

They do not have anything that requires God to save them. So the title total depravity has unfortunately given an utterly false idea just to make an acrostic. Very unfortunate.

The second term: unconditional election. To say unconditional sounds as if there was no basis on which it was done at all. You get the impression God reached his hand into a hat and picked out a couple of names. He just arbitrarily said, I'm going to save these; I'm going to destroy these! Just the arbitrary act of a tyrant! That has led people to an utterly false idea of the character of God as shown in the Bible and as believed in by Christians and certainly as believed in by Calvinists. We do not know the reasons why God performs His acts. We do not understand in our lives thousands of things that happen, but we know that nothing happens ~~exact~~ except as God permits it, or as God produces it. We know that God controls all things. But to say that His election is unconditional is a statement utterly without basis. We don't know what the conditions are and they are not anything good in us that deserves that He save us. But He certainly has His reasons. God certainly has a wisdom far greater than that of the greatest inventor who ever lived, and to speak of unconditional election gives the idea God is a tyrant, an utterly false idea!

The worst of the terms is the third: in order to make the acrostic, limited atonement. There is absolutely nothing limited about the atonement! The atonement is sufficient for all. It is effective, it is efficient for those whom God has predestined from all eternity. It is efficient for those who believe in Christ for salvation. But it certainly is not limited. All Calvinistic writers who have any training or scholarship when speaking of the atonement say it is sufficient for all, and that it is perfectly proper to give out the universal call of God to salvation. God calls on all to come to Christ and to believe on Him. The atonement is sufficient for all; but it is efficient for those who believe in Christ and for those whom God has predestined from all eternity. to believe in Christ.

You are not saved because you are fortunate enough to live in a country where the gospel was widely preached instead of living in some country where Islam was in absolute control, or where there were utterly heathen ideas and you would never hear of Christianity. It is not your goodness that you happen to be born in such a land. You were not saved because you had sense enough to see the truth of the Gospel, sense enough to accept Christ. You are not saved because of anything in you. You are saved because God worked all these things together in accordance with His purposes, in order that you if are saved would be one of those who believe on Christ and be saved through His name.

It is all of God. But there is nothing limited about it. It is a particular redemption, a redemption that is sufficient for all, that is available to all, which has a right to call upon all to believe in Christ, and has the duty to call upon all to believe in Christ and be saved. But God has determined from the very beginning who are those who will believe and to whom the atonement will be applied.