Man's *desire* (will) while the last part speaks of his *power* (ability).

So this verse teaches that fallen Man does not normally or naturally possess either the will (desire) or the ability (power) to accept the things of the Spirit of God in and of himself- without Divine Intervention. Man lost both of those aspects in The Fall.

Three things now define Fallen Man's Separation from God. Because of the Transformation of the human nature- it is now the *normal* and *natural* inclination of all of Mankind to:

- 1) Attempt to correct his fallen Condition by and through his own Efforts- outside of Grace
- 2) Seek to run and hide from God
- 3) Be afraid of God

1) Fallen Man Now Attempts to Correct His Fallen Condition By and Through His Own Efforts

Genesis 3:7

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

The "knowledge" of their nakedness (evil/sin/separation) in their now fallen mind and heart brought about a natural desire to "fix" this problem by and through human effort (sewing fig leaves together) outside the Wisdom, Strength, Power, and Permission of God.

This "Effort" to re-establish the Relationship between God and Man *without* God only adds insult to injury as it now perpetuates the Problem that exists from their now fallen condition. Because of The Fall- it is now Man's *normal* and *natural* desire to try to bring *himself* back into God's Presence *without* God's Help or Permission. And this fallen desire is the basis of all false religions and human philosophies throughout history.

In other words- this "Effort" by fallen Man is not "noble" or even "good", but is actually one of the main ways that the wickedness of Man's evil heart is now manifested. All false and man-made "works based" Salvation systems teach the same things- Man has to "do something" in order to achieve God's Favor and enter into Heaven. The only difference between them is in what the various false religions teach that we have to "do".

For example- some wrongly teach that in order to earn God's Forgiveness and Favor- we have to partake of Communion. Others teach that we have to be Baptized. Still others teach that you have to be a "good person" by serving others and in that way- you can re-establish this Divine Relationship.

But *whatever* the leaders of these false religions teach- the Scriptures teach that Salvation is *wholly* a *solely* a Sovereign Work of God, and that *no one* is saved by and through what we do for ourselves (human works).

Ephesians 2:8&9

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

⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Therefore- every effort by *anyone*- however sincere they may be- to teach that we can re-establish this broken Relationship with God that we lost in The Fall by and through *anything* that we do for ourselves is not noble- but is, in fact- highly displeasing to God and is a vicious attack against God's Sovereignty and Grace by wicked and fallen Man.

So part of what it means to "be fallen" is that Man honestly thinks he can regain what he lost by and through his own efforts without God.

Later, God showed His utter rejection of all human efforts to correct the Fall by completely ignoring what they Adam and Eve did and of clothing them Himself:

Genesis 3:21

The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

This Act of God shows us two things:

- ✓ God Alone must Sovereignly cover our sin
- ✓ Blood must be shed for Sin

God covering the nakedness of Adam and Eve *Sovereignly* signifies our utter inability (and unwillingness) to correct our fallen condition through any human effort and our desperate need for God Alone to forgive and cleanse us from all sin.

Secondly, the fact that the animal had to be killed before its skin could be made to cover their nakedness signifies a Divine Principle that God ordained between blood and sin:

Hebrews 9:22

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

2) Fallen Man Runs and Hides from God

Genesis 3:8

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Romans 1:28-32

28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,

29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips,

30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;

32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

Because of The Fall- the *normal* and *natural* inclination of all Mankind to run and hide from God rather than run to Him and embrace Him. Fallen Man does not want God in his life in any way, and seeks to maintain this absolute separation in every area of his life.

3) Fallen Man is Afraid of God

Genesis 3:9&10

9 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

10 He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

This kind of fear is not the "reverential respect" that Scripture teaches that all believers should have- but is a complete terror. Fallen Man is horrified of God, and feels safe and secure when away from God rather than when near.

Summary of the Fall

The Fall of both Adam and Eve in the Garden through Adam's willful rebellion and Eve's deception led to the absolute moral and spiritual destruction of the Human Race. Everything changed after The Fall and the subsequent Divine Curse that God placed on Man as a result of The Fall.

The most notable change was that immediately upon his sinful and willful rebellion- the Promise of God came to pass- and Adam and Eve's personal relationship with God ended; the Humans were immediately separated from God; and they both died spiritually.

This Change meant Adam's relationship with God was over. . . all Mankind.

The Objection

The main objection to **The Doctrine of Radical Ruination** from all men of every walk of life is:

"I'm not that bad"

And part of the reason *why* this objection comes forth is that people naturally and normally see themselves as being "good people" who do "good things". So while most people will freely acknowledge that they are not perfectly sinless- they will categorically reject that they are fundamentally evil, wicked, depraved, and totally and radically ruined by the Fall. And while most people will readily acknowledge

that they occasionally do "bad things" they will almost always balk at the suggestion that they absolutely *deserve* Eternal Damnation because of the inherent sinfulness of their depravity.

Most unsaved people hold to the false belief that, while they periodically do "bad things"- that underneath it all- they are basically "good people", and that they have a "good heart", and then this faulty logic goes on to say that God sees their "good heart", and based on the fact that God knows that they are basically "good" and that they "try" to do "good things"- that God "understands" their sinfulness and will allow them into Heaven. Therefore most people have developed a Man-made and utterly unbiblical Theology in their minds that teaches that "good people" go Heaven while "bad people" go to hell. And since they view themselves as being basically a "good person", surely God will let them get into Heaven.

