A Brief Statement On Natural "Free" Will

<u>Free will</u> - Adam had it, and lost it, along with every pure, or innocent component of his makeup, when he disobeyed God's specific command in the garden of Eden. Man, in Adam, forsook the sinless, immortal life that we would have had, which resulted in His, and his descendants' wills being in bondage to the law of sin and death. Free will, therefore, for natural man, is a misnomer. It is a nonexistent supposition, that makes man responsible for his own salvation. But, which he cannot obtain, because it does not work that way. Belief of the gospel, or any other spiritual matter, before conversion, is neither required, nor possible!

It is only by God's predestinating will that one becomes a Christian–directly, and independent of any human action. Free will is then restored to him, as he receives a new spiritual nature. Then, the one serious abuse of the Christians' free will occurs if and when they turn away from God, and believe a perverted form of the gospel, which unfaithful act has been committed by the vast majority of Christians, over the past several centuries!

Therefore, the great temporal and eternal cost of Adam's transgression, was followed by the disobedience of Christians in not coming to know, and believe, and uphold the literal truth of the gospel. Then, they go on in their deluded state, thinking that they are serving the Lord, as "evidenced", i.e., by the millions of conversions that occur over time, through local, regional, and international evangelistic services, and campaigns. When, the truth is, people do not become Christians in any way because of them, but despite their ministries, because God's work of salvation is done wholly by Him, whether Christians are faithful, or not. They are entirely passive in every step of the process. But, of course, faithful service in evangelism or any other ministry is blessed and rewarded on its own merits, both here and in heaven.

Yet, if it were true, hypothetically, that Christians have some active, effective part in man's salvation, God would not use them, when they misrepresent His word, by believing, and promoting a false gospel. There is no innocence in betraying the truth that Christians are responsible for. It is, indeed, that serious! God will not excuse disloyalty, but will judge it, to the "weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth", of millions of unfaithful Christians, who failed Him both personally, and by causing most of the universal degrading, and degeneration of His church.

The root of Calvinism is the "apostles' tradition", or the gospel established in the original, and early churches, by the apostles, which has been preserved for us in the holy scriptures, so that the same true gospel interpretation could be perpetuated throughout the church age. Arminianism, however, cannot trace its history back to the original church, for its legacy began notably with Pelagius in the third, and fourth century, who was an outspoken critic of the traditional gospel, and promoted the idea that man's will had to be exercised in cooperation with God's will, in order for him to become a Christian.

Others throughout the church's history adopted, and disseminated the adverse gospel introduced by Pelagius, until it proliferated into the mainstream church theology that prevails .

today. Why, though, would a belief system that contradicts true established doctrine, gain acceptance with a large majority of believers? There is one key factor, that is the common denominator, which I have repeated in the several companion articles to this one, and elsewhere, because it is so fundamentally important to understanding the dispute. It is the <u>flesh</u>, or old nature, which is allowed to operate instead of the <u>spirit</u>, or new nature.

How do we know that? By learning the scriptural teaching on the subject of the strife between our two natures, the flesh, and the spirit—which, inherently means, in this case, that it is the old nature that misinterprets doctrine, not our new, spiritual nature. It is an assurance that God gives us, that we can rely on to keep us from error, but it is not automatic, we must consciously "walk (think, and act) in the Spirit". It is, therefore, obvious by the universal infection of the church with the Arminian false gospel theory, that most of the church lives too much by the dictates of their old nature, rather than in the Spirit.

Most Christians will probably not believe much of what I have said here, and in other writings, and will instead think that I am wrongfully, even dangerously, judging practically all other believers, and their churches. I do not like the contrasting relationship, that I am in, because it is a lonely position, but I know from careful study for years, that I have learned the truth of the subjects discussed, and am compelled by responsibility, and the Spirit of God to speak, and publish the gospel reforms of which the church is extremely in need.

Also, I hope that people might believe that I would not want to, or dare to put forth anything that I haven't proven to myself, scripturally, and spent much time over the years in prayer with God, making sure that what I believe, and have published is right, and God's will for me to do, even though I am one of a comparatively small minority who holds to the literal interpretation of salvation principles, advocated by the adherents of historic Calvinism--which is the "apostles' tradition", that the church should have maintained all these many years since its inception!

Everett Falvey