

Morning Sermon Outline – March 24, 2019

“Christ Chooses...” – John 15:16

I. *We did not, we don't Choose Christ or God –*

¹⁶ **You did not choose Me ...**

1. *In our unregenerate state we were too stupid, too sinful, too caught up in our own ways, and blind to God's glory, to choose Christ –*

¹⁰ **As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. Romans 3:10-11**

- A. *Seeking after God, choosing God, choosing Christ, this is the best thing, the thing we SHOULD DO –*

We are told such seeking (if whole-hearted) will be rewarded -

¹³ **And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13**

⁸ **For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Matthew 7:8**

- B. *Yet the Bible clearly teaches, sinners do not seek or choose God –*

- *Did Adam and Eve seek God after they committed their first sin? No, they hid from Him -*

⁸ **And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Genesis 3:8**

- *You see, we don't choose what is best for us, God, Christ! Rather, we choose other things, our own worthless ways –*

¹³ **“For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water. Jeremiah 2:13**

2. *Those who believe men (or women) do choose Christ, unwittingly show that men do not “choose Christ” by the ways they typically attempt evangelism –*

- A. *Those who preach “free will” are those who appeal to man's sinful will –*

“A Corpus Christi, Texas, megachurch is offering an unusual approach to bringing people to Christ this Easter. Let's call it Jesus meets Oprah. The Bay Area Fellowship, the largest church in Corpus Christi, will give away more than \$4 million in cash and prizes to everyone who attends Easter services at one of its seven locations. The prizes range from gift bags with \$300 worth of goods and services all the way up to cars -- 16 of them, to be exact, all of them used but low-mileage. And there's everything in between: 10 furniture sets, flat-screen TVs, tickets to sporting events, 300 bicycles and skateboards, photography sessions, and more. "Someone could come to church [on Easter] and walk away an hour later with a car," lead pastor Bill Cornelius said on MSNBC today.” Sandy Smith 2010

The sinful human will is not free to choose Christ, but rather caught up in sin & things: in cars, in bikes, in fun, in easy money ... Now there is nothing inherently wrong with giving stuff away, what is wrong is thinking that people who come for such things are really coming for Christ ...

- B. *Now my question is, are those who come to church for a chance to win a prize, really coming to Christ? Are they really choosing Christ? Christ speaks to this -*

²⁶ **Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. ²⁷ Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.” John 6:26-27**

- C. *Not only were they not coming, but they CANNOT -*

⁴⁴ **No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; ... John 6:44 A**

They came to Him, they wanted to make Him King, but when He did not do daily miracles for them, feeding them, they refused to follow Him –

⁶⁵ **And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.” John 6:65**

Jesus said this because many were not really coming for Him, for His Words or Teaching, they came for the bread. When He did not give it, they stopped coming -

⁶⁶ From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. John 6: 66

3. *Such people who came to Jesus only for bread, who come only for prizes, what are they? Scripture calls them carnally minded -*

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. Romans 8:6-7

Minds must change, hearts must change, this is a radical thing ...

II. *Christ chooses, God draws, God makes alive - ... but I chose you... John 15:16 B*

See quote on bulletin cover - from the Reformation Study Bible / R.C. Sproul

1. *Why did Jeremiah serve God despite extreme persecution and loneliness?*

A. *He was called by God, chosen –*

⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: ⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.” Jeremiah 1:4-5

B. *He was loved by God, even with an everlasting, drawing love –*

³ The LORD has appeared of old to me, *saying*: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. Jeremiah 31:3

2. *Why were Christ apostles willing to follow Him even to death?*

A. *They were changed, they were New Creatures, born again –*

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

B. *Because born-again they see a different kingdom, they have new desires –*

³ Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3

C. *This new birth is a spiritual thing, a necessary thing, and a powerful, mysterious, supernatural thing –*

⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” John 3:6-8

III. *How do we respond to such a truth? God chooses!*

1. *With extreme humility, realizing we cannot save or change ourselves –*

²³ Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? *Then* may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil. Jeremiah 13:23

2. *With recognition of His sovereignty and our great need –*

¹⁵ For He says to Moses, “*I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.*” ¹⁶ So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. Romans 9:15-16

God is a King on a throne, not a salesman at our door!

3. *With Bible-based living and evangelism -*

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. ⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*” Amen. Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19

Arnold Brevick