

Series: Fourth Friday  
Title: Total Depravity  
Text: Genesis 3: 1-24  
Date: September 28, 2018  
Place: SGBC, NJ

The acronym T.U.L.I.P is an easy way to remember five fundamental points of the gospel:

**T**otal Depravity  
**U**nconditional election  
**L**imited Atonement  
**I**rresistable grace  
**P**reservation/Perseverance of the saints

We have once again returned to our fourth Friday children's classes. Before we had a building we had this in our home. The parents would watch a DVD sermon from Pastor Henry Mahan's TV broadcast, while I would teach the young people, ages 19 and under in my office. After the classes, I would then teach the lesson again in the first hour on Sunday morning. The classes also doubled as a mini-preacher's school. One of the men would teach the class on Friday night. We would record their message, I would listen Saturday and offer feedback then they would preach it again Sunday morning. We stopped the classes while we were remodeling our new building.

So now we are resuming the fourth Friday classes with a whole new crop of young ones. This time in our new building. Lord willing, each fourth Friday we will look at each letter of the acronym T.U.L.I.P and then again the Sunday morning following. So we are beginning with the letter T.

**Title:** Total Depravity

**Proposition:** All men come into this world totally dead in trespasses and in sins, under the curse of the law, in need of redemption, regeneration, and grace.

In order to see how all became depraved we must go back to the garden. If we are to understand why we need Christ to redeem us and the Spirit of God to regenerate us then we need to go back to the garden to see what happened.

**Genesis 2: 8: And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9: And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil...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.**

## **GOD IS THE AUTHORITY**

Everything Adam had, God freely gave him. God created Adam and gave him life. He created a bride for Adam and married them. God gave Adam a place to live, a profession and food that he could freely eat. There was no sin, no corruption of heart or mind. Our first father and mother had fellowship with God.

God gave Adam one command because God made man to glorify him by worshipping and serving him. Therefore, God told Adam in the day that he disobeyed, he would surely die.

We should take note that it was by the breaking of one command that we perished and God has given only one command through which sinners are saved—believe on Christ!

## THE DEVIL'S SUBTILTY

**Genesis 3 :1: Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. 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.**

*The serpent* is the devil, satan. He is a created angel, created by God. The devil rebelled against God in heaven, along with a host of angels, and God cast them out. So we are told that the devil “*is more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.*” He has ministers who are “*false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness;*” (2 Cor 11: 13-15) It could be that when the Holy Spirit says through the apostle Paul that “*Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light*”, that he is telling us how the devil appeared to Eve in the garden. It could be that he appeared to her as an angel of light so that Eve was deceived into thinking he was a messenger from heaven. That is certainly how satan makes his ministers appear to men he deceives in our day.

One, we see the devil is tricky and subtle in that he first appeared to the woman—“*he said unto the woman.*” Satan did not come to Adam. He, first, came to Eve, the weaker vessel. He knew Adam loved his bride. If he got tricked Eve into disobeying God then he knew he could get the man. Religion appeals to women. The false gospel of will-worshippers is to give the woman authority over God: they say that the church, the bride, has power over Christ, the husband, by telling sinners that they must let Christ save them. Scripture says of the devil’s preachers, “*For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*” (2 Tim 3: 6-7) Beware of preachers who use this method and who preach that the sinner has authority over God, making the woman to be head over the man.

Two, the devil is subtle by simply asking a question concerning God’s word. By this he got Eve to debate with him over God’s word—“*And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 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.*” By this crafty method, the devil not only got Eve to debate God’s word, he tricked her into adding to it and taking from it. She added, “*neither shall ye touch it*”, which God never said. And she took away by saying, “*lest ye die.*” “Lest” means perhaps; God said in the day you eat it, you shall surely die. Believer, especially you who preach, learn that you do not have to answer every question that men ask about the scriptures. Never debate the word of God. When the devil gets you to debate scripture he has already beguiled you.