And we need to know that this fictitious concept of ourselves is not a strange or abstract view that only a few people have- but this is the fundamental and primary view held by most all humans on earth about themselves and one that influences many of our decisions.

A False Comparison

And yet the Scriptures categorically and repeatedly reject this view because this wrong view of Man is based on several false assumptions and is guided by a false comparison. Let's examine them:

Man's View

Mankind is born as fundamentally "good"

All are born and shapen

We compare ourselves to other people. We look at people in history that most people consider to be "noble" and "good", like Jesus or Paul or Ghandi, and we say, "*Well I'm not that good.*" But then we look at despots and mass murders, like Hitler and Stalin, and then take great comfort in saying, "*But I'm not that bad either.*" And because we aren't as bad as we *could* be- because our sin has not reached a depth that is notorious- we feel as though we are in fairly "good shape" and therefore absolutely deserving of a place in Heaven.

The problem with this dichotomy is that God doesn't examine our lives using this false comparison. God doesn't compare us with other fallen and sinful humans to sort out who is the worst. God examines every human being against the one single Standard of His Own Perfect and Sinless Character and Nature.

And that Spotless Character and Nature was illustrated for us in the Ten Commandments (**Exodus 20**). So our lives are held accountable against Absolute Perfection, and goes something like this:

Have you ever- at any time in your life- in thought word or deed:

1. Had other god's before the one true living God?
2. Made an idol or worshipped an idol?
3. Taken the Lord's Name in vain?
4. Failed to rest in God?
5. Dishonored your parents?
6. Told a lie?
7. Committed Murder?
8. Stolen anything?
9. Committed Adultery?
10. Coveted anything?

From Where Does Evil Come?

For example- when modern Sociology teaches that we can improve the lives of people and lower crime and produce better citizens through the redistribution of wealth, the insertion of opportunity, along with education- the foundational basis of that argument is that Man is fundamentally a "good" creature- who may have some regrettable flaws- but those flaws are not *inherent* in the human being. In other words- the flaws of which Sociology speaks are *external* to the person- they are the product of his environment, his lack of money, education, or opportunity, or his family upbringing.

And so- Sociology teaches that what is "right" about Man is *internal*- in his own inherent "goodness", in his "good heart" and "good intentions", and that what is "wrong" about Man is all *external*- in his lousy environment, his lack of money, opportunity, etc. So by altering or improving those *external* conditions- the natural and normal and internal "goodness" of the human being will rise to the surface and will manifest itself.

So the goal of all man-made "sciences" or philosophies or religions is for people to learn how to believe, and to carry out various things that will enable them to escape the "evil" that is *external* and to look *inward* to the inner "goodness" of the "self" and by "tapping into" that *internal* "power" and "goodness" and "purity" that *inherent* in every human being- Man can do great things and escape destruction.

But Scripture gives a completely different view of the human being than does modern Sociology (as well as all man-made philosophies and religions) in that Scripture teaches that what is "wrong" with Man is all *internal*- in his fallen, sinful, and corrupt heart; in his rebellious, depraved, and self-centered nature and *not* in his *external* environment.

Mark 7:18-23

18 And He said to them, "Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him,

19 because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?" (Thus He declared all foods clean.)

- 20 And He was saying, "**That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man.**
- 21 "**For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries,**
- 22 **deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness.**
- 23 "**All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.**"

Romans 7:18

For I know that **nothing good dwells in me**, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good *is* not.

James 1:14-16

- 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by **his own lust**.
- 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.
- 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

In addition- Scripture teaches that all that is "right" and "good" and "pure" is all *external* to Man- and is from God, or on the Cross, or in Scripture, or from Heaven.

James 1:17&18

- 17 **Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.**
- 18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

Psalms 121:1&2

- 1 I will lift up my eyes to the mountains;
From where shall my help come?
- 2 **My help comes from the LORD,**
Who made heaven and earth.

So Scripture teaches that only by *divesting* himself of himself, only by acknowledging and rejecting his internal sin, and only by looking *outward- upward-* to Heaven, to God, to Scripture, and to the Cross for Forgiveness and Salvation can Man escape both his own wickedness and the Just Damnation that will follow.

So the two efforts- the one from Man and the one from God- are diametrically opposed to one another and will never agree on either the problem with Man or the solution. To follow one course is to reject the other, and to agree with one is to disagree with the other. There is no middle ground and there is no room for compromise.

And the basis for Scripture to teach that all that is internal with Man is evil comes from two of the most foundational teachings of the entire Bible- The Fall of

Man and The Doctrine of Original Sin. So if we hope to correctly and fully understand Man- we must look to inspired Scripture, and *not* to the inventions of human ingenuity and human wisdom, and all that is external is God that can be overcome if given the right mixture of money, opportunity, and education.

You see, part of what it means to be fallen is that Man doesn't know, he doesn't believe, he doesn't accept, and he doesn't care that he is fallen. And all the various attempts by Man throughout the centuries to improve his *own* condition by and through his own human effort and natural techniques prove beyond any doubt that Man really does not believe or accept that he is as lost and as wicked and as fallen and ruined as the Bible says that he is.

