

"...that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ" 1 Peter 4:11

HITLER, HEAVEN & FREE-WILL

That's right! If the popular gospel of "free-will" is actually true, a kinship between these three does in fact exist, and Hitler could very well be in heaven! Hold on! If what they're teaching is right about God trying to save every man, and salvation all hinges on this one thing—man's *free-will* and whether or not he *accepts Jesus*—How do we know that Hitler and his mistress in those closing moments, with both of them wanting to be together forever in heaven, did not humbly pray "the sinner's prayer" and accept Jesus as their personal Savior? This same question and scenario can be applied to anyone! No matter how notoriously wicked a person may live their entire life, according to popular evangelism today, if before they take their final breath, they humbly *accept Jesus*, they're saved! In other words, a sinner can despise God if he'll just do, ignore him, defy him, and blaspheme his name, but if he'll just do this *one thing* before he dies, **God has no choice**, he has to forgive him and take him to heaven!

This is the doctrine of *free-will* looking it square in the face. It disgraces, shames and makes a mockery of the God of the Bible! It's that age-old lie out-of-hell that says to the sinner he can *enjoy sin* and *live like he wants to* for as long as he wants, because he has the **power** to *turn that magical key* anytime he so chooses; the slate is then wiped spotlessly clean, his peace with God is made, and everything now is perfectly fine! Such a doctrine *ridicules* the true and living God! It pours contempt upon his holy name, and humiliates and belittles him to the back-and-call of "**his enemies**," having to *run to the aid* of those who *hate him* and *have spit upon him* all their days! He is *forced* by this one act of their "free-will" to forgive all their sins, place a glorious crown of salvation upon their heads, and thus give them an eternal inheritance in glory! That has *blasphemy* written all over it!

If your gospel is that of free-will, where the door of salvation is built upon man's *choice*, and hinged upon man's *will*, and turns upon man's *decision*, then the above two paragraphs fit right into your belief system. I know you probably didn't realize that, but that's because you've never actually thought this whole thing through. Your gospel is a humanistic one with its focus in *man's* wants and man's needs, instead of **in God and his Word**. This is where people err. Salvation is *not* centered in *man*; it is centered **in God**. It is, as the Bible says, "**of the Lord**" (Jonah 2:9). It begins there, is accomplished from there, is applied from there, is completed and ends there. From start to finish man's salvation is God's prerogative—in his hands, of his making, at his disposal, of his will, and to his glory.

This is not something man by nature wants to accept. He wants to be part of what's going on; he wants a piece of the action; and he definitely wants to share in the glory! The natural inclinations of his proud heart rise up in rebellion against any teaching where he doesn't receive at least *part of the glory* for being saved. This is why false religions the world over are palatable for the natural man—they give him what he wants: a pat on the back for his goodness; they acknowledge the part he plays in gaining eternal felicity; they give him *something* to glory in! And that pleases his flesh, because it leaves him somewhat in the driver's seat of his eternal destiny.

Every man by nature loves the idea of being "in control" and master of his own fate. That's why a *free-will gospel* is not offensive to the unsaved: it leaves them "in control" of their eternal future. That message is telling them that *their free-will* is the *deciding factor* in the whole salvation mechanism, and that God has done his part, and now it's all up to them. So they can sit under that message and feel no urgency whatsoever, because what they have just been told is that they can fix this thing up whenever they get good and ready! And so, while they *should* be concerned about *the wrath of God* as the Bible warns all unbelievers, their only real concern is accidental and sudden death, where they would have no warning and no time to "ask Jesus to come into their heart" and "get saved." But even with that they feel safe, for the odds against that happening to them, they know, are very, very slim. So, as sad as it is, today's *free-will* gospel has created a generation of "laid-back" hearers who sit at ease; they are quite comfy and cozy as they hear a message that basically is telling them *they can save themselves at will* by their decision! And thus, they are free to use Jesus as a convenient **fire escape** to **hop on**, *whenever they please*, and escape the fires of hell! The more this is even contemplated, the more *irreverent* and *contemptuous* it truly becomes!

What a stark contrast God's Word presents! A far cry from this *free-will farce* I've pictured above! See for yourself in the new tract I've enclosed—**The Doctrines of Grace**. This piece was put together primarily with my friends down South in mind. As you go through this study, those of you who have real questions, you can find many of them already answered in the *Sovereign Grace* folder of the *Package*. The key tract to consider in there is: **I Lay Down My Life For the Sheep**.

"GOD WON'T FORCE ANYONE TO BE SAVED!"

