

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

89 A

# THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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## CALVINISM – LESSON 1

Calvinism is easily seen from the (below) reproduction of the old *tulip acrostic*:

*T* = Total Hereditary Depravity

*U* = Unconditional Salvation

*L* = Limited Atonement

*I* = Irresistible Grace

*P* = Preservation Of The Saints

1. **Total Hereditary Depravity** Total means completely. Hereditary means it is genetically inherited from father and mother. Depravity means corruption (ie: sinful, wicked). This doctrine teaches every human is born with a sinful nature inherited from his physical parents. (Ez 18:20) “The soul that \_\_\_\_\_, it shall \_\_\_\_\_. The son shall not bear the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the \_\_\_\_\_.” This distinction is made earlier in Verse 4. Does Ezekiel 18 teach that sin is inherited from one’s father? \_\_\_\_\_
2. **What About David’s Statement In Psalms 51:5?** “Behold, I was \_\_\_\_\_ in iniquity, and in \_\_\_\_\_ did my mother conceive me.” (a) He doesn’t say his nature was sinful. (b) This may well refer to (Duet 23:2) where we read, “A bastard \_\_\_\_\_ into the congregation of the LORD; even to his \_\_\_\_\_ generation shall he not enter into the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD.” When one reads Matthew’s genealogy of Jesus (Mt 1:3-6) it is significant that David is the tenth from Phares, the eldest of twin brothers. Phares resulted from an incestuous relationship between Tamar and her father-in-law Judah. We feel this best explains David’s statement. Incidentally, the biblical term *bastard* can mean an illegitimate child, but not necessarily one born out of wedlock. It may refer to offspring of an incestuous union, or of a marriage that was prohibited (Lev 18:6-20; 20:11-20). (c) It is possible David was referring to something we cannot know about. (d) But we can know he was not speaking about inherited sin.
3. **What Jesus Said About Little Children** A newborn is the smallest of all little children. All infants are innocent, unaccountable and safe. Jesus said, “Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” Scripture? \_\_\_\_\_
4. **What Jesus Told Nicodemus Regarding Accountable Human Beings** (Jn 3:3) “Except a \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_, he cannot see the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.” Except whom? \_\_\_\_\_ Do what? \_\_\_\_\_ If one is born again, he is now a \_\_\_\_\_ again. Jesus means baptism (V5) when he said “born of water and of the Spirit.” In baptism (Rom 6:4) one is raised to “walk in newness of life.” This plainly shows that one is not depraved at birth but is totally sinless.

[RETURN TO NUMERICAL INDEX](#)

[GO TO PAGE 2](#)