

The Absence of a "Middle Ground" between Spiritual Death and Regeneration

In the entire New Testament, there is not the slightest hint that there exists a spiritual state which lies outside of, or somewhere between, the states of spiritual death and regeneration. All men universally are viewed as being either regenerate or unregenerate; there is no middle ground. Those who are unregenerate are spiritually dead; those who are regenerate are spiritually alive. Regeneration is the impartation of spiritual life, through the Holy Spirit, to those who are spiritually dead.

Thus it must be asserted that, in the very nature of the case, there are only two spiritual states in which men living today can be found: men are either spiritually dead (or unregenerate), or spiritually alive (or regenerate). The possibility of being something else is, by the nature of depravity and the nature of regeneration, simply ruled out!

The Old Testament Doctrine of Depravity

The Old Testament clearly reveals the truth of man's natural depravity. "There is no man that sinneth not" (I Kings 8:46). "In thy sight shall no man living be justified" (Psalm 143:2). "Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?" (Proverbs 20:9). "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not" (Ecclesiastes 7:20). "God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Psalm 53:2-3). "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way" (Isaiah 53:6). "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 51:5).