

MAN'S FREE WILL

January 2020

PREFEX

I want to ask myself a question: Why am I writing this study? For me I awoke to a truth that has been long-standing. I don't recall it ever being taught in my generation; An understanding for free will.

INTRODUCTION

Us protestants admire Martin Luther; we give acknowledgement to his apostleship. We give homage for what he wrote in freeing the souls of his generation and those that followed. Oddly, I never knew what he reformed or how. Not until I read his biography.

Martin Luther, the great reformer who wrote a thesis with 95 statements against the practices of the Catholic Church; that's what most of us think of him. What were these statements? In what I have read, there were not 95 individual grievances; These 95 complaints were against the Catholic practice of indulgence. This was and still is the means of forgiving sin for payment of money or labor to the Catholic Church. Have you ever heard anyone teach Martin Luther beyond that? I can't say I have; Did I ever read his biography or his doctrines by his own hand? No, until this study we are working.

To me it means I have been following one man through different times gone by, without considering I should have been following the Spirit first. What does that make me; It made me a denomination within myself. What is a denomination? Here is my thought; so many of us claim to be non denominational, this gives us a good feeling doesn't it. Well, let me make you feel better: a denomination religion is a narrow minded individual; one who thinks their group, their church is the only way of truth. Unless we are proving all things as Paul taught, we are likely to be a denominational thinker. Why not prove everything thing? Because we fear our Pastor or the congregation itself. I must ask, where is the liberty of Christ? I am not suggesting a person should be a problem in their fellowship, but they should have liberty without prejudice in pursuing their walk with their Savior.

If we see a truth that others don't we are not to use it as an adversarial tool against our brothers and sisters. I believe the Bible suggests we are to have an individual walk with our Savior and to live at peace with our brothers and sisters; A walk of confidence, humbleness and patience with one another.

You think you have salvation? Joh 5:39: Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life. So here we are in 2020, why do I care for the teachings of Martin Luther? The reason of importance for me is I read what he taught and discovered the spiritual benefits. Before reading of his my thinking was: I am trusting my minister to tell me what I should know. Luther's message has been available for five hundred-years; I was too lazy to look for it.

For this study we are working, we will use Martin Luther's teaching on "free will" as the core thought.

It was here in Wittenberg, Germany, that Martin Luther lived and preached, and on October 31, 1517, he nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church. The Protestant Reformation had begun.



Martin Luther had a small head-start on Tyndale, as Luther declared his intolerance for the Roman Church's corruption on Halloween in 1517, by nailing his 95 Theses of Contention to the Wittenberg Church door. Luther, who would be exiled in the months following the Diet of Worms Council in 1521 that was designed to martyr him, would translate the New Testament into German for the first time from the 1516 Greek-Latin New Testament of Erasmus and publish it in September 1522. Luther also published a German Pentateuch in 1523, and another edition of the German New Testament in 1529. In the 1530's he would go on to publish the entire Bible in German.

Martin Luther (November 10, 1483 - February 18, 1546) was a Christian theologian and Augustinian monk whose teachings inspired the Protestant Reformation and deeply influenced the doctrines of Protestant and other Christian traditions. Martin Luther was born to Hans and Margaretha Luder on November the 10th 1483 in Eisleben, Germany and was baptized the next day on the feast of St. Martin of Tours, after whom he was named.

Luther's call to the Church to return to the teachings of the Bible resulted in the formation of new traditions within Christianity and the Counter-Reformation in the Roman Catholic Church, culminating at the Council of Trent.

His translation of the Bible also helped to develop a standard version of the German language and added several principles to the art of translation. Luther's hymns sparked the development of congregational singing in Christianity. His marriage, on June 13, 1525, to Katharina von Bora, a former nun, began the tradition of clerical marriage within several Christian traditions.

An excerpt from the Book: Martin Luther's Table Talk

Hence, we conclude in general, That man, without the Holy Ghost and God's grace, can do nothing but sin; he proceeds therein without intermission, and from one sin falls into another. Now, if a man will not suffer wholesome doctrine, but contemns the all-saving Word, and resists the Holy Ghost, then through the effects and strength of his free-will he becomes God's enemy; he blasphemes the Holy Ghost, and follows the lusts and desires of his own heart, as examples in all times clearly show.

But we must diligently weigh the words which the Holy Ghost speaks through Moses: "Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart is evil continually:" so that what a man is able to conceive with his thoughts, with his understanding and free-will, by highest diligence, is evil, and not once or twice, but evil continually; without the Holy Ghost, man's reason, will, and understanding are without the knowledge of God; and to be without the knowledge of God, is nothing else than to be ungodly, to walk in darkness, and to hold that for best which is direct worst.

