

Job 25:6

How much less man, that maggot, And the son of man, that worm !"

VS.

“For such a one as I”

Satan seeks to diminish the great sacrifice of Christ on the cross in two ways when it comes to the church. First – he attacks and diminishes the person of Christ. Second – he elevates man and seeks to diminish in man’s eyes his own depraved state. The better man is, the less Christ needs to be. It is no wonder then, that when the church begins to slide into doctrinal error that one of the first great doctrines to be laid aside is the total depravity of man.

Recently this was once again brought home to me when singing one of the great doctrinal hymns of the church. “At The Cross”. One of the stanzas reads as follows...

“Alas and deed my Savior bleed
and did my sovereign die
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I”

I first notices this change almost 20 years ago. The last stanza was changed to, “for such a man as I” and then later to “for such a one as I”. Christ indeed may die for us, but it will be for something worthy, not for a worm or a maggot. Yet the Bible is all too clear. Without Christ we are but worms in God’s sight. David, the great Psalmist was lead of the Holy Spirit to describe himself in these same terms in *Psalms 22:6* ***But I am a worm and not a man, A reproach of men and despised by the people.*** And again man’s depraved state is described in *Jude 10* ***“But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed.”***

Modern man recoils from this. He views himself in his search for God neither as depraved nor unworthy. In his mind, of course Jesus died for me, who wouldn’t. And understand this, it was I who decided to become a Christian. I chose God, He did not choose me and having chosen Him I expect that He perform up to expectations. I chose Him and I can un-choose Him. And what about those others who have trusted Christ but not lived up to the calling as I have, well they certainly are unworthy of spending eternity in heaven with me. Thus man in his rejection of depravity affirms his depravity.

By depravity we mean that state of man where he is totally helpless and indifferent to God. So corrupted by original sin and its consequences that he cannot and will not choose God. It is only in understanding depravity that we understand *Romans 5:6* ***For while we were still helpless , at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.***

A man who can help himself is not helpless. Thus we all have a gross disgusting testimony. Having meditated on the great doctrine of depravity you will come to realize two great truths, which are the antitheses of satan’s lies revealed in the opening paragraph of this introduction...

1. Christ is indeed the Son of God, the sinless, pure and perfect sacrifice required due to our depraved state.
2. Man is so totally depraved that he is helpless in his state, his salvation and resulting worth to God based solely on the merit of Christ’s sacrifice without reference to man nor his works.

It is the authors hope that in meditating on your depraved state before salvation who will be driven to a great love and devotion to Christ who sacrificed Himself for one so unworthy as you. That in this realization you will be driven to a great love for God and that this love for God will result in obedience to Him and love of your fellow man. You were but a maggot, a worm when you were saved. What is left for you but to serve your Savior and proclaim this glorious message of salvation to all.

*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: Basic Doctrines of Salvation – The Depravity of Man**

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Totally Depraved Psalm 53:1 – 3; Ecclesiastes 9:3; Romans 3:10 - 18

What does this passage teach me about my helpless condition before my salvation?

Ephesians 2:8 & 9 teaches that we are saved by grace so that “no one may boast”. How will an understanding of this passage make me a more humble Christian?

When I think of my life as it once was (as described by this passage) and now as it is “saved by grace”, what is my response in my relationship with God?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Imputation of Adam’s Sin Romans 5:15 – 19; I Corinthians 5:21 & 22

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Spiritually Dead, Physically Dying Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1

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THEME: Basic Doctrines of Salvation – The Depravity of Man

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Enslaved To satan Ephesians 2:1& 2; Hebrews 2:14, 15; II Timothy 2:25, 26

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: A Member of satan’s Kingdom Acts 26:18; Colossians 1:13;

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: An Enemy of God Romans 5:10; 8:7 & 8; Ephesians 2:15 & 16;

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Spiritually Blind II Corinthians 4:4; John 3:36; Ephesians 4:17 - 19

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Freely Chose To Sin Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: In Total Rebellion To God Daniel 9:4 – 10; Hosea 8:1; Jeremiah 5:23 - 25

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THEME: Basic Doctrines of Salvation – The Depravity of Man

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Enslaved To Sin John 8:34; Romans 6:16;

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Guilty Before God’s Holy Law – Galatians 3:10, 11; James 2:10

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Totally Hopeless/Helpless Ephesians 2:12; I Thessalonians 4:13; Romans 5:6

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QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Basic Doctrines of Salvation – The Depravity of Man

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Total Separation From God – Isaiah 59:1, 2; Psalm 58:3; Ephesians 2:12- 15

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Under God’s Judgment – Hebrews 9:27; Romans 14:10; Hebrews 10:30, 31

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Condemned To Eternity In Hell – Revelation 14:10, 11; Revelation 20:7-15

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THEME: Basic Doctrines of Salvation – The Depravity of Man

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Man's Depravity Realized Job 25:6

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Man's Depravity Realized Ecclesiastes 3:18; 9:3

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Man's Depravity Realized Psalm 22:6; 49:12; 73:22

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Man’s Depravity Realized Isaiah 41:14; Jeremiah 51:17; Jude 1:10 - 13

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Man’s Depravity Realized Romans 1:18 - 32

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Man’s Depravity Realized Romans 3:10 - 20

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