The Gospel Herald

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

For The LORD'S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS by
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The "Whosoever Wills" Are They Made Willing, or of Freewill Choice?

One of the most common responses to those who hold to the freewill of man use John 3:16 as their spring board to support their freewill concept. "That WHOSOEVER" believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The "whosoever will" in their perception is an all conclusive world of mankind. Giving ALL men equal opportunity to believe or not to believe.

As the Bible is the benchmark and authority for all spiritual truth in Christianity, then it must be used to support all that we believe, as we have been admonished to "prove all things."

Man by nature, through natural birth, is sinful from the mother's womb: "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 51:5). The spiritual genetics of depravity run in the veins of every child born of woman among mankind. "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory (perfection) of God, for there is NONE righteous, no not one" (Romans 3:10-23).

Mankind is dominated within the bounds of depravity without any means to escape it's captive curse. This is theological labeled as "Total depravity," absolute depravity, complete depravity. Therefore, if this be Biblically sound and true doctrine (which historically has been held throughout the ages of time as truth), there must be a means outside the efforts or ability of the human creature to set us free from depravity's grip and sin's degradation.

Follow me, please, as we consider the verses set forth, "Thy people shall be WILLING in the day of my power" (Psa. 110:3). David expresses that by the Almighty power of God shall his people be "made" willing to obey in the day the Lord has designated for us to be called into that vital union.

"For it is God which worketh in you both to WILL and to DO of His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13). As born-again, adopted heirs of divine sovereign grace, we have been informed through the inspiration of the apostle Paul that it is GOD that works in us to "will" and to "do" of his good pleasure.

These few scripture verses, among many others, support HOW a depraved, born in sin, alien human creature is caused to be set free from the prison of sin and delivered from the judgment of death.

The "whosoever wills" are those by sovereign, divine, ordained grace, who have been chosen to be delivered from the curse of depravity by God's eternal decree and unconditional election. Those chosen in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4); ordained, appointed, called, and predestined to be the adopted sons and daughters of God.

These and these alone shall be MADE willing and CAUSED to approach unto God. "Blessed is the man who thou chooseth and causeth to approach unto thee' (Psa.65:4). NO, dear reader, it is not of some imagined "freewill" theorized in the finite mind of man that has brought them into an experience of grace by the Almighty God who reigns in heaven and upon the earth; it has been by God's sovereign love with cords of grace (unmerited favor) that He has drawn you unto himself.

Man's imagined freewill is BOUND by sin, it is ONLY free to meander around the dominion of depravity as its bounds. Until God breaks sin's chain and loosens one from depravity's curse shall one be made able to "look unto Jesus" and see Him as an ALL-sufficient Savior for needy sinners. If man, as some ascribe, could make a "freewill" choice to believe or reject Christ, who would receive the glory for "believing?" Man would have something wherein he could glory, "For "I" made the right decision, for "I" chose to believe, for "I" broke out of sins bonds and chose the right way."

For the WILL of the creature is ONLY FREE to be self-serving and to satisfy SELF by depravity's nature. The WILL of the natural-born depraved sinner IS ONLY FREE TO CHOOSE THOSE THINGS IN THE ARENA OF THE DESIRES OF THE DEPRAVED HEART. The WILL of the creature shall never satisfy the good pleasure of the God of the Holy scriptures until the Spirit of Christ has taken His abode within the heart, mind and soul of the heir of grace, through the operation of the new birth and regeneration. For ONLY then is the creature MADE WILLING as Christ lives in them, causing them to both to WILL and to DO of His good pleasure. "For He which has begun a good work in you WILL (not try to) PERFORM it until the day of Christ"

(Phil. 1:6). The creature requires an external source causing them to WILL and DESIRE to please the eternal God, this means is ONLY accomplished by the Spirit of God PERFORMING in the believer to WILL those things according to the good pleasure of God who has ordained the elect heirs to walk in obedience. "For we are His

workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph.2:10).

The ultimate test for true and God-honoring theology, is to determine in the final analysis who receives ALL the glory? If man can squeeze one microbe of glory from the experience, you can count it as "HERESY."

Has God made salvation available for ALL mankind, and left it totally up the "WILL" of the creature to accept or reject? Or, is God a discriminate God as indicated throughout the scriptures? Did he not choose Israel as his people, ONLY because he loved them? Even though they were the least of all nations? Is that not a discriminate God that has chosen them as he has been pleased? Then what makes him different in his choosing those of the New Testament and New Covenant a people (some of many) from every nation, kindred and tongue?

"For He (God) PERFORMETH the thing that is appointed for me" (Job 23:14).

"I will cry unto God most high: unto God that PERFORMETH all things for me" (Psa.57:2).

"For the preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord" (Prov. 16:1).

The WILL of man is set free from its depraved prison when grace is applied to the heart. This work of the Spirit causes the WILL to desire GOD and to cry out in contrition as repentance is granted by He alone who can call the alien sinner from their dead spiritual state to life in Christ.

To consider the fact that God in his infinite love and mercy has chosen YOU and CAUSED YOU to believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins and made you WILLING to have such great hope, is nothing less than sovereign, unmerited grace bestowed upon undeserving sinners as I.

To HIM be ALL the glory, praise, and honor forever without end.

May his name ring out through the heavens even when the earth is on fire, melting in the fervent heat of divine judgment.

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