But the Bible clearly teaches that we *are* that fallen and we *are* that ruined, and so the goal of the inspired Words of the Bible is that by the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit- all men, who have been given an ear to hear, will be brought to the same conclusion:

"God is holy and I am not".

And the goal of realizing that God is infinitely holy and we are infinitely sinful is so that we may join in with the poor beggar and cry to God,

"Have mercy, on me, a sinner!"

Romans 3:19

Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Because our fallen nature refuses to accept our sinful condition before God without the illumination of the Holy Spirit- God gave His Law to prove that point. Therefore- the overriding purpose of God's Law is not to save anyone- but to bring the knowledge of sin to the individual so that he may come to Christ for Mercy.

The phrase "**that every mouth may be stopped**" is referring to the protest that Man continually makes against God- *"I'm really not that bad"*. If Man is not that bad- then he really doesn't need Salvation. But if we are indeed as "bad" (sinful) as the Bible declares that we are- then Salvation is not "nice"- Salvation is NEEDED!

The phrase "**and all the world may become guilty before God**" again refers to the ongoing refusal of fallen Man to acknowledge his own sinfulness and his need of a Savior. The Law of God was designed to bring human beings to a place of utter helplessness so that they may repent and be saved by God's Grace and not through their own obedience.

This is the part of the Gospel that is called, "The Offense of the Cross" (**Galatians 5:11**) and is almost universally rejected by the modern Church as being necessary to know or teach. But without this part- nobody gets saved.

Luke 18:10-14

10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Those collected body of teachings which uphold this correct, Biblical view of Man is a vital part of what is called, **The Gospel**. Those collected body of teachings which reject this correct, Biblical view of Man make up what is called, **Secular Humanism, False Teaching, False Religions, Heresy, Apostasy**, or "Another gospel"

Galatians 1:6-9

6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Moving From "Good" to "Righteous"

Many people today believe that the goal of Christianity is to move Man from being "bad" to being "good". Many people believe and teach today that by "doing" certain good and noble things- Man can improve his own status with God. Those things include:

- ✓ Keeping God's Law
- ✓ Following Church Doctrine
- ✓ Partaking of Sacraments
- ✓ Ascribing to a Moral Code
- ✓ Using Money, Education, Technology, Medicine, Government, and Opportunity to improve the fallen condition of Man

This is the mentality of the unregenerate soul that continually hopes in his own efforts and his own actions and his own intellect to bring about his own goodwill; peace; joy; and harmony with God. This "religion" was first initiated by Adam immediately after the Fall.

Genesis 3:6&7

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

This is the first attempt by Man immediately after his Fall to make himself acceptable in God's sight by what he does for himself. The sewing of fig leaves together was the birth of all man-made religions that teach that Salvation comes about through human effort.

The Normal Religion of Fallen Man

All fallen humans immediately convert to this false religion by default as soon as they are old enough to reason- regardless of culture, location, or educational background. The belief that Salvation comes about through human effort is the normal religion of all human beings since the Fall. No one teaches this religion- we pick it up automatically by virtue of being radically ruined.

This false religion says that "good" people do "good" things, while "bad" people do "bad" things. And the net result of this false religion being practiced throughout the world now for over 6,000 years is that that even Christianity has been *inaccurately* portrayed in our day as being a religion that teaches and encourages "good" people to "do the right thing" by first- *wanting* to do rightly and secondly by actually *doing* rightly- and the "wanting" combined with the "doing" *produces* "Christians."

Therefore the thrust of much of the preaching in the modern Church consists mainly of teaching people "how" to "do" the things that will "improve" their own lives with one another and with God so they can become "good". And this thrust of this kind of preaching is upheld by the unbiblical concept that all men are born basically "good" except for a few things that they periodically "do" which makes them to be "bad".

But we need to know that this is not what Biblical Christianity teaches at all. This is, in fact, a false "gospel". And thinking like this completely ignores the horrible and tragic and negative impact that the Fall had on Mankind.

So because the Fall has little or no meaning in the minds of most people today- the glorious Gospel has been reduced to some form of pagan superstition that takes people who believe that they are born basically "good" (with a few faults and failures) and teaches them how to *minimize* those faults and failures and how- through their own human efforts- they can "save" themselves.

But Biblical Christianity is not interested in taking people who believe they are "good" and making them "better"- no, Christianity is interested in taking "lost" people who acknowledge that they are evil and wicked and sinful and moving them to be "saved".

Two Assumptions

Like all Biblical Doctrines- **The Doctrine of the Radical Ruination of Fallen Man** operates on two very important key assumptions:

1. That the 66 Books of the Holy Scriptures that we have today are a trustworthy and reliable copy of the inspired, inerrant, infallible, authoritative, relevant, and eternal Word of the living God
2. That what the Scriptures teach about Man's fallen condition is accurate and sufficient to explain and solve our sinful dilemma.

This Study assumes that the reader already agrees with both of the above assumptions. However- if you are not already persuaded that both of the above statements are true- then we have other studies and resources that will help you to become persuaded that you may avail yourself of *before* you begin this study.