I speak only of that which is good in divine things and according to the holy Scripture; for we must make a difference between that which is temporal, and that which is spiritual, between politics and divinity; for God also allows of the government of the ungodly, and rewards their virtues, yet only so far as belongs to this temporal life; for man's will and understanding conceive that to be good, which is external and temporal — not only good, but the chief good. But when we divines speak of free-will, we ask what man's free-will is able to accomplish in divine and spiritual matters, not in outward and temporal affairs: and we conclude that man, without the Holy Ghost, is altogether wicked before God, although he were decked up and trimmed with all the virtues of the heathen, and had all their works.

For, indeed, there are fair and glorious examples in heathendom, of many virtues, where men were temperate, chaste, bountiful; loved their country, parents, wives, and children; were men of courage, and behaved themselves magnanimously and generously. But the ideas of mankind concerning God, the true worship of God, and God's will, are altogether stark blindness and darkness.

For the light of human wisdom, reason, and understanding, which alone is given to man, comprehends only what is good and profitable outwardly. And although we see that the heathen philosophers now and then discoursed touching God and his wisdom very pertinently, so that some have made prophets of Socrates, of Xenophon, of Plato, etc., yet, because they knew not that God sent his son Christ to save sinners, such fair, glorious, and wise seeming speeches and disputations are nothing but mere blindness and ignorance.

We know not rightly what we became after the fall of our first parents; what from our mothers we have brought with us. For we have altogether a confounded, corrupt, and poisoned nature, both in body and soul; throughout the whole of man is nothing that is good.

This is my absolute opinion: he that will maintain that man's free-will is able to do or work anything in spiritual cases, be they never so small, denies Christ. This I have always maintained in my writings, especially in those against Erasmus, one of the learned men in the whole world, and thereby will I remain, for I know it to be the truth, though all the world should be against it; yea, the decree of Divine Majesty must stand fast against the gates of hell.

Further; for so long as a man is at ease and in safety, and is in no want, so long he thinks he has a free-will, which is able to do something; but when want and need appear, so that there is neither meat, drink, nor money, where is then free-will? It is utterly lost, and cannot stand when it comes to the pinch. Faith only stands fast and sure, and seeks Christ. Therefore faith is far another thing than free-will; nay, freewill is nothing at all, but faith is all in all. Art thou bold and stout, and canst thou carry it lustily with thy free-will when plague, wars, and times of dearth and famine are at hand? No: in time of plague, thou knowest not what to do for fear; thou wishest thyself a hundred miles off. In time of dearth thou thinkest: Where shall I find to eat? Thy will cannot so much as give thy heart the smallest comfort in these times of need, but the longer thou strivest, the more it makes thy heart faint and feeble, insomuch that it is affrighted even at the rushing and shaking of a leaf. These are the valiant acts our free-will can achieve.

Some new divines allege, that the Holy Ghost works not in those that resist him, but only in such as are willing and give consent thereto, whence it would appear that free-will is also a cause and helper of faith, and that consequently faith alone justifies not, and that the Holy Ghost does not alone work through the word, but that our will does something therein. But I say it is not so; the will of mankind works nothing at all in his conversion and justification.

It is the matter on which the Holy Ghost works (as a potter makes a pot out of clay), equally in those that resist and are averse, as in St. Paul. But after the Holy Ghost has wrought in the wills of such resisters, then he also manages that the will be consenting thereunto. They say and allege further, That the example of St Paul's conversion is a particular and special work of God, and therefore cannot be brought in for a general rule. I answer: even like as St. Paul was converted, just so are all others converted; for we all resist God, but the Holy Ghost draws the will of mankind, when he pleases, through preaching. Even as no man may lawfully have children, except in a state of matrimony, though many married people have no children, so the Holy Ghost works not always through the word but when it pleases Him, so that free-will does nothing inwardly in our conversion and justification before God, neither does it work with our strength—no, not in the least, unless we be prepared and made fit by the Holy Ghost.

The sentences in Holy Scripture touching predestination, as, “No man can come to me except the Father draws him,” seem to terrify and affright us; yet they but show that we can do nothing of our own strength and will that is good before God, and put the godly also in mind to pray. When people do this, they may conclude they are predestinated. Ah! Why should we boast that our freewill can do aught in man's conversion? We see the reverse in those poor people, who are corporally possessed of the devil, how he rends, and tears, and spitefully deals with them, and with what difficulty he is driven out.

Truly, the Holy Ghost alone must drive him out, as Christ says: “If I, with the finger of God, do drive out devils, then no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.” As much as to say: If the kingdom of God shall come upon you, then the devil must first be driven out, for his kingdom is opposed to God's kingdom, as ye yourselves confess. Now the devil will not be driven but by devils, much less by men, or by man's strength, but only by God's spirit and power. Hence, if the devil be not driven out through God's finger, then the kingdom of the devil subsists there; and where the devil's kingdom is, there is not God's kingdom. And again, so long as the Holy Ghost comes not into us, we are not only unable to do anything good, but we are, so long, in the kingdom of the devil, and do what is

pleasing onto him. The devil leaves to the body its natural strength and activity; but the soul he bereaves of understanding, reason, and power as we see in possessed people.

