

But whoever originated this acrostic certainly was not Dutch! but English. The names are all names with English words forming this word TULIP. The Five Heads of the Synod of Dort were real writings (?) and then titles were given them to fit with these 5 letters of the word TULIP.

The teachings which are involved in these 5 points do not cover the whole range of Calvinism by any means, but the teaching that is meant by each of these 5 terms is a correct teaching. A teaching of the Scripture. The 5 terms while they perfectly fit the purpose of an acrostic TULIP do not at all fit the meaning of the doctrines they are supposed to represent. And it is very unfortunate that the making of an acrostic leads to the use ~~xxx~~ of words that leads to a ~~fsse~~ false impression.

One point of concern about these 5 points is that the terms that are used are negative. Calvinism is not negative, but positive. It is the emphasis on the sovereignty of God and on God's divine grace and on the substitutionary atonement. But all 5 of these are negative terms. I would like to look with you at how misleading each of the terms is. How misleading they are, and yet how true is the teaching which the terms are supposed to support.

The first of these - T - is Total Depravity. The average person hearing this term will think it means that man is just as bad as he can possibly be. And any man who is just as bad as he can possibly be, probably wouldn't last more than a year on this earth. There is no such thing. You will not find a man anywhere, but he has a spark of goodness in him.

I remember reading about one of the Nazi's in Germany. They were talking about the terrible way he was treating the Jews and other things he was doing. He said, You completely misunderstand me. Come to my home and see how kind I am to the birds. I put stuff out for the birds to eat, and see how nice I am to animals." He had nice qualities in himself, even though they were in his case far overshadowed by the evil qualities.

Man is ~~depared~~, depraved. His wicked heart is wicked. But the term total depravity ? does not refer to man's condition but to man's ability to receive salvation. It means that every part of man's nature has been affected by sin. It means man is incapable ~~of~~ totally incapable of doing anything that would deserve God's favor and would win salvation for himself. As you see this is a very definite teaching of the Scripture. Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to thy cross I cling.

Lance Latham has a quotation from a book that had quite an influence on him. It refers to man's part in salvation, and it says, Man has no part. All that man can do is to rest in the finished work of Christ. He can have no part in salvation. He says, If I do my part God will do his, but Scripture ~~knows~~ nowhere speaks of your part. Your part is simply believing that you are a