But there is another assumption that is made in this study of **Radical Ruination** and that is- that the first Chapter in this series on **The Doctrines of Grace- The Absolute Sovereignty of God** is also true. You may want to avail yourself of a copy of that Biblical Truth *before* you begin to study this one.

Terms to Know

In order to get a proper understanding of this Truth that is taught in Scripture about Radical Ruination- we must define certain terms:

Scriptures	The 66 Books of both the Old and the New Testament.
Inspired	(literally- "God exhaled" or "God breathed") The method by which God gave the Scriptures.
Inerrant	This term refers to the Scriptures and teaches that the Scriptures <i>do not</i> contain any error in either part or whole.
Infallible	This term also refers to the Scriptures and teaches that the Scriptures <i>cannot</i> contain any error in part or in whole.
Doctrine	A teaching that compiles all that God has revealed in Scripture about a particular subject and puts it forth in a systematic manner that can be easily taught and learned.
The Fall	God's Judgment on the human race as a result of Adam's sin.

The Doctrine of the Radical Ruination of Fallen Man is part of what the Reformers¹ called "**The Doctrines of Grace**", because these Doctrines help bring those who accept their message to a Biblical (and thus correct) understanding of the Justification of Sinners by and through God's Grace.

"**Radical Ruination**" and "**Total Depravity**" are one and the same Doctrine with two different titles. This Truth has also been referred as "**The Doctrine of Absolute Inability**" and the purpose of using different titles is simply to help make the Doctrine easier to teach and learn in our day.

A Quick Definition

Total Depravity or **Radical Ruination** teaches that *because* of the Fall- every area of Man's existence was radically ruined:

- ✓ His Relationship to God
- ✓ His Loss of Immortality
- ✓ His Nature is now Self Centered and Depraved
- ✓ His Desire and Ability to Seek After God
- ✓ His Love of Darkness Rather Than Light
- ✓ His Fallen Heart is the Seat of Evil

Let's look at each one of these:

- ✓ **Man's Relationship to God Radically Changed**

Genesis 3:7&8

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden

Ephesians 2:12

That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

- ✓ **Man Lost His Immortality and Now Dies**

Romans 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

¹ Those men whom God raised up in the 16th century to call the Christian Church to repentance and a return to Biblical Truth.

Hebrews 9:27

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

✓ **Man's Nature is Now Self Centered and Depraved**

Genesis 6:5

And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

2Timothy 3:2-5

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

✓ **Man Lost Both His Desire and His Ability to Seek After God in the Fall**

Romans 3:10-18

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:

16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:

17 And the way of peace have they not known:

18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

1Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

✓ **Fallen Man Loves Darkness- But Not Light**

John 3:19

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

✓ Fallen Man's Heart is the Seat of Evil

Matthew 15:19-20

19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

In addition to these *personal* attributes being radically ruined by the Fall- Adam began to see that the curse that God placed upon him because of his sin negatively affected every area of life. Those areas include:

- The Physical Earth
- The Animals and Plants
- Hindered Labor
- The Relationship Between Man and Woman
- Childbearing

Let's examine each of these.

The Physical Earth

The Curse of God on Adam's Sin allowed for the earth itself to gradually decay and die. Because of God's Foreknowledge- the earth was not made to exist forever. There was a moment in time when the earth was made and there will be a moment in time in the future when the physical earth will vanish away.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth.

Isaiah 65:17

For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

The Revelation 21:1

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more

2Peter 3:10

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

The Animals, Plants, and Ground

One of the results of the Fall is that animals will have a natural animosity (enmity) toward each other and humans:

Genesis 3:14&15

14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The fact that God cursed the serpent “above” all the other animals shows us the severity of God’s curse on the serpent- but it also shows us that the other animals were cursed by God- just not as severe as was the serpent. At this date- this curse is in its seventh millennia and will only be lifted when Jesus returns:

Isaiah 11:4-9

4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Even the very ground itself was affected by Adam’s sin and became “cursed” as far as Man was concerned:

Genesis 3:17-19

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Hindered Labor

Genesis 3:17-19

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Human Relationships

Genesis 3:16

Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

The phrase “**thy desire shall be to thy husband**” in the Hebrew is actually better translated as, “**thy desire shall be to rule over thy husband**”. So what God is actually saying is that while it is part of the curse that women desire to usurp authority over their husbands- it is also part of the Curse that men desire to let the women do this. So since the Fall- both the godly Man and the godly Woman must now diligently labor to keep a godly Order in the home.

Did the Fall *Create* This Order

Some teach today that it was the Fall that *created* the Order of Man being in the leadership role and Women being in the support or the "help meet" role. In other words- these people teach that it was God's Curse on fallen humanity that brought about this so-called Order and therefore in Jesus Christ - that Curse has been lifted.

Galatians 3:13

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

The net result of this false teaching is that saved people should *not* ascribe to the Divine Order of Men being in the leadership or headship role and Women should *not* ascribe to being in the complementarian or support role- but that Men

and Women are now all "one" in Jesus Christ and there is no difference in their roles.

Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Egalitarians Versus Complimentarians

Those who accept the unbiblical belief that the God ordained distinctions between Men and Women have been abolished in Jesus Christ are called, "Egalitarians" while those who believe that the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ did not change those distinctions are called, "Complimentarians".

Ten Reasons Why the Fall Did *Not* Create the Order of Headship by Men and Submission by Women

Let me give you ten reasons why that logic is *not* true, and why we believe and teach that the Bible clearly teaches that the role of Men being in the leadership position and Women being in the support position in the home and in the Church was *not* caused by the Fall- but was an ordained Order by God from the very beginning.

Before we get into this- there are two words that need to be understood:

Compliment: An expression of praise, commendation, or admiration

Complement: Something that completes or makes perfect:

Scripture teaches that Women were created as females to complement their husbands- they are to "come along side" of their husbands to *complete them or make them perfect*; they are to be the "help meet" to what God has called their husbands to do and this complementarian role is *not* the result of the Fall- but was ordained from the very beginning.

So let's look at the ten reasons why the Bible teaches that God ordained Women to worship Him by graciously submitting to a *complementary* role in the Home and Church and why Men are ordained by God to worship Him by graciously submitting to a *leadership* role in the Home and Church before the Fall:

1. God Created Man With an *Implied* Leadership Function
2. Man was Created First
3. God Gave Man the Responsibility to Oversee the Garden and to Pass Morality to the Woman
4. Woman was Created for the Man; From the Man and Given to the Man as a Help Suitable for Him
5. God Brought the Woman to the Man

6. Gave Man the Responsibility to Name all the Animals and to Name the Woman
7. Satan Drew Adam and Eve into a Role Reversal
8. After the Fall- God called the Man into Account First
9. The Curse of "Desire" and Rule" Shows the Corruptness of the Divine Order
10. God Named Both the Man and the Woman- "Man"

Let's examine each one

1. God Created Man Initially with an *Implied* Leadership Function.

Genesis 1:26&27

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

The Hebrew word for "Man" in this verse is "*adam*" which is also the actual name that God chose for the Man He created. So when God made the Man- He made him to be "adam" and gave this Man rule or dominion over:

- ✓ The fish of the sea
- ✓ The fowl of the air
- ✓ The cattle
- ✓ All the earth
- ✓ Every creeping thing

Then in verse 27- God said that He made "adam" "**in his own image**". And then said "**in the image of God made He *him*** (masculine singular); **male and female created He *them*** (masculine plural).

Now by itself- this point does not prove anything conclusively- but it *does* point to the fact that by using the word, "adam" and by using both the masculine singular and masculine plural rather than the female tense of the words- that God is suggesting here a leadership role for the Man that is *not* suggested for the female.

But it is our belief that this first point- made in connection with the following nine reasons- *do* prove beyond any doubt that God intended Man to *always* assume a leadership role and women to *always* assume a supportive role in the Home and the Church- and that the Fall did *not* bring about those roles. Let's see if that is true.

2. Man was Created First and Then the Woman

Genesis 2:7,18

7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

This is an indisputable fact of the Order of Creation. **Genesis** clearly teaches that Man was created first and that Woman was created *from* the Man- at some point *after* God created Man to be a "help meet" for the Man- or to be a help that was suitable to assist the Man in a complementarian role do what God had called the Man to do.

It is important to note that God *could* have created Man and Woman at the same time and in the same way- but He did not- and that fact is significant. The Apostle Paul used this fact of the Order of Creation as part of his teaching as to why Women *cannot* be Elders or Pastors in the Christian Church:

1 Timothy 2:12-15

12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

3. God gave Man the Responsibility to Oversee the Garden; and to Pass on Morality to the Woman

Genesis 2:15-17

15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

The Woman was *never* given any responsibility before the Fall other than to be the help meet to what her husband was called to do. Also notice that God did not speak to the Woman at all- but He spoke to the Man and the Man was to instruct his wife.

This is why Eve got it wrong about the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil when she spoke with the serpent- she either didn't hear Adam correctly- or Adam did not teach her correctly or both.

4. Woman was Created "for" the Man and "from" Man and Presented "to" the Man as "an Help Meet for Him".

Genesis 2:18-23

18 And the LORD God said, **It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.**

19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

5. God Brought the Woman to the Man

Genesis 2:22

And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

6. Man is Given the Responsibility to Name all the Animals- and to Name the Woman

Genesis 2:19,20, & 23

19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

7. The Serpent Undermines this Divine Order and Draws Eve and Adam into a Deadly and Sinful Role Reversal against God and Each Other.

Genesis 3:1-6

1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

8. After the Fall- God Calls Man to Account First

Genesis 3:7-11

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

9. The Curse of "Desire" and "Rule" show the Sinfulness of the Corruption of the Divine Order

Genesis 3:16

Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

Now the way that the original Hebrew actually reads is "**...and for your husband- thy desire, and he shall rule over thee**". And many people throughout history have taken this statement to be a mandate- that sin caused the woman to want her husband and her husband is going to come down on her with authority.

And many feminists take this verse to teach that man being in a leadership role over the woman and the woman being in a complementarian role under her husband came about as a result of the Curse- and was not God's original Plan- and thus has been "done away" in Christ.

