

# Truth verses the Tulip

**Scripture:** John 8:31-32 “...*If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.*”

## Introduction:

The lady that owned our house before us must have been a master gardener. Our yard has some of the nicest flower beds around. The flowers are all different colors and shapes and sizes. Somehow she planted them all so they bloom one right after the other, for continual enjoyment. She also put ferns and elephant ear plants around with a little fish pond.

What a blessing to have a peaceful place to go and relax.

Last year I will never forget when I walked out the front door and noticed a red flower of some kind. I turned aside to see the great sight and was totally amazed to find a flower that was the shape of a heart with what looked like drops of blood falling off of it.

I did a double take in amazement and must have spent 30 minutes or so considering the beauty of this wonderful flower.

This flower is called a Bleeding Heart and it puts a smile on my face to know that our God designed this flower.

I was describing this flower to my mom and she told me not to let Toby (our dog) get around it, because it is very poisonous to dogs.

## Transitional Statement:

Church, spiritually speaking, there are a lot of doctrines in this world that look very nice and have a peaceful feeling about them, but if taken in by a Christian, they will kill us deader than a door nail. Jesus warns of the about the corruption of doctrine by men. (Matt 15:9).

Today it is my intention to:

1. Defend the gospel in regard to a specific heresy
2. Warn the church against acceptance of any part of it.
3. And to help Equip the church to rescue people from it.

## Lesson:

### I. **T**otal ability to choose God

A. First of all we were all created in purity.

*Genesis 1:26a "Let Us make man in Our image, according to our likeness;..."*

1. So mankind is made in God's "*Image*"
    - a. Meaning in His likeness or resemblance.
    - b. i.e. we are a representation of Him on this earth.
  2. Going on to Gen 1:31, God proclaims that everything He had made was very good.
    - a. Not flawed
- B. So, our basic human nature is one of purity and holiness
1. Because God Almighty is our creator
    - a. And because He doesn't make junk
  2. At birth we are a pure product of our heavenly father, without stain or blemish
  3. Hence the ability is given, to obey His command to "be holy as I am holy"  
1 Peter 1:16
- C. Further more God has given us all the basic ability to know Him
1. Romans 1:20 *"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."*
    - a. What Paul is saying here is that there is a basic level of understanding that God gives to everyone so that all mankind is without excuse.
    - b. Yes even the man stranded on the desert island...has no excuse.
- D. God has given to every person all we need to know Him.
1. 2 Peter 1:3 *"seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence."*
- E. So, salvation comes down to a matter of free will and choice
1. Just as Adam and Eve had a choice to make....we also make our choices.
    - a. Salvation is a choice
    - b. It is comes as no surprise that Paul couples God's grace with faith in Eph 2:8-9
    - c. Faith being our response to God's invitation in our lives

F. And just as salvation is a choice, sin is a choice also

1. When we are walking as God created us, our first response is righteousness.
2. It is only when the fleshly desires of the heart...war with the spirit that sin is given opportunity.

a. James 1:14-15 *“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.”*

G. We are responsible for our own choice in regards to sin

1. And we are not responsible for the sins of others....Jer 31:29-30

H. I can't help but hear the words of Joshua *“Choose you this day whom you will serve”*  
Joshua 24:15

## II. **Rightness with God is available for everyone**

A. God wants everyone to be saved

1. 2 Peter 3:9 *“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”*
2. 1 Timothy 2:1-4 *“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*

B. He is not bias.....does not favor one man over the next.

1. Romans 2:11 *“For there is no partiality with God.”*
2. Acts 10:34 Peter acknowledges the same thing in regard to the inclusion of the Gentiles.
2. John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

### III. Unrestricted is the flow of Jesus' blood

A. The blood of Jesus is the payment that God expects to cleans our sins.

1. 1 Peter 1:17-19 *"If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ."*
2. Ephesians 1:7 *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace"*

B. The blood that Jesus spilled on the cross of Calvary was for everyone who would believe and come to the knowledge of the truth

1. 1 John 2:2 *"...and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world."*
2. Revelation 5:9 *"And they sang a new song, saying, " Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation."*

C. John the revelator penned the awesome words of Revelation 3:20

*"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me."*

### IV. Turning on God and rejecting Him is possible

A. Matthew 23:37 *"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling."*

1. John 1:11 His own received Him not.

B. Those folks in Romans 1:25 who were rejecting God's truths for a lie.

C. Just think of all the Pharisees and Sadducees who never turned their lives over to Christ....

D. What about Judas and his rejection of God.

E. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8 *"For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to give relief to you who are*

*afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, & dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*

F. The ability to reject God is seen countless times through out scripture.

G. So it is possible to reject God.

## **V. Having salvation can be lost**

A. Galatians 5:4 *“You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.”*

B. Hebrews 10:26 *“For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins”*

C. The plea of the entire book of Hebrews is not to turn away from God and loose your salvation.

D. Salvation takes a daily commitment

1. That is why the burnt offerings of the Old Testament showed us a daily pattern of devotion.

2. Our salvation is something we are faced with choosing everyday.

2 Peter 1:10 *“Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;*

## **VI. The Calvinistic heresy of salvation**

A. During the reformation movement John Calvin came up with a flowery system of salvation that has killed many would be Christians.

1. **T**otal Depravity

a. This is the teaching that we have inherited the sins of Adam

1) Original sin

b. We are predisposed toward sin.....and in fact our nature is a sinful

c. And we are totally helpless to make any response to God at all.

2. **U**nconditional election

a. Teaches that God selects certain people to be saved and some to be lost

- b. It is predestination
- c. It rejects James 2:26....that faith needs action

### 3. Limited Atonement

- a. Teaches that the blood of Jesus will clean only those who God has chosen

### 4. Irresistible grace

- a. You can't reject God's choice in your life.

### 5. Perseverance of the saints

- a. Once your saved your always saved.

## Conclusion:

If I had been a little more skilled I would have had my acronym be ROUNDUP and I would have sprayed it on the TULIP and killed it.

This deadly theology is working its way into the church slowly.

But if we understand it we can even rescue people out of its grip.

The Apostle Paul writes in Colossians 2:8

*"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ."*

## Matthew 11:28-30

**28 " Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."**