I fain would know how he who knows nothing of God, should know how to govern himself; how he, who is conceived and born in sin, as we all are, and is by nature a child of wrath, and God's enemy, should know how to find the right way and to remain therein, when, as Isaiah says: "We can do nothing else but go astray." How is it possible we should defend ourselves against the devil, who is a Prince of this world, and we his prisoners, when, with all our strength, we are not able so much as to hinder a leaf or a fly from doing us hurt? I say, how may we poor miserable wretches presume to boast of comfort, help, and counsel against God's judgment, his wrath and everlasting death, when we cannot tell which way to seek help, or comfort, or counsel, no, not in the least of our corporal necessities, as daily experience teaches us, either for ourselves or others?

END

Learning More About Free Will

I'll say the doctrine by Martin is sound, a solid foundation to learn more towards our free will or lack of it. In learning more, we will use the entrance door that Peter taught us on the day of Pentecost, our free will:

Act 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

We used this verse for a reason. This is: Martin said the free will of flesh is submission to the Spirit. So in this verse, we see our mind submitting to repentance and baptism. After this act of submitting to baptism, then the soul receives redemption: the gift of the Holy Spirit. We must ask, did the flesh open a spiritual door or did the spiritual open the door and our mind submitted itself?

It is true doctrine by Martin that we cannot govern ourselves or keep ourselves or do good. There is no other way as YAHSHUA taught in Matthew 19:17... why call thou me good; but one is good; My Father...

YAHSHUA is helping our understanding that the spirit came before the flesh. Without spirit Adam is not a living soul. What else did YAHSHUA teach us? How is this related to free will? As we think of this parable spoke by YAHSHUA, He is

shining a light on the spiritual path for our life. He wants us to understand that our flesh isn't good, instead that flesh must only suffer to the will of the Spirit.

Are we troubled that the flesh of YAHSHUA is not good? I think the argument presented by Messiah was not whether His flesh was good; But His flesh was only to suffer the will of the Spirit; of which His Spirit & body is unlike any other man; for He came forth as He said, from the Father. As sinless as He was His flesh was not eternal.

Mar 10:18 And Jesus said unto him, Why call thou me good? There is none good but one; that is, my Father YAHWAH.

Joh 1:18 No man hath seen Elohim at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. (refer to Proverbs 8:22)

The Son the only begotten out of the Father lived in a human body not made from this world. He declared the Father. The flesh of YAHSHUA never saw the Father nor could he declare Him; It was the only begotten in the Son of Man.

In verse Mark 10:18 YAHSHUA was teaching the following concept: Standing before you is more than a body of flesh. Why did He say that? To point us to the most important hidden reality in life; the spirit is life but the flesh will turn to dust. Get our eyes off of flesh that turns to dust. This means His flesh is only as good as its suffrage to the Holy Spirit in Him.

We know His flesh was perfect in submission to His Spirit and His Spirit is one with the Father: So He was perfect in flesh; but ours, not so much. Let's read more scripture to continue our study:

Joh 8:38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

Did YAHSHUA's flesh see His Father or did His spirit? Was the accuser that stood before Him seeing with his flesh or with his soul? Is this a battle of the natural men or of the spirit of men? Was John 8:38 taking place between the I-AM and Satan or between YAHSHUA and the Pharisee? Is our warfare of flesh or in spiritual high places?

Paul answered these questions and I hope we can see Paul's thoughts in a different understanding.

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

1Co 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

All of these insights bring us back to the thought we began with in this section; Acts 2:38. Repent and be Baptized and receive the Gift. If we cannot please or serve the spiritual by way of our flesh, then our flesh has not free will. It appears flesh can only submit to the will of the spirit for it is a corruptible thing. Therefore, we bring to witness that flesh in its freedom can only chose evil or self indulgence. We see in Acts 2:38 this very effect. How then I ask; by what means can Peters teaching be fulfilled? Repent and Baptize. For Peter goes on to say: and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The mind must submit and then obey to bring us into receiving the spiritual.

So prior to repentance and Baptizing, a person does not possess that which they spiritually need to fulfill the commandment; or so it seems at first look and first thought as Peter has presented his understanding for redemption. Let's push on and see if this is true.

Continuing our Argument: What can flesh do?

As we have learned in another study our spirit is lost because it has no relationship with the Holy Spirit. It is only by the act of redemption that the our Spirit is united in Word as the Father and Son have always been the Word.

So here we are standing before the teaching of Peter; Standing before a commandment with no ability to be spiritual or become spiritual but only able to obey through that which is corrupt, shaped in iniquity and born in sin, but for a glimmer of the gift of faith we have hope. Now we are in the depth of our study with Martin Luther whose arguments in this study are mostly brilliant.

The Free will of Man. What is it: that our flesh is willing to die so that our soul can join the body of Messiah? As YAHSHUA willingly died in flesh for our redemption to the Holy Spirit. Let us read what a few Apostolic writers said:

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. (Draw the flesh or our spirit?)