Those who dislike and oppose the **Doctrines of Grace** will spout off just about anything in an attempt to ridicule them. This is one of their favorite phrases: "**God won't force anyone to be saved!**" and it's thrown at the doctrine of *Irresistible Grace*. They think we're saying that when God is ready to save a sinner, his grace is so commanding, that regardless of what the person wants, he is so *overcome* by this "*irresistible*" grace, that he is *forced to* and *has to* surrender to Jesus! And it gets pretty comical, too, the way they caricature the sovereign grace of God. Sinners are pictured as practically being "*bullied*" into salvation, with God "*twisting their arm*" and even "*dragging*" them to Jesus! Imagine that! *Disgruntled and unhappy* saved souls!

This ridiculous scenario would be **true** if a sinner was unchanged, and God brought him to Christ *just that way*. He would definitely be against it!—with no conception of his sinful state, of the wages of sin, or his crimes against heaven, knowing nothing of God's wrath that hangs overhead, blind to the absolute emptiness of this world and all that it has to offer, senseless toward the height of his folly of lingering in and loving sin, dead indeed toward God, alive toward all things sensual, fleshly, worldly, and totally consumed and in love with himself! Such a soul has no desire for Christ; he sees no need for him; in fact, the thought of Jesus repels him; he has no eyes to see his beauty, no heart to know his love, and no real grasp of the imminent danger of losing his soul, or of the greatness of salvation! Yes, such a soul *as that* would need to be "*forced*" to the Savior.

That was just a description of a lost man; his state is dreadful! The Bible paints an *awful* picture of an *unsaved* man: he's desperately wicked, dead in sin, a God-hater, insensitive to spiritual realities, blind, a captive of Satan, in bondage to sin, and he loves it so! (Jer 17:9; Eph 2:1-5; Rom 8:6-8; John 3:19,20; 2 Cor 4:3,4; 2 Tim 2:25,26; 2 Peter 1:4,5). So we come back to the statement: "God won't **force** anyone to be saved!" And we answer it: He doesn't have to! Why? because *he doesn't leave them in that condition!* The power of grace in the effectual call *changes* them! and they come to Christ *most willingly!* Jesus said: "**Every man** therefore that hath **heard**, and hath **learned** of the Father, **cometh unto me**" (see John 6:44,45). Something powerful and effectual happens when these hear the gospel. They are taught of God in their innermost being; they see what sinners they really are, and that Jesus is their only hope, and *they come to him most freely and willingly!*

The term *Irresistible Grace* can throw people off who don't understand the doctrine. We are not saying that those who come to Christ *do not resist* the gospel call; they certainly do, up to a point. And that point is where **God makes the difference**; and if God did not *make this difference* (see 1 Cor 4:7), they would continue to resist to their dying day! That's the deplorable state of the natural man: "There is *none that understandeth*, there is *none that seeketh after God*...there is *none that doeth good*, no, not one" (Rom 3:11,12). The preached word must be accompanied by the **power of God**, that whereas *before* they heard with the *outer ear*, now they begin hearing with the *inner ear*! And they're moved to action! Their eyes are open now to see sin as never before, and their shameful state; and they see Jesus for the first time as a glorious Savior and a matchless King! And what do you think the outcome of this will be? They **cease resisting of their own accord!** They gladly and readily come to Jesus! No one has to "*force*" them!

Paul assured the Thessalonian believers of their election of God by this very truth; he said, "Our gospel came not unto you *in word only*, but also *in power*, and *in the Holy Ghost*" (see 1 Thess 1:4,5). That's the *power that makes the difference*. One man sitting under the gospel hears "in word only," and goes home the same way he came: lost, and still in love with this world. Another man sitting right next to him, hears the same gospel message, but he hears it "*in power, and in the Holy Ghost*,"—he goes home *having been raised from the dead!* He heard the call of God in that message, and it was a **life-giving call!** Just like Lazarus lying in the tomb in his own corruption; but then there comes like a bolt of lightning, "**LAZARUS, COME FORTH!**" Nobody had to **force** Lazarus out of that tomb, and to Jesus! "*He that was dead came forth*, bound hand and foot with graveclothes" (John 11:44).

Sinners are blind to the *eternal danger* to which they are exposed; they desperately need to see it! That's what God does in the effectual call. He doesn't *push* them; he just opens their eyes, *and they see!* Like a weary traveler who stops to take his rest on a dark night in a den of rattlesnakes, yet he knows not, it's all dark. And someone happens by who knows the danger, who *flashes a light*; how ridiculous to think he would have to **force** the weary man from the den! *All he needs is to see! and he'll bolt out-a-there!* This is what it means of those "who have **FLED FOR REFUGE** to lay hold upon the hope set before them!" (Heb 6:18). All their lives spent in ignorance, unaware of their impending doom, *then a lightning flash from heaven, and they see! They gladly flee to Jesus!* So it is—"Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power" (Psalm 110:3).

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