

The Gospel Herald

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

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
Donald E. Martin, Sr.

Choosing and Inviting God?

The erroneous deception of the invitation system

Dear beloved heirs of Christ, born of his Spirit and caused to have that blessed hope of sins forgiven and life eternal:

I was reading this morning, the television was on, and I overheard a preacher make the comment “if you will ALLOW God in your heart, Christ will be your saviour, Lord and master.”

For we know this statement is nothing new; all we hear (see) on television ministries are preachers who OFFER a salvation to sinners based upon their WILL, DECISION, CHOICE, and ALLOWING God to make this experience happen. The REAL question should be, “Has God chosen you?” “For ALL that the Father has given me shall come to me” (not try to).

I want to just examine these terms that are so prevalent in Christendom among the neo-evangelicals of the day. We should be informed of the erroneous use of such terms as we all (for the most part) have family or friends who are caught up in the teaching of man’s FREEWILL ability to either accept or reject Christ’s salvation.

This concept of neo-evangelical preaching was “jump started” by the Finney revivals of years past when the “mourner’s bench” was introduced in meetings for weeping sinners to come forward and kneel and “pray through” to God, seeking salvation’s experience. Finney was a classic “opportunist;” meaning he preached God made the OPPORTUNITY for sinners to be saved and experience the new birth, but it was totally up to the will, choice, and decision of the depraved dead in sin creature.

Let’s look at these non-scriptural terms used in an attempt to persuade men to believe on Christ.

First: *The WILL of man: Many proclaim that God has made salvation available to all, and by the WILL of the sinner, if exercised to believe on Christ, they shall experience Christ's forgiveness and life everlasting.*

Question: *If man by nature is under sin's dread curse from the disobedience of one (Adam) and is determined as dead spiritually before the Holy God of the scriptures, and the creature's WILL is bound by sin's domination through the depraved nature, how does one all of a sudden have this spiritual ability to HEAR and UNDERSTAND the gospel of Jesus Christ? "Ye hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph.2:1). According to scripture, unless one is QUICKENED and made alive, man is spiritual deaf and blind to any spiritual truth. LIFE MUST precede belief! To believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ is the EVIDENCE of spiritual life, and only then shall the creature be WILLING to believe upon him whom he had not known nor believe on before. Man's WILL is loosened from sin's dominion by God's act of sovereign grace, apart from any effort of the dead sinner. "Thy people shall be WILLING in the day of my power" (Psa. 110:3). We, beloved of God, are MADE willing by the operation of the Spirit of God.*

Second: *Man's DECISION; the means by which one comes to a saving knowledge of Christ. The modern-day proclamation is that God has given the opportunity, but one must DECIDE to accept Christ in order to be born again and saved from sin and death.*

Question: *How can a man born full of iniquity under sin's dread curse and depraved beyond self-restoration all of a sudden be able to DECIDE for Christ? Again, I reflect upon the scriptural doctrine of man's total depravity and spiritual deadness. To be able to make an INFORMED DECISION regarding a spiritual issue, one MUST be able to understand what the gospel is and the truth of salvation. This challenge to sinners to make a DECISION for Christ is an impossible task for the spiritually dead sinner (as indicated in the previous examination). The truth of the matter is whether or not God DECIDED for you. "Ye have not chosen me, but I have CHOSEN you, and that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain" (John 15:16, Eph. 1:4).*

Man can make all the decisions he may desire as a religious zealot and bust hell wide open on that great judgment day.

Third: *"Will you CHOOSE Jesus today?" Has God merely designed salvation of depraved sinners available by man's CHOICE? In referencing the term "decision" previously, we have determined that it is solely by the sovereign act of our Almighty God who alone has designed to save sinners and Choose them by His determined, decreed and predestined purpose alone.. The sham message from the nominal Baptist assembly today is so far removed from that of our Baptist forefathers that it has NO resemblance to the true gospel.*

The Invitation: *The modern day “invitation” at the conclusion of the neo-evangelical assemblies is geared to give opportunity to a needy sinner to “choose, decide, accept, receive” Christ into one’s heart and experience the new birth salvation experience. This “means and method” of man’s invention to proselyte sinners and attempt to persuade folks to “get saved” is NOWHERE found in the scriptures! Our Lord Jesus commanded dear Peter to go forth and “FEED my LAMBS,” not to make them. I am persuaded that there may be some of God’s chosen heirs of grace among some of these neo-evangelical assemblies who are STARVING spiritually. All they hear is a “sermonette” of “How to be Saved” meeting after meeting, and are possibly undernourished babes. If God has done a work of divine sovereign grace upon the heart and mind of a lost sinner, they will NEVER be satisfied with mere MILK! The neo-evangelicals have merely made their assemblies “Soul Saving Mills” in an attempt to get folks saved: This IS NOT what is exemplified in the Acts of the apostles is it??*

Fourth: *“ALLOWING” God to have his way in your life. Nowhere in the scriptures does God give his chosen, called, appointed, ordained, adopted, and predestined heirs of grace a request to “ALLOW” God to do anything. “Our God is in the heavens; he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased” (Psa. 115:3). “He does according to his will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?” (Dan. 4:35). “For it is God which worketh in you both to WILL and to DO of his good pleasure” (Phil.2:13).*

The God of the scriptures is the FIRST CAUSE of ALL things, whether they be in heaven or in earth. He IS NOT LIMITED in any aspect, He is absolutely the cause of salvation to all those whom He alone has chosen in Christ even before the foundation of the world. I am persuaded that millions of deceived people by the sham efforts of men have been deceived into an EASY BELIEVISM gospel that is mere religion and not a RELATIONSHIP with the God/Man Christ Jesus.

Has God made you WILLING to believe upon his Son Jesus? Has God CHOSEN you unto salvation by the sovereign works of grace alone? Have you been born of the Spirit by the quickening operation of God and MADE a NEW CREATURE in Christ Jesus? “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a NEW CREATURE” (Gal. 6:15).

GOD ONLY IS THE SOVEREIGN ONE WHO DETERMINES, CAUSES, AND HAS PREDESTINED ALL THINGS WHICH COME TO PASS; WHETHER IT BE THE SALVATION OF SINNERS OR THE MERE FALLING OF A MAPLE LEAF ON AN AUTUM DAY.

Respectfully submitted,

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