Now as we read John 6:44 I want to remind us “man” as John has told us is defined by the following verse:

Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

So Elohim through Moses said he created: “man” masculine and feminine first and was a living spirit before the body of flesh. The Man was a masculine and a feminine spirit.

Now verse 27 only speaks of Man the spirit as it reads: YAHWEH created man in His image. But now watch in this next verse the language in Genesis 1:26: And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and allow them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle...

He creates the soul as “man” for a purpose; So the WORD can dwell with a creation.

Here are the two meanings for the word soul:

1. The essential part or fundamental nature of anything.
2. The spirit or immaterial part of man, the seat of human personality, intellect, will, and emotions, regarded as an entity that survives the body after death.

Mat 12:18 Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.

Mat 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

We now come back to Peter and the apostles to learn of becoming one with the Father, we call it redemption. Repentance and baptism bring us to the threshold of redemption; faith seals us into redemption. Repentance and baptism is the symbolic act of submission to the WORD. It illustrates good will towards Elohim. For me in submitting or obeying Acts 2:38 I had a difficult mental struggle. I am thankful that the want of my soul prevailed against my flesh. This was my first battle of soul against flesh. So where was my flesh in this? It loved itself, so it stood against a relationship between the spirit and its creator. Our mind is innate with jealousy.

Now back to our discussion of free will: John said in 6:44 that no “man” can come to Me except the Father Draw him. John is not talking of the flesh is he? Let’s read how Luke agrees with John:

Luk 10:22 All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knows who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.

I don’t see a body of flesh in Luke’s revelation; just the spirit relationship.

Joh 3:5 YAHSHUA answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of Elohim.

Luk 17:21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of Elohim is within you.

Mat 16:17 And YAHSHUA answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Act 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of YAHSHUA MESSIAH for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

As we have just read these last five verses of scripture; we witness Martin’s teaching for free will. Our arguments are right here in these scriptures. It was the drawing power of the Father to the soul that brought our flesh under His subjection. Baptism brings us into the likeness of death. The flesh submitting its will to accept His will. From that day forward in our salvation, the Spirit will draw us as we shall allow Him.

Let’s read this next verse and watch the plan of Elohim in action;

Act 2:47 Praising Elohim and having favor with all the people. And YAHSHUA added to the church daily, such as should be saved.

Who should be saved you might ask; didn’t YAHWAH say it is not HIS will that any should perish?

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

The Nature of Soul and Flesh

excerpt from:

Luther, Martin. Martin Luther's Table Talk (Kindle Locations 3505-3511). Gideon House Books.

For as a silly sheep cannot take heed to itself, that it err not, nor go astray, unless the shepherd always leads it; yea, and when it has erred, gone astray, and is lost, cannot find the right way, nor come to the shepherd, but the shepherd must go after it, and seek until he find it, and when he has found it, must carry it, to the end it be not scared from him again, go astray, or be torn by the wolf: so neither can we help ourselves, nor attain a peaceful conscience, nor outrun the devil, death, and hell, unless Christ himself seek and call us through his Word; and when we are come unto him, and possess the true faith, yet we of ourselves are not able to keep ourselves therein, nor to stand, unless he always hold us up through his Word and Spirit, seeing that the devil everywhere lies lurking for us, like a roaring lion, seeking to devour us.

Isa 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Joh 6:63 It is the spirit that quickens; the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

I believe we can see Dr. Martin Luther's arguments are Bible based; he only paraphrased the verses into his thought. We have just been pulling his teaching open with the scriptures and bringing these Bible thoughts in line with Dr. Luther's.

There must be a free will or the entire plan of the WORD is null, of no purpose. What purpose are we speaking? That the WORD will fellowship with its creation "Man". We have learned that the flesh cannot know or serve the Spirit. We have learned that flesh can only submit to the will of the Holy Spirit; That the soul responds or not, to the call of Elohim.

Free will, as we will say, is a willingness to submit. This is the only door that we can open or close; it is the Holy Spirit that works the work. As Martin said, the flesh gives free will only to the suffrage of His spirit. It is the soul that receives spiritual things.

I must ask a serious question for those who so crassly state: If my destiny is to be a wise virgin then I will be. What submissive will is that? What can we say of these souls with a care free attitude; of those souls in the book of life that become blotted out of the book of life? Let's read:

Exo 32:32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou has written.

Exo 32:33 And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

Rev 3:5 He that overcomes, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Enoch 105:23 He said, There, into that place which you behold, shall be thrust the spirits of sinners and blasphemers; of those who shall do evil, and who shall pervert all which God has spoken by the mouth of the prophets; all which they ought to do.