But that is not at all what is happening here. Look at a parallel passage found in **Genesis 4:6&7** to see just what this "desire" and what this "rule" actually is:

Genesis 4:6&7

6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wrath? and why is thy countenance fallen?

7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

Now these two passages are too close to be accidental. What was God actually saying to Cain here? He tells Cain that sin "lieth" at the door. The word that was translated here into English as "lieth" comes from the Hebrew word that means: *to stretch oneself out or to couch- like a ravenous beast "lies" in wait for his prey.*

So God is telling Cain that sin is couched at his door- ready to pounce on him and then God says:

... unto thee shall be his desire...

Who's desire? Abel's? No, Sin. The word, "his" in the Hebrew is modifying the word, "sin"- *not* the name, "Abel". This is not a fleshly wanting like we would think when God told Eve that her "desire" will be to her husband- this is not about human sexuality or human desire toward another person- but God is telling Cain here that sin wants "rule" over him or dominate over him.

This means that sin desires to dominate or rule or conquer over Cain in the same manner that a lion desires to dominate or rule or conquer his prey. And then God tells Cain,

... and thou shalt rule over him

or better translated,

... but thou must rule over it (sin)

So what God is talking about here is the ongoing battle over the mastery of the soul of Man. Sin constantly seeks to dominate over Man and Man must be aware of this ongoing effort by sin to dominate him and not be naïve and not be ignorant; and not be foolish- but fight back and turn the tables on sin and dominate sin.

So in the case with Eve and Adam- God is saying here that two things are going to happen as a result of sin that should never have happened- and both of them are bad. The Woman is going to be like a lion- couching at the door- seeking to dominate her husband in every way- and the Man is going to fight back- usually by violence- to forcefully push the woman back down.

The opposite of this is that the Woman is going to use various tactics (sex, money, silence, etc.) to try to manipulate the Man and the Man is going to passively sit back and allow that to happen.

Both of these efforts by the Woman and both of these responses by the Man are wrong and sinful- this is *not* a mandate- both of these things are the result of the Curse- *not* the Divine Order that has Man as the Leader and Woman as the complementary "help mate".

10. God Named Both the Man and the Woman, "Man"

Genesis 5:1-3

1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;

2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.

3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:

God called "**their**" name, "**Adam**" or Man- once again underscoring the Divine Order that Man was created first and the Woman was made to help the Man do and accomplish what God had called him to do.

Child Bearing

The Bible says that the great pain that women suffer in childbirth is a result of the Fall.

Genesis 3:16

Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

The Bible places great emphasis on childbearing as being the primary role of wives and mothers- so much so that the Apostle Paul taught that women will be "saved" or delivered or rescued from not fulfilling their main function and purpose in life by bearing and raising children.

1Timothy 2:15

Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

A Word About Evil in the World

Evil entered into the world at the sin of Adam. And today- over 6,000 years later- evil is a huge factor that affects every phase of human existence in the earth

today. But "evil" in and of itself is not a commodity that was *created*. "Evil" is the collective *results* of the thoughts, actions, and intents of fallen Man. The Bible says that God is holy, righteous, and good, and while God is the Creator- He is not the Creator of Evil.

James 1:13-16

13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

With the Fall and the subsequent nature of Man becoming fallen- things that result and flow out from the ruined human nature (which had never existed on earth prior to the Fall) began to be manifested to various degrees in individual people such as:

- ✓ Disbelief
- ✓ Idolatry
- ✓ Blasphemy
- ✓ False Worship
- ✓ Dishonoring
- ✓ Murder
- ✓ Adultery
- ✓ Stealing
- ✓ Lying
- ✓ Covetousness

The *result* of these sins being present and abounding in the heart and mind of fallen Man, and because they began to be *literally* and *visibly* manifested by certain individuals brought forth what is collectively called "evil" upon society and the world in general that had never existed before the Fall such as:

- ✓ Crime
- ✓ Poverty
- ✓ War
- ✓ Injustice
- ✓ Violence

Genesis 4:8

And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

Proverbs 30:12

There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

A Different Image

Because of his sin- Adam is now *completely* separated from God- with no connection at all to his Creator. This ruination affected not only Adam himself- but those who came after him. For example- the Bible says that Adam was made in the image of God

Genesis 1:26-28

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

But those born to Adam after the Fall- are now made in the image of Adam:

Genesis 5:3

And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:

Because of the Fall- the image in which we are now born is *not* directly the image of God. We now are made *indirectly* in God's image- but *directly* in Adam's fallen image.

A Slave to Sin

The Bible teaches that as a result of the Fall- Man is a slave to sin. This part of **Radical Ruination** says that while Fallen Man is able at times and on occasion to temporarily modify his behavior to a point- that Fallen Man cannot do anything naturally *except* sin. Man today no longer simply sins- he doesn't just periodically "choose to sin". No, Fallen Man is now a slave to sin whose only conscious thoughts are continuous evil.

