

– Continued from page 1 –

which “*perverse*” is paired with “*generation*”! This necessarily implies the depravity is not heritable. The word described the people of the time. “*God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes*” (Ecclesiastes 7:29).

Election is a real biblical doctrine, referring to having been chosen. Unconditional election is a false doctrine. That it could be unconditional is altogether undone in a single verse wherein the apostle commanded, “*Brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure*” (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:10). Instructions about how to manage election demand the conclusion that election is a matter of personal decision-making. That this requires diligence deepens that conclusion.

Atonement is real and it is not limited. Although the word and variations of it appear frequently in the Old Testament, most English translations do not employ the term in the New, except for once in the King James Version (Romans 5:11) and the New International Version uses it five times (Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17; 9:5; 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:2; 4:10). “*We have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world*” (1<sup>st</sup> John 2:1-2 NIV). All other translations use the word “*propitiation*”: “*We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world*” (NKJV). Atonement, or propitiation, is intended by Christ for the whole world. That is not to say every soul will be saved, but that every soul has the opportunity.

Grace is true, but it can be resisted. Grace is favor, implicitly unmerited favor – God giving good to those who do not deserve it and can never earn it. While grace is intended for all (Titus 2:11), it is often rejected, even by those who have previously received it. Paul wrote, “*You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace*” (Galatians 5:4). If grace can be fallen from, then it can certainly be resisted. It is not imposed upon those who choose otherwise.

Only the final tenet in the five points of Calvinism, “Perseverance of the Saints”, appears in the T.U.L.I.P. acronym without an adjective describing it. While Calvinists use the vocabulary, they stray far from the definition. Perseverance is a choice a Christian must make (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:6), not something that will happen regardless of their will.

## “NOT EVEN SOLOMON IN ALL HIS GLORY”

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Admonishing against anxiety, Jesus said, “*Why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these*” (Matthew 6:28-29). It is a remarkable comparison to liken the lilies of the field to Solomon’s glory, for his wealth was vast.

Prior to describing his other income and holdings, it is written, “*The weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold*” (2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 9:13). A talent was equal to at least 75 pounds today, so Solomon was earning about 49,950 pounds of gold every year. One pound is equal to 14.5833 troy ounces. As of January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the current spot price for gold is \$4,469.<sup>30</sup> per troy ounce. Multiplying the spot price, \$4,469.<sup>30</sup> by the number of troy ounces in a pound, 14.5833, yields a sub-total of \$65,177.<sup>14</sup> per pound of gold. Multiplying that by 49,950 presents a sum of \$223,241,535 per annum. Since “*Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years*” (30), that annual revenue in gold can be multiplied by a 40-year reign to see that Solomon’s worth in gold was \$8,929,661,400. Almost 9 billion modern American dollars was only what the king accumulated in gold.

Solomon was so enormously rich as to devalue the other precious metal whereby wealth is calculated. “*Silver... was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon*” (20). “*The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones*” (27). Yet, silver came to him by the shipload every three years (21), and other kings made gifts of the stuff to him (23-24). The ratio of silver to gold in the earth’s crust is estimated to be 19:1. For the purpose of estimating Solomon’s material worth, that figure can be used, although it might have been drastically higher, so this will be a conservative estimate. At 49,950 pounds per year, times 40 years, multiplied by 19, it can be guessed Solomon had at least 37,962,000 pounds of silver. At 14.5833 troy ounces to the pound, that amounts to 553,611,234.6 ounces of silver accumulated during the Solomonic administration. Multiplying that amount by the current spot price of \$75.<sup>57</sup> per troy ounce, he may have possessed \$41,836,400,998.<sup>72</sup> worth of silver.

In precious metals alone, Solomon was likely worth over 50 billion dollars. These were liquid assets, neither real estate nor stocks in

– Continued on page 4 –

## ***"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?"***

**ACTS 16:30**

### **LEARN THE GOSPEL**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

### **BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

### **CONFESS CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

### **REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

### **BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

### **REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

## ***"THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER"***

**HEBREWS 10:24-25**

### **SUNDAY**

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

### **WEDNESDAY**

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard  
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.  
Members Expected.

– Continued from page 3 –  
publicly traded companies, which assets can only be estimated in value, being unrealized until sale. Those kinds of assets are always factored when calculating the net worth of the world's billionaires and, even with those soft assets included, no one on earth was ever thought to be worth \$50 billion until 2010. Moreover, the preceding calculations do not account for Solomon's other holdings, such as ivory, exotic animals, livestock, armaments, and apparel he was regularly supplied with (21, 24).

Solomon was easily the wealthiest man in all of human history. Yet, Christ Jesus asserted that lilies of the field exceed even him in their glory and that, furthermore, it is God who clothes them. Accordingly, the God of heaven can be trusted to provide.

## ***GIVE ME THE BIBLE***

KDNF 840AM

Sunday @ 9:00 a.m.

# ***"WHOLE COUNSEL"***

**ACTS 20:27**

**VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2**

**JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

## **OPPOSING THE ADJECTIVES**

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Examining John Calvin's theology as it has been compressed into the T.U.L.I.P. acronym, it is interesting to observe that four of the five tenets depend on adjectives to spell "Tulip". "Depravity", "Election", "Atonement", "Grace", and "Perseverance" don't spell anything when formed into an acrostic, and when rearranged they don't get any better than "Paged" or "Gaped", neither of which is a very good mnemonic. T.U.L.I.P. depends on adjectives describing depravity, election, atonement, and grace – and not just adjectives, but superlatives at that. "Depravity" must become "Total" and "Hereditary". "Election" is made "Unconditional". "Atonement" is transformed into "Limited Atonement". "Grace" is forced to become "Irresistible".

Therein is the trouble. Inspiration teaches the nouns, but not the adjectives. It takes John Calvin and his ilk to twist the Scriptures (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:16), so that godly concepts are transformed into false doctrines.

Depravity is a synonym for perversion or crookedness. Scripture certainly warns of human depravity, but not as an inherent condition. *"Jesus answered and said, 'O faithless and perverse generation'"* (Matthew 17:17), Peter preached, *"Be saved from this perverse generation"* (Acts 2:40), and Paul admonished, *"Become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation"* (Philippians 2:15). Notice the frequency with

– Continued on page 2 –

## ***RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST***

505-864-0282

rgvcoc@gmail.com

Box 989, Belén, NM 87002

www.RGVChurchOfChrist.org

75 Sherrod Boulevard

Facebook.com/RGVChurchOfChrist