Sermon: "The Hardest and Most Hated Doctrine in the Bible" Text: Genesis 6:5 and 7; 7:23 and 8:21 (Page 5 in the pew Bible)

Genesis 6:5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that *every intention* of the thoughts of his heart was only *evil* continually.

## >The Flood! Every human being on earth died.<

Genesis 8:21 "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the <u>intention of man's heart is evil</u> from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.

## I. A hard doctrine identified.

Romans 7:18 "I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my \*flesh."

\*"Flesh" is a Bible term used to refer to the very nature and core of our being, which is sinful at heart.

**Hebrews 11:6** "Without faith it is impossible to please God."

## II. A hard doctrine ingrained throughout the Bible.

Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Jeremiah 13:23; Ezekiel 36:26-27; John 6:44; II Corinthians 4:6; Ephesians 4:8; Romans 5:10; Romans 8:6-7

Ephesians 2:1 "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins."

## III. A hard doctrine no impediment to God's love and mercy.

**Romans 10:13-14** "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?"