Genesis 6:5

And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

John 8:32-34

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

33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

Let the impact of this verse in **Genesis** and Jesus' Words in **John** sink in. Don't just pass this over. The Bible says here that every single solitary imagination of the thoughts of fallen Man's heart is only evil (never good)- all the time, and the result of this Truth is that anyone who sins is actually serving sin and is, in fact, a slave to sin. But does this apply to all of Mankind? The Bible says that it does.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

1John 1:8-10

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

So if every imagination is only evil continually and every single thought of our hearts are evil continually- then fallen Man is *incapable* of ever having a good, righteous, and holy thought or intent in and by and through his own human initiative. This is why Paul describes unsaved fallen Man's condition like this:

Romans 3:10-18

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:

16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:

17 And the way of peace have they not known:

18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Galatians 3:22

But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

Romans 3:19

Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Fallen Man's Inability and Unwillingness to Bring Glory to God

Being fallen is not about doing "bad" things- but is, in fact, robbing God of the Glory that is only due to Him.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

1Corinthians 10:31

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Anything that we do for our *own* glory, and not for the Glory of God, is sin, and the difference between being fallen and being saved is that saved people do all to God's Glory while lost people do all to their own best interests.

Romans 14:23b

... whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

Anyone who does *anything*- even those things that *appear* to be noble or things that we would humanly call "good" things is, in fact, sin if it is done for any other purpose other than to bring all Glory and Honor to God. Saved people, while certainly not sinless, *desire* to bring all Glory and Honor to God while lost people have no desire at all to glorify God.

And this is why the Bible teaches that the only *source* of Righteousness and Goodness come from God, and does not and cannot ever *originate* from fallen Man.

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Isaiah 54:17

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD , and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD .

The Fall left Man utterly barren of any intrinsic "goodness" or "righteousness" and enslaved him to serve sin continuously. Therefore, sin is the great equalizer of all men- for all men- from every social status, educational level, or financial ability; all sin and they sin all the time. The harsh reality of sin being ever present in the life of every Man only serves to prove Man's fallenness.

Fallen Man *Loves Sin*

Another very important point of **Radical Ruination** is that part of what it means to be "fallen" is that not only does Fallen Man sin- but because his nature is now utterly corrupt and fallen- lost Man actually *loves* his sin. He *enjoys* and *treasures* sin. Sin- although horribly destructive in this life and eternally damning in the next- is highly valued and promoted by fallen Man.

And **Radical Ruination** teaches that Man's "lostness" is so pervasive that if given a "choice" between voluntarily serving sin or Christ by and through his own human volition- unsaved Man will *always* choose his sin by default over Jesus Christ and Righteousness.

John 3:19

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

James 1:14

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed

Both Unable and Unwilling

Because of his own personal Sin- and because of the *severity* of the Curse placed upon him for his sin- Man was left in a radically different condition that he was before the Fall. In addition is now- in his lost state- *unable* of himself (in his own power) and *unwilling* in himself to believe the Gospel to the point of being saved. The depth of this inability and unwillingness is so great that unless God supernaturally intervenes on fallen Man's behalf- not one single human being would ever come to faith in Jesus Christ and be saved.

The Doctrine of Radical Ruination teaches that the condition of all mankind after the Fall is described in various places in Scripture as being:

- Dead in trespasses and sin (**Ephesians 2:1**)
- His heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked (**Jeremiah 17:9**)
- Lost; without God or hope (**Ephesians 2:12**)
- Unrighteous and not good (**Romans 3:10**)
- Does not seek after God (**Romans 3:11**)
- The things of God are foolishness to him (**1Corinthians 2:14**)
- Not subject to God and cannot be subject to God (**Romans 8:7**)

Summary: What is "*Total Human Depravity*"?

Total Human depravity is what theologians call the condition that Scripture teaches that exists with Man as a result of the Fall of Adam in the Garden. Now there is much misunderstanding about Total Depravity that exists today- as many would think that Total Depravity means that all people are as bad as they *could* possibly be or that all people sin as much as they possibly *could* sin. That is *not*

what this term means. Human Depravity as a result of the Fall is taught in Scripture as being "total" in these five ways:

1. No one is exempt from Human Depravity
2. Apart from the Grace of God- no living human being delights in the Holiness of God nor do we submit gladly to God's Sovereign Authority
3. Everything that Man does apart from acting in Faith towards God is sin
4. Apart from the Grace of God- Man is unable and unwilling to submit to God and serve Him
5. All of Mankind is deserving of eternal damnation

So let's review what the Scriptures teach about these five statements.

1. Human Depravity is "Total" in that No One is Exempt From Human Depravity

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

1Kings 8:46b

... there is no man that sinneth not...

Psalms 143:2b

... in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

1John 1:8

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1John 1:10

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2. Human Depravity is "Total" in That Our Rebellion and Hardness Against God is So Pervasive That Apart From the Grace of God- No Human Being Delights in the Holiness of God Nor Do We Gladly Submit To God's Sovereign Authority

John 3:19-21

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

Jesus pronounced a very powerful and far reaching explanation of what it means to be fallen here when He said that lost people don't simply *do* sin, or that

lost people don't simply *commit* sin- but that lost people *love* sin- they actually *love* darkness- and they love sin and darkness more than they love the Light or the Truth. So being fallen means that your loves and your desires and your cravings are also fallen and sinful.

Also notice that Jesus said in verse 21- that the people who "**do**" Truth- come to the Light so that this deed or action of coming to the Light might be "**manifest**" or brought to light that the reason *why* he came to the light is that this act of his was actually "**wrought in God**" or in other words- the act of him coming to the Light was the result of what God Sovereignly did for him *before* he acted or before he did what he did.