Three, satan uses his preachers in the world today to do what he did here, to speak contrary to God’s word—“*And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die.*” This was exactly opposite to what God said. How many times have you heard preachers read the word of God then explain away the clear meaning, declaring that it says the opposite?

Four, the devil beguiles with a message that makes you think that if you obey God then God is keeping you from having an open mind, from being free and wise. The devil said to Eve—*"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."* Young people, you will have friends say things like, *"Don't believe all that stuff your preacher preaches to you! If you believe on Christ then you won't be able to have fun with us anymore!"* They are saying that if you obey God, by believing on the Son of God, then God is keeping your eyes from being opened; keeping you from having an open mind; keep you from knowing the ways of the world. We never are wise to disobey God. It was by one man's disobedience that we all were made sinners. Remember that!

Five, the devil beguiles with a message which appeals to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life—*"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."* Speaking by the Spirit of God the apostle John wrote,

1 John 2: 15: Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16: For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17: And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

So as we see some of the devil's crafty methods we see why the apostle Paul said, *"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."*

First, Eve simply gave ear to the tempter questioning God's word. Then she debated with him, altering God's word. At last she disregarded God's word completely. Never even give ear to the tempter. Look to Christ alone! He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. No sinner can come to God our Father but by faith in Christ Jesus the Lord. He alone is all we need to find acceptance with God.

## **ADAM WAS THE FIRST REPRESENTATIVE MAN**

**Genesis 3: 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;**

When Eve ate nothing happened. It is because Eve was not the head and representative. God made Adam, the man, the head. Adam represented Eve and all who would be born of him. In this case, it means all the human race without exception because all are born of Adam.

Adam was not deceived as Eve was. He knew what he was doing. When Adam ate, he transgressed against God. As God promised, Adam died. And because God made Adam the head and representative of all mankind, all died in Adam, including Eve.

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:

Legally we died before God because we transgressed the law in Adam when he transgressed the law. Spiritually we died because our nature is conceived of Adam's corrupt seed in natural generation. Physically Adam began dying and his sin is the reason we begin dying the moment we are born. Unless God intervenes

in grace, all would die eternally by suffering the living death that comes after judgment under God's wrath. So as God promised, when Adam our head ate of the tree which God forbid, dying, we surely died.

## THE FRUIT OF SIN

**Genesis 3: 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? 12: And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. 13: And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.**

What does sin make us do? We see it plainly from what Adam and Eve did from the moment Adam disobeyed God.

One, sin makes us experience the sinfulness, the guilt and the shame of sin in our conscience. As soon as Adam sinned—*"they knew they were naked."* Before, they were not ashamed. Their hearts and minds were perfect. But the moment Adam sinned, sin entered, along with a wicked, corrupt mind, a guilty conscience and shame.

Perhaps, I can illustrate this immediate sense of sin that Adam experienced. When I was younger, for some reason my partner did not show up one morning, so I was duck hunting alone in Arkansas. I kept seeing ducks land in this one hole. So I used a log to hide me and I snuck up to a large area of water where a huge number of ducks were on the water, with more landing by the minute. I was excited. At the time the law stated you could only take two ducks but only one if the first duck you shot was a hen. Migratory bird laws are federal laws so people have done jail time and lost homes and vehicles over breaking those laws. That morning, I raised over that log and the ducks began to fly up off the water. I picked out a duck and fired, another and fired, one more and fired. When the smoke cleared, with three shots I had taken seven ducks. And three of those were hens. I had not seen a person all day; I was miles from the nearest road. But immediately when I saw I had too many ducks, I felt like there was a game warden behind every tree in that creek bottom.

Now, I was a sinner before that happened. So it does not illustrate the magnitude of what Adam experienced. But my story illustrates the immediate sense of sin and guilt and shame that accompanied his transgression. Before Adam sinned, they were naked and knew no shame. After Adam sinned, immediately sin made the thoughts of their heart wicked and they experienced the guilt of sinning against God and shame entered in. That is what sin makes us experience.