Enoch 105:21 Another book, which Enoch wrote for his son Methuselah, and for those who should come after him, and preserve their purity of conduct in the latter days. You, who have labored, shall wait in those days until the evil doers be consumed, and the power of the guilty be annihilated. Wait until sin pass away; for their names shall be blotted out of the holy books; their seed shall be destroyed, and their spirits slain. They shall cry out and lament in the invisible waste, and in the bottomless fire shall they burn.

In reading the previous verses, we can note these four facts:

1. We just read how Moses requested his name to be blotted out, but only sinners blot out their own name.
2. Next we read how the over-comers names will not be blotted out.
3. Then we read those whose names are not found in the book of life.
4. And any person who takes away or adds to the Bible WORD will lose his name from the book of life. Wow to theology

Now that we have seen how free will controls our destiny, I hope not to have that careless attitude. Continuing with free will. First, we want to note the book of

Enoch, the two verses we just read. Here is the interesting point: in Enoch 105:23 we hear the words of Rev.22:19, The different works between sinners and blasphemers but the same punishment. The blasphemers of the book of Revelation removed or changed the Word's meaning through a doctrine of self interpretation. But because every WORD from Elohim is eternal, we are prompt to say not just the book of Revelation but the Bible itself; and that is what Enoch said.

It is obvious why the scriptures speak of sinners and blasphemers as separate evil workers; but they nurture from the same source. The most dangerous demon spirit is a religious spirit. I don't think this spirit is just limited to the denomination religions; not at all. Remember the wolves that fellowshipped in the church of Ephesus? These wolves are nothing more than theologic thinkers, blasphemers by their doctrines.

We brought in Prophet Enoch to help us understand the power of the flesh and the sway it can have on our eternal destination. So, Paul called his flesh an evil thing causing him to do that which he would not. But, we remember from Genesis that the law of good and evil dwells in our spirit, our inner Man. This means we must decide between the two in our life. Ok, we will move on now; Why did I use Prophet Enoch you ask? Well, Enoch's book agrees with the Bible, Apostle Jude quoted Enoch in the book of Jude.

After reading these scriptures regarding the book of life, we find ourselves in a puzzle. Scripture implies a person can remove them-self from the book of life. My thinking was; A person in the book of life, they should be an eternal soul. So, their name should stay in the book. But that isn't what we have read in scripture. I ask myself; What does this mean?

The Bible scriptures teach the blotting out names for a purpose; So let us read Paul's teaching in Romans:

Rom 8:29 For whom the Father did foreknow, he also did predestinate (know in advance), to the image of his Son, (to be conformed to), that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate (know in advance), them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

In the same book, we have Paul writing these words: Romans 7:21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. We see in Paul the law

from Psalms 51:5 our mind is shaped in iniquity. So the iniquity we are in the flesh is bound to the redeemed soul.

Joh 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perishes, but for that meat which endures unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

2Co 1:22 Who hath also sealed us and given the fervent Spirit in our hearts.

We find our question answered with Apostle John, he said YAHSHUA the Son of Man will feed us the spiritual WORD. What is the WORD? "In the beginning was the WORD". Now it gets even more interesting in John 6:27; This set me back in thought and it has taken time to learn; maybe not in full depth but we have a start. John said: for Him hath God the Father sealed. The Father who is the WORD sealed the Son of Man whom the WORD spoke into existence. But the Son's body was not eternal as it died on the cross; Sinless yes but not eternal. I think we need to read two more scriptures by Paul; We will read Ephesians 4:30 first:

Eph 4:30 And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Eph 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.

The Holy Spirit seals us unto the day of redemption. This is a point in time, specific. Paul is saying the seal of our inner Man is unto a specific day. Paul is telling us that after "that day" the seal is no longer required in verse thirty. For me, I must ask myself what is the "day of redemption"? I haven't considered this before today. Maybe studying Ephesians 1:13 we can learn more.

Let's follow along with Paul: Step One: We trusted in the Messiah. Step two: We heard the WORD of our salvation. Step three: We believed. Step four: it seals us with the Holy Spirit of promise.

These are the steps we took to become sealed. So what does the word seal mean? The Word is a seal: Matthew 13:23 defines the seal.

Mat 13:19 When someone hears the word of the kingdom, and understands it not, then comes the wicked one, and catches away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the wayside.

Mat 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that hears the word and understands it; which also bears fruit.

Matthew has given us this definition: to receive the WORD as knowledge in our mind is not enough, we must receive it in our spirit this bears fruit. So is Matthew 13:19 speaking of those that have their names removed from the book of life?

Can we define Matthew 13:19 & 23 with these next two scriptures?

Mat 13:46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, selling all that he had, and bought it.

Luk 6:48 He is like a man which built a house, and dug deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

With reading 2 Corinthians and Ephesians, we receive the seal by giving our trust, our faith, and the receiving of the WORD.

Eph 4:30 ... whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

2Co 1:22 Who hath also sealed us and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

John 6:27 for Him hath Elohim the Father sealed.

