

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by

Donald E. Martin, Sr.

Whose decision saves the sinner?

A challenge for those attempting to be soul winners

How often do you hear the term “God’s plan of salvation” used? In numerous neo-evangelical denominations, along with their conclusive “invitation” pleas, you hear the terms “make your decision for Christ,” “accept him as your saviour,” “accept God’s PLAN for you and open your heart’s door, as Christ stands at the door and knocks.”

It is as if the Almighty God that created the heavens and the earth, who named the stars and placed them in their determined orbits and illuminated the sun to beam it rays throughout the universe has become a beggar before men “TRYING” to get the human creature to come unto him? Something seems entirely wrong with this picture?

First, The God of the Holy scriptures has NO PLANS, the word PLAN is not in the scriptures. To have a PLAN, is to have a proposed idea that one desires to implement into a use or purpose. Just like a person desiring to build a house, they have a plan in mind and put it on paper to satisfy the design intent. Yet, all the while the person can CHANGE the design at anytime as they desire to make the PLAN more applicable to their needs. The Bible describes God as one in whom “there is NO shadow of turning with him,” “For I am God and I change not”.(Malachi 3:6).

“Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying my counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure” (Isa. 46:10). This is plain and simple predestination, as I have written in times past, If God were not absolute in his divine determined purposes, then the Prophets of old could not have prophesized things which were ordained to come to pass hundreds of years in advance. If ALL events in this time realm are not under divine control at all times, God is NOT sovereign, and He is totally out of control. When Isaiah prophesied that a virgin shall give birth to a Son and his name shall be Immanuel 730 years before Christ physical birth, nothing could circumvent nor intervene interrupting that divine predestined decree.

Therefore, scripturally one must rule out God having a PLAN or PLANS.....he has decrees, determined and appointed purposes. He has chosen a people, initially called Israel, a people from among the least of the nations upon the earth the scripture records. Furthermore, he has in these last days in the fullness of time chosen a people from every nation, kindred and tongue to be his people which shall makeup the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ.

These people, "according as he hath chosen us in him (Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame and before him in love" (Ephesians 1:4) have their names written in the Lambs book of life even before the world began (Phil. 4:3) shall come as the Saviour beckons them by his Spirit. "My sheep hear my voice and they follow (don't try too) me" Jesus said (John 10:27).

To tell the erring sinner to decide for Christ is totally impossible, the real issue is, has Christ chosen them? How can a dead in sin, alien sinner who is spiritually deaf and blind come to one they cannot hear nor see? "The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them" (Prov. 20:12). God alone can cause the spiritually dead sinner to be quickened and made alive to "hear" and "see" with the eye of faith the Lord Jesus Christ. For faith is a fruit of the Spirit of God Then NOT a work of the will of the creature. For man's will by nature is subject to sin and dominated by its lethal curse until a supernatural quickening occurs and cause the New Birth. For Jesus said, "Ye MUST be Born Again," he did not say try to be born again, nor work on it, but he made a derogatory statement of what MUST occur before one can see and or enter into the kingdom of God.

As in the natural realm, conception (life) must happen before physical birth takes place, so it is with the spiritual, one is quickened by the Spirit of God, made alive and then "Born" into the reality of being a new creature in Christ Jesus. The "New Birth" is the result of LIFE.

Christ ONLY is the one that beckons the sinner to himself. No man has the spiritual ability to cause one to decide for Christ or to chose Christ as one's saviour. When the chosen heir of divine grace (unmerited favor) is quickened by the Spirit of God, the Gospel message of Christ all sufficient redeeming sacrifice will be endorsed as God ordains them to be MADE WILLING in the day of my power (Psa. 110:3).

Christ NEVER merely invited anyone to himself...He called them unto himself and they came because they were ordained to such experience "and as many as were ORDAINED to eternal life believed" (Acts 13:48).

You see, my dear evangelical friend, as zealous as we try to be in serving the Lord, unless HE build the house, the workers labor in vain. Jesus said, "I shall (not try to) build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18). Christ continues to build his church by the operation of divine sovereign free irresistible grace and ALL that the Father hath given him SHALL COME TO HIM, for NONE shall be lost.

Is mankind perishing in the agony of hell because of man's failed efforts? Cannot the Almighty create some fit for destruction and be righteous in doing so? While others chosen in Christ to eternal glory? Who art thou O man that repliest against God and say unto him, why doest thou this? For who can question the sovereign workings of the Almighty God of the Holy scriptures.

Salvation is not a decision laid upon the responsibility of the human creature, but the predestined determined decreed work of God. For man's righteousness is dominated by sin's curse and is as filthy rags before our Holy God. What responsibility has a dead man? What good can a dead man do? Oh, that life would be given to one wayward sinner even this very hour that the angelic host of eternal glory would rejoice in praise before the Almighty's heavenly throne. "And thou shalt call his name "JESUS;" for He SHALL (not try to) save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21).

Oct. 12, 2006