Two, sin makes us self-righteous by nature—*"and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."* Immediately, as soon as sin entered, they began trying to make a covering to cover their nakedness. Sinners do not have to be taught salvation by works. Due to sin, every sinner is religious by nature. Every sinner knows in his conscience that he is guilty and in need of a covering. Sin deceives him into thinking he can make that covering himself. But any covering a sinner tries to make is no more than a fig-leaf covering. Any covering we make is never enough. Adam had covered his nakedness but as soon as he hears God, it is not enough. He runs and hides in the trees.

Three, sin makes our hearts hate God. Immediately, their hearts became enmity against God—*"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. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.*” Before sin entered, Adam would have ran to God when he heard the voice of the LORD God. He had no sin before. His heart loved God before. But after sin entered, when he heard God’s voice, Adam ran and hid. He had never been afraid of God. But now, he saw his nakedness, he was ashamed of his sin and transgression, he knew he was guilty. Therefore, he was afraid of God and tried to hide. That is what sin has done to us.

Four, sin makes us blame others rather than confess our sins to be our fault. Adam blamed his wife and he blamed God. And Eve blamed the serpent. But neither confessed the sin was their own fault—*“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? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.”* Left to ourselves, we will do anything to try to make a covering for our sins. But we will not confess our sins, owning sin to be our own fault. Instead, we blame others. We see it with our country’s politicians, with criminals and with the culture as a whole. Everything is someone else’s fault: it is the gun’s fault, it is the environment I was raised in, it is how my parents raised me. But apart from God’s grace, we will not confess our sin to be our own fault.

So we see the reason we are all sinners by birth and by choice is because we all died in Adam. The reason we are self-righteous by nature, hate God, are afraid of God and blame others is because we all died in Adam.

## **THE GOOD NEWS: CHRIST IS THE LAST ADAM**

**Romans 5: 18: Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men [who Adam represented] to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men [who Christ represented] unto justification of life. 19: For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. 20: Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: 21: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Adam was a type of Christ in that both were representatives. Christ represented all who would be born-again of him. It is by the Son of God representing his people as a Man, bearing our sin unto death, that Christ established the law for us, justifying us from our sins. All for whom he died, must be born-again of the Spirit of God so that a new man is created within in righteousness and true holiness. In this way alone can God’s chosen sinners be brought back into communion with God and never perish.

God shows us this in the first call of grace in the garden back in Genesis 3: 9, *“And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?”* Adam was not seeking God. He would not have sought God. But God always comes to seek and to save his lost children whom he chose in Christ. He makes us confess our sins like Adam was made to confess his transgression.

God strips away all our fig leaf dead works and brings us to rest all our care into Christ’s hand and God clothes us in the righteousness of Christ. We see it pictured in Genesis 3: 21, *“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.”* God took an innocent animal and slew it in the place of guilty Adam and Eve. Christ Jesus, the Son of God, is the Lamb of God. God the Father provided his own Son who gave himself the Just for the unjust. That broken law of God had to be honored. We broke it in Adam, therefore Adam and all the rest of God’s elect who sinned in Adam, had to die in order for God’s law to be honored in the carrying out of justice. But God provided us a Substitute to die in our place in his Son. God made him sin for his people, who knew no sin, that his people might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Cor 5:21)

And notice, God did not merely make coats of skins, hang them up and tell Adam and Eve they were hanging on the tree branch if they wanted to put them on. No, God even clothed them with the skins he made. That is how sinful we are! God has to both make the covering and put the covering on his elect himself. God the Holy Spirit gives us life, gives us faith to believe on Christ and, through faith, God imputes unto us the righteousness Christ has made us.

Now, be sure to notice. Adam sinned, Adam made a vain covering, Adam ran from God, Adam hid from God and Adam blamed his sin on someone else. But God sought Adam, God found him, God brought him to confess his sin, God stripped him of his vain leaves, God provided the substitute to die in their place, God made the skins and God covered them. So it is with every elect child God saves: we did the sinning; God did the saving. Rest in Christ and you shall be saved!

**Amen!**