This seal is our confirmation given by the Father, as said by John in 6:27 and Paul in 2 Corinthians 1:22. The Father gives confirmation to be one in the body of the Son. But, we are more than confirmed under our seal; It protects us as we will discuss. I can't help but mention in John 6:27 that the Son of Man was sealed by the Word. The Word was in Him and what was in Him sealed Him.

We want to answer two questions from the same thought. Why did the Son of Man need the seal of Elohim and when is "the day of redemption"? Sometimes I read over words and in this verse I've always done that. I need to recognize there is a new thought, a new insight for our current life to what we will become. Our day of redemption when this life is over, at our resurrection. Then we will celebrate in our new eternal body.

In Matthew 13:23 the act of redemption has occurred in our inner Man; But when is the day of redemption referred to in Eph 4:30? When we redeem our body for the new body; Then the seal is no longer required for we are complete in Him; It has removed our weakness.

1Jn 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

As my late father-in-law once said; “He” that is in the world is ourselves; He that is in us is our inner-man. Maybe our soul is sealed from the evil that can betray us because evil is part of us. David said in Psalms: we are shaped in iniquity ...

We still need to answer the question why did The Son of God YAHSHUA need sealed by the Word? I think the answer is simple. The Word we received to become sealed was first walked by YAHSHUA; He did not teach it in words only, He lived it. Here we find inspiration from Apostle James teachings:

Jas 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Well, we know He did not need baptism to cleanse His fleshly sins; he had none. The Son of Man as a man lived perfect faith in the Word, so the Word sealed Him by His faith.

He is our GOD and yet He is our teacher our example at the same time. So when His perfect but corporal flesh died He received that eternal body that we will receive one day. Our GOD our LIFE our MASTER our brother as the Son of Man did everything for us by example. Why, you ask? So the creator of the Universe, the WORD deity can dwell with a loving creation at a deep personal level. Here lies my hope for my body’s redemption:

Eph 4:30 ... whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

1Th 4:16 For YAHSHUA himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of Elohim: and the dead in Messiah shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet YAHSHUA in the air: and so shall we ever be with YAHSHUA.

Our body of mortal flesh born in iniquity but will be redeemed with the day of 1Thessalonians 4:16. The Holy Spirit redeemed our soul with Acts 2:38.

The seal in our soul establishes the battleground for righteousness. Our battle is between that which seeks righteousness and that which loves self, self love is

death. Ironically, our flesh being dead will fight with all its strength so it can live. So once again, Martin Luther is correct in that our flesh can only exert self will or submit to the Holy Spirit. Evil prevails if our soul has not redemption.

Now we want to continue reading for this mind verses soul conflict. If a person is not sealed by the WORD Satan will steal it away from us as Matthew 13:19 tells us. Satan first sets up an argument between good and evil then beguiles us through reasoning. When we read Proverbs, we should note, that to find Elohim is the deep calling to the deep; this is spiritual.

Pro 8:35 For whoso finds me finds life, and shall obtain favor of YAHWEH.

Pro 8:36 But he that sin against me wrongs his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

Once sealed we can say: we have gained understanding, but not complete; We have a new beginning relationship:

Joh 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou has sent me.

Paul writes another interesting verse too this struggle of free will:

Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered.

We just wanted to bring this to attention illustrating that our flesh doesn't even know how to pray. So what free will could ever come from a creature that doesn't know what to pray for and is born in iniquity and sin? It is the spirit only; The Man of Genesis 1;26 that dwells in us.

Adam and Eve's Free Will

Adam and Eve were perfect in spirit and body; no sin or sins. We can look at the actions, the decisions they made as perfect living souls. Keeping this thought of Adam and Eve in the back of our mind we will try to learn a few things about their decisions of free will. Let's start with Paul's thoughts.

As Paul looks back in time with reading the commandments and Adam and Eve's story, he came to the conclusions he wrote in 1 Timothy 2 and Romans 5. Let's read them now:

1Ti 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

1Ti 2:15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in child-bearing, if they continue in Faith and charity and holiness with sobriety. ("they" is a reference to each generation. Faith with kindness in the whole of the Christ Kingdom without doubt)

Rom 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Rom 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

I have to ask what is the meaning at the core thought. Preachers love to only speak of Eve's transgression; Can't say I ever heard anyone speak of Adam's sin. If Adam was sinless, why did he receive a death sentence? Paul said mankind is dead from Adam. What we want to learn is more of Adam and Eve and their decisions. In a nutshell, Adam willingly sinned by self will but not without influence and Eve likewise sinned by influence because she through self will become beguiled. As Martin Luther said yet once again; They did not submit their will to the commandment of the Word. In comparison, we have the perfect example that walks with us; our LORD and GOD the WORD, YAHSHUA. His perfect submission of will:

"The works that I do shall he do also." What did He do? He believed and obeyed the Word, without interpretation. As soon as we give our interpretation to the Word, we are wrong. Eating from that same tree which Adam and Eve ate. It is the Holy Spirit alone that teaches the Word; Man creates doctrines of His own devices.

