

Free Will Or Free Grace?

For by grace are ye saved...and that not of yourselves. Ephesians 2:8,9

There are two basic gospels being preached in our day. One is the gospel of free will. This gospel says that God loves everyone and wants everyone to be saved, but that God has given to every man a free will. It goes on to say that God will never violate a man's free will, and so God cannot save those who will not let Him do so. Man's will is sovereign in salvation and decides who will be saved. When a man does decide to choose God and let God save him, God is now in his debt and owes to the cooperative man His thanks; and the man deserves the praise of his salvation because he has made himself to differ by his own wise choice from another who does not believe. This is a false gospel and heresy.

The other gospel is the gospel of free grace. This gospel says that God gave to man a free will at his original creation, but that man lost his free will in the fall of Adam. Man having once fallen into sin by his own wicked choice cannot reverse his fall by an independent act of his own will. Every man now enters the world in a totally depraved state and is the willing slave of sin and the helpless captive of the devil. So a man in his natural state can neither will nor do that which is good toward God. Man is free to sin but he is free from righteousness. God thus necessarily saves men by His free and sovereign grace. God's will decides who will be saved. This is the true, Biblical gospel.

The true gospel is the gospel of the grace of God. Acts 20:24. We are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, Who died for us and rose again. Romans 3:24,25. A man can only be saved by receiving Jesus Christ by faith. But for any man to be able to do this God must first give him a new heart and life, changing and freeing his will, and giving him faith to believe. This is a sovereign act of God's power called regeneration which precedes and produces faith. God's people will only be willing in the day of His power. Psalm 110:3. Jesus said that no man can come to Him unless the Father draw (pull in or drag) him. John 6:44. Those who believe on Christ unto salvation were first born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12,13. Of His own will God begat us, not of our own will. James 1:18. And God only regenerates those whom He first chose in Christ for salvation in eternity past, or His elect. God loved Jacob and hated Esau before the children were born, or had chosen or done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of Him that calleth. Romans 9:10-13. Even so today also there is a saved remnant according to the election of grace. Romans 11:5-7. If God chose us because we first chose Him it would be an election of works. But Jesus said, "Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you." God chose us before we ever, and because of ourselves we never would have or could have chosen Him. Ephesians 1:3-5. And then in time He works in us by His grace to cause us to will and to do of His good pleasure. Philippians 2:13. It is only as many as were ordained to eternal life will believe on Christ, and they believe through grace. Acts 13:48; 18:27.

Salvation is all of grace. The apostle Paul marveled at those who were so soon removed from the grace of Christ to another gospel of the free will and works of man which is in reality no gospel at all. Then he said, "If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." This curse rests upon all who preach the false gospel of free will. Galatians 1:6-10.

So then it (salvation) is not of him that willeth (the free will of man), nor of him that runneth (the religion and good works of man), but of God that showeth mercy on whom He will have mercy through Christ. Romans 9:14-16