Romans 3:9-18

9 What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:

16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:

17 And the way of peace have they not known:

18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

3. Human Depravity is "Total" in that Everything Man Does Apart From Acting in Faith Towards God is Sin

Romans 14:23b

...whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Romans 7:18-21

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

4. Human Depravity is "Total" in that Apart from the Grace of God- Man is Unable and Unwilling to Submit to God And Serve Him

John 3:5-7

5 Jesus answered, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

6 **That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

7 **Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.**

Romans 6:17&18

17 **But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.**

18 **Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.**

Romans 8:5-9

5 **For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.**

6 **For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**

7 **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.**

8 **So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.**

9 **But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

1Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Ephesians 2:1-5

1 **And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;**

2 **Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:**

3 **Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.**

4 **But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,**

5 **Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)**

Philippians 2:13

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

1John 4:19

We love him, because he first loved us.

5. Human Depravity is "Total" in that All of Mankind is *Deserving* of Eternal Damnation

Romans 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Ephesians 2:3

Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Punishment is meted out based upon the level of dignity of the one who is injured in the crime. For example- an attack against the President of the United States is looked at with more severity than an attack against others- because more is at stake if the President is injured than if somebody else is injured.

In his *Works*- the great American Theologian- Jonathan Edwards said:

"Hell makes sense as a punishment against sin because when we sin- we offend the Owner and the Creator of the Universe- Who is an infinitely worthy Being. And because of God's great Worth- that offense is therefore an infinitely *greater* evil than offending anyone else and it is *deserving* of an infinitely greater punishment."

Summary and Conclusion About the *Totality* of Human Depravity

Total Depravity means that apart from the empowering and enabling Power of God- our hardness and rebellion against God is "total" or all encompassing and therefore everything that lost man does is sin; Our inability and unwillingness to submit to God's Authority or to reform ourselves is "total" or absolute; And we are therefore "totally" deserving of the eternal damnation that has been promised.

It is very hard to exaggerate how critical it is to admit that lost Man's condition is this bad. Because if in any way - we think of ourselves as basically "good" or even less than totally ruined by the Fall- then our understanding of the Sovereign Work of God's Grace in Redemption will be flawed.

But if we humble ourselves to this terrible and frightening Truth about our own condition- then God's Grace become magnificent and truly amazing.

Two Key Verses

Two key verses that will help us to comprehend the impact of **The Doctrine of Radical Ruination** is **Philippians 2:13** and **John 6:44**:

Philippians 2:13

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

This verse says that it is God- Who works *in* us to accomplish two things:

1. To *will* to do of His good Pleasure
2. To actually *do* His good Pleasure

Now as you study the tense of the verbs here- it becomes clear that Paul was teaching that it is God alone Who works in us; that it is God Who Sovereignly works in us without our aid or cooperation. In other words- Another way to understand this is to say that God- working solely inside of us- and on our behalf- gives to us what we *do not* already possess in and of ourselves and does for us what we *cannot* do for ourselves.

And what are those two things that God has to do *in* us and give *to* us that we do not have on our own?

1. The Will (Desire) to do of God's good Pleasure (serve God)
2. The Power (Ability) to do of God's good Pleasure (serve God)

Philippians 2:13 says that God has to provide us with the "will" or the "desire" to serve God, and that God has to provide us with the "power" or the "ability" to serve God. But why does God have to provide us with these two attributes? Because we do not naturally possess either of these attributes. But why don't we already possess these attributes? Because both of those attributes were lost to us in the Fall!

The very fact that God has to provide these things for us *proves* that we do not already possess them in and of ourselves. If we had either the will or the power to love and serve God on our own- there would be no need for God to have to provide either of them. But if both the *desire* to love and serve God and the *ability* to do so were lost to us in the Fall- then in order to save anybody- God would have to restore those two components in us- prior to us trusting in Christ- so that we could be saved! Which is exactly what this verse says that He does!

John 6:44

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

This verse uses a very interesting word. Notice that the third word in this verse was translated into English as "**can**". This word is different from the word, "may". The word "may" denotes *permission*, while the word, "can" denotes *ability* or *power*. The Greek word that John actually used here is the word, *dunamai* (doo-nah-may), which means: *the power or ability to do something*.

Jesus was not saying here that no man has the *permission* to come to Him- because *all* men have *permission* to come to Jesus- but rather Jesus was saying that

unless the Father *supernaturally* draws a person to Jesus- no man has the *ability* or the *power* to come to Him on their own. Well, why doesn't lost Man have the ability or the power to come to Jesus? Because Man lost that ability or power in the Fall.

And Jesus is saying here that the effect that the Fall had on Man was so great and radical that unless and until the Father draws us to Jesus- we *can't* come; we are powerless to come to Jesus on our own through our own initiative.

Now we may want to argue the point of just how much the Fall affected Man- but what we *cannot* argue is that this is exactly what Jesus said here in this verse:

No human being born of woman has the ability or the power to come to Jesus simply by exercising his own free will unless and until the Father Sovereignly draws that individual to Jesus Christ