

FREEWILL ? – CHOOSE

1. DEU 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:
2. JOS 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.
3. 1CH 21:10 Go and tell David, saying, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things: choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee.
1CH 21:11 So Gad came to David, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Choose thee
4. JOB 34:4 Let us choose to us judgment: let us know among ourselves what is good.
5. PRO 1:28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:
PRO 1:29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:
6. PRO 3:31 Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.
7. ISA 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
ISA 7:15 Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.
ISA 7:16 For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings.
8. ISA 56:4 For thus saith the LORD unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant;
9. ISA 65:12 Therefore will I number you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to the slaughter: because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not.
10. ISA 66:4 I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not.
11. PHI 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
PHI 1:22 But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

"TULIP" – A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER, BUT BAD THEOLOGY, 5 POINT CALVINISM

T – Total Depravity: man, because he is spiritually dead to God "in trespasses and sins" (Eph.2:1; Col.2:13), is incapable of responding to the gospel – although able to make other moral choices.

As a consequence of the Fall of man, man cannot understand the gospel, all minds are blinded and man is not able to respond to the gospel and turn to God – unless they are *first* regenerated. Their proof: Rom.3:10-18, "There is none righteous ... none that seeketh after God ..."

Question: where does Scripture say one must be regenerated before one can believe the gospel?

Question: which comes first, faith or salvation, Ans: faith, a free gift from God, is a condition for salvation. Mk.1:14-15, 16:16; Lk.8:12; Rom.1:16, 10:17; Eph.2:8

Question: how much ability is required to receive a free gift?

U – Unconditional Election: God decides on no basis whatsoever but by the mystery of His will to save some, called the elect, and condemns all others to Hell even though He could save them all if He so desired.

Then God, who is love, doesn't love *all* mankind? A major doctrinal problem, Jn.3:16 – does this verse say "God so loved the *elect* that He gave His only begotten son"?

L – Limited Atonement: these elect are the only ones for whom Christ died to pay the penalty for their sins – that His death is efficacious for no others.

I – Irresistible Grace: God causes whomsoever He will to accept to the gospel, and that without this enabling no one could do so. God only provides this Irresistible Grace to the elect and damns the rest of mankind.

P – Perseverance of the saints: God will not allow any of the elect to lose the salvation which He has sovereignty given them.

The written Word of God is our authority, not the beliefs or opinions of John Calvin, Jacobus Arminius, or any council, synod, assembly, or creed.

Gen.6:3 – why strive with man if he is predestined ?

Deu.4:22-29, 28:62;

Isa.45:22, 55:6-7

A "Tulip" proof = John 1:13, but vv. 11-12 show faith in Christ & receiving Him *precedes* regeneration.

Will not, not ... can not – Dt.28:62; Mat.22:2-3, 23:37; Psa.10:4; Lk.22:67; Joh.5:40.

Acts 17:24-30

John 3:36, 4:42, 5:40, 12:32-33; Rom.5:6; I Tim.2:4; I John 2:2, 4:14; Rev.22:17

Jesus "is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2)

The entire Bible teaches that God holds man responsible for his actions

Fallen Man is a triune being made up of a soul, body, and "dead" spirit. The dead spirit is the only one of the three over which man has no control. We cannot awaken this spirit, or make it come alive by sheer will power (John 1:11-13). Only God can do that. When He does quicken the "dead" spirit, it becomes the "1/3 down payment" on our new homes – our resurrection bodies.

God must and does take the initiative for this "awakening" to occur. The terms "choice" or "choose" indicate that something has been presented of which to choose. Something, or someone, has to cause this presentation. No choice is required, or even available, until that occurs. Whether or not we are aware of His so doing, it is always God who takes the initiative.

For example:

- We ask God to save others, therefore we are asking Him to take the first action.
- God "calls" men unto Himself (not the other way around).
- Faith itself is a gift from God in order to believe (requires God take the initiative)
- God is not "reactive" in the sense that He *must* respond to us (that would put us in charge). He is always pro-active, we are always re-active.

"Free Will" without any boundaries implies that man is empowered with the ability to overwhelm the Holy Spirit; this places man at the same level as God. The Bible does not teach this; still, the inherent danger in over-emphasizing free will is that we can move to the opposite end of the spectrum and become very cocky. There is a balance. Nevertheless, Scripture does say man can and does "resist" the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51).

For the weaker believer, the sense of losing ones salvation enters into the picture here because it is imagined that man is empowered to do just that by exercising the will to commit ungodly acts.

In everyday practical living, it's all about who's in charge. A sovereign God equals rest in eternal security. Many very real Christians do not understand this. As God's sovereignty is not recognized in their private little world, they do not experience the wonderful benefits that accompany such acknowledgment and, as a result, suffer from a type of spiritual neurosis. This is most tragic.

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