Saint John 5:19, ... "I do nothing till the Father shows Me."

John 5:19 is where Adam and Eve fell short. This is where we fall short as we reason with the commandments of scripture as Messiah said, if you love me keep my commandments: It sounds good, reasonable and the right thing to do

and yet we argue with it and deny that we do. Paul said that which I would I do not.

Coming back to Paul's thought; We want to notice that Paul was speaking of Eve with only a reference to Adam. It makes me think as if Paul is answering a question.

Paul told us in the aforementioned scriptures Adam and Eve both were in transgression. Eve reasoned with the cunningness that seduced her. Then she committed adultery. Adam was the figure of Him that was to come; This is Paul's expression that Elohim held Adam to the highest spiritual obedience. Adam committed spiritual adultery. He served another, himself in the place of Elohim. Adam and Eve together were to produce sons of Elohim; Elohim commanded them to do so. Eve was ready to receive the seed of life from Adam, and Eve was Adam's wife. It appears that Adam was in his right to have a relationship with Eve to bring Abel. That Adam was fulfilling the righteousness of Elohim. But the act bringing Able's conception brought death not life. Adam and Eve failed John 5:19, perfect submission of their will to the Word. It wasn't time for Able.

When we read Paul's thought we understand that Adam's fall was not by deception. Paul said in verse fifteen that child-bearing will save Eve and her prodigy; Why child-bearing? Because child-bearing in pain was the commandment to her and her seed. So Paul said Eve and Eve's seed have salvation by faith in the Word. We want to ask a question; If we keep the law through faith, will it save us? Sounds as if that is what Paul said.

We need to remember that the law or commandments given us are in fact the spoken Word and the Word is eternal. To obey the Word is to walk with Elohim. The commandment of redemption is yet another law awaiting our obedience. So as we walk with the Word as Noah did we find ourselves in Deuteronomy: 8:3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knew not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of YAHWEH doth man live. "Man" Genesis 1:26.

When reading first Timothy we pick up the overall thought Paul was expressing; To me Paul is trying to bring order for walking with Elohim. Paul was answering a question sent to him by letter. We don't know the exact question we only read the answer from Paul.

Let's end this thought by saying: obedience with faith to the commandments the Old and New Testament, will bring us to salvation. The scriptures teach us the Word and the Word seals us. If the Word lives in us; we live the commandment.

Returning to Adam and Eve's actions

The next two verses to read are interesting to me as there were two spiritual trees amid the Garden, but the story of Adam and Eve only mentions one. I always thought of both laws as being mentioned together, but they are not. We will read in Genesis and look at Adam and Eve's actions, their self will:

Gen 2:16 And YAWEH Elohim commanded the Man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou may freely eat.

2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it:

We see illustrated in these verses, "The man," the Spirit of Adam. We notice the spirit of both masculine and feminine are one in spirit in the body of Adam. Notice the Man of Genesis 1:26 received the name Adam after he was in a body. So "the man" masculine and feminine received the commandment not to eat of the tree in verse sixteen. We see this in YAHWAH's pronouncement in judgment to Adam and Eve. We want to hold this thought for just a few minutes so we can add something else with it.

Paul's thought in 1Timothy 2:14,15 differs from what I have considered to this date. What did we learn I hope you just ask? Paul said that Eve committed adultery in her body. But Elohim said Adam committed spiritual adultery. Adam and Eve both sinned by the act of disobedience to the WORD. Sins of the flesh not the sin of blaspheme. Lets learn more from the Genesis story:

Gen 3:13 And the LORD YAH said unto the woman, What is this that thou has done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I ate.

Definition for beguiled: to influence by trickery, flattery, etc.; Mislead.

In this verse, Eve confesses her transgression. She disobeyed the WORD because she allowed the trickery of flattery to influence her. I would like to say this scenario hasn't changed, it is repetitious for every generation. If a man wants a woman to become attracted to him in a romantic way, he must first win her emotions. It wasn't the appearance of the worker of the field, was it. So we witness in this verse that Eve did not deny the WORD of truth in her soul or

commit blaspheme, no; she did what I have done so many times; we do not always submit our self will unto the WORD.

It is time now to read Adam's situation:

Gen 3:17 And unto Adam He said, Because thou has hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and have eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it:

Definition for hearken: to give heed or attention to what is said

So we see in verse seventeen That Elohim reminded Adam of the WORD that Adam received, and understood, but didn't keep. Notice why Adam decided not to keep it: because he reasoned with Eve, Eve persuaded Adam to change his mind. Now for Eve the worker of the field won her emotions; Eve won over Adam by logical reasoning. This nature of Adam is still with us men today. So the sins that brought the law of good and evil into man was the act of free will against the Word. If we refuse to submit to the knowledge and understanding that we received it leads us to sins.

