

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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Dear Brother Faull,



I heard a brother quote **Psalms 58:3** to prove we are totally depraved and born in sin and babies are lost. "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies."

ANSWER:

× As sheep we were not born away from the fold of God. We went astray and need to return to the Shepherd.

Isaiah 53:6, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

I Peter 2:25, "For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

× We were not born prodigal sons. We left our Father and became prodigal sons. **Luke 15**

× If we were born totally depraved, we were born like the devil. (But remember, we must become converted and be as little children for "of such" is the Kingdom of Heaven.) What? Little depraved sinners make up the Kingdom of Heaven?

Matthew 18:3, "And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Luke 18:16, "But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."

× When we are born we go astray. Which way?

Do we go astray "toward Satan?" (Then we are born Holy, like God.)

Do we go astray "toward God?" (Surely one cannot go astray toward God. Obviously, then we were not born depraved like Satan.)

CONCLUSION: James 1:13-15, "13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

As the innocent child begins to be tempted of his own lusts he is "drawn away" and enticed and then he sins and finally becomes dead in sin. If it is wrong to say that God tempts us, how much more to say God created us as little, totally depraved sinners? Indeed, Calvinists say of children that they "are corrupt by nature in all faculties of their being and there is not one good thing in them but are bent on sin from conception and incapable of one good thought or action in the sight of God."

To go astray from total depravity could only be "toward God". Imagine, going toward God being called "going astray".

Psalms 58:3 is a hyperbole to show that men are indeed sinners. What is a hyperbole? An overstatement, a figure of speech in which something is said for emphasis, an extreme exaggeration for emphasis to impress the hearer or reader of a truth. Examples: I'm so hungry I could eat a horse. He ate everything in the house. I'd give my right arm for a pizza.

So, likewise, to impress upon us that men are sinners, we are told we go astray as soon as we are born, speaking lies. (Obviously, a newborn cannot speak.) "In sin, did my mother conceive me" is a hyperbole that David used to confess that he was indeed a sinner. **Psalms 51**.

Some say, "I've been a Christian since I was born" or "I was born a Christian." These statements are used to emphasize they were raised in the Church since childhood. Do not let these hyperbole's of Scripture lead you into the false conclusion of Calvinism that we were born sinners when it is really just a confession that we are in fact sinners. We have gone astray from God because we have yielded to our own desire.