Paul said: Hebrews 10:26 For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins. Paul is speaking of the sin of unbelief from our inner-man not sins of the flesh from our minds.

To refuse understanding of the Word after receiving the knowledge, we have sin of unbelief. Matthew's parable 13:19 & 23 illustrates a person who chose to receive knowledge of the Word. But if that person then refuses to take the next step, verse 13:23 to receive the understanding; There is no forgiveness of sins. With this explanation, I believe the next verse to read carries the meaning.

Luke 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

I believe that the parable of Matthew 25:16 helps identify these persons we are speaking of in Matthew 13:23.

Mat 25:16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same and made them other five talents.

Mat 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that hears the word and understands it; which also bears fruit, and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Matthew 25:25 is Matthew 13:19. These persons chose not to submit their will refusing the spiritual understanding.

Mat 25:25 And I was afraid, and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, here thou has that is thine.

Mat 13:19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and understands it not, then comes the wicked one, and catches away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

Wayside is to receive the Word by another than the Holy Spirit; such as Man's doctrine. Therefore, Paul said, "Prove everything thing keeping only the good." Paul included himself in that commandment. Any man that steers you away from this verse is a man with his own agenda.

Mat 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; The which when a man hath found, he hides, and for joy thereof goes and sells all that he hath, and buys that field.

Isaiah 28:10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: Isa 28:13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

Notice, Isaiah gives us this commandment twice, emphasizing the importance. The first verse is 28:10. But in verse 28:13 he repeats the commandment adding a curse. This gives warning to every generation and each person.

The parables of Matthew we have read are sitting here in Isaiah. This warning carries to the end of the Laodicean Church age with the foolish virgins. The foolish virgins will gnash their teeth as they miss their resurrection day; The catching away Paul spoke of. We see that each generation must have a precept upon precept and each person must have line upon a line in their walk. The foolish virgins are waiting not watching; They miss a few lines while waiting for the last line.

I will press Isaiah's words again: line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little. Honestly, if you think you can sit and wait for Paul's catching away based on the precepts and lines of scriptures from the generation before, the

curse of Isaiah 28:13 may find you just waiting. We are speaking of our free will decision, submit to the Word. We are in the same test as Adam and Eve.

I need to get back to our discussion of Adam and Eve's sin:

What we want to know is, can we prove that Adam and Eve's sin was not a sin of blasphemy, I believe we can. Elohim gave Adam and Eve sheep skin to cover themselves; it was the blood sacrifice from these sheep that pushed their sins forward one year. We see this law passed to the next generation with Abel's alter sacrifice.

Genesis 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins and clothed them.

You can't have sheep skins without blood. Let's step back to understand what was the conversation between Adam and Eve after Eve's fall to adultery. Why do you think Eve persuaded Adam to partake of the tree of good and evil? Was it for sexual pleasure only? I believe Eve knew she was pregnant; she knew from the moment she transgressed with the worker of the field. The Genesis story tells us she knew pleasure and became wise because of her sins. Eve shared her newfound wisdom and confessed her sins to Adam. Adam listened and decided. Adam exercised his free will: By one Man death came to every man. But Adam and Eve did not blaspheme the Word, so they are not subjected to Paul's truth of Hebrews 10:26.

I asked myself the question, Why was Adam judged? Looking at it from a distance, Adam did nothing wrong. Adam and Eve were husband and wife, so he did not commit fornication. Eve was ready for conception as the story illustrates, and Elohim commanded them to replenish the earth. So Adam had good reason in having relation with Eve.

But during Adam's judgment Elohim said: because you listened to your wife and ate of the tree of good and evil, you have three judgments against you. The evil part of the tree is to serve one's self, to serve pleasure. When we obey our self, we receive pleasure from that. When we disobey His commandment to serve ourselves, we place ourselves above His Word. We brake the first commandment.

To put it in its perspective; The second Adam said, "I do nothing of myself but as the Father has taught me." Through reasoning, Adam chose the tree of good and evil. This story is told by Martin Luther: Free will is only submitting our will to the

Word. Walking with the Holy Spirit is more than trying to obey the written Bible. In a Christian's life, the Spirit will give specific commandment just for us to obey. The Bible said Noah walked with Elohim; Do we think the Bible told Noah to build a boat?

Eve knew she could not let her relationship go and just walk away. Eve was desperate to keep her husband the man she truly loved. To lose Adam is to lose her soul mate. I'm convinced Eve told Adam she was pregnant. Adam willfully sinned by disobedience but for his love to Eve. Keeping the marriage and planting his seed in Eve so to stand against the illegitimate child.

At the end of that day, Satan struck with his plan he started millions of years ago. Then YAHWAH countered the plan of Satan with Seth. We now have a type between YAHSUA and Adam. YAHSUA died for our sins to redeem us for His Bride for He loved us. He knew we committed fornication yet He put His seed in us, just as Adam did for Eve. Paul said as I remind you: the second Adam.

Brother Brian Neill

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