

For 2000 years, since the days of the Apostle Paul, a controversy has raged concerning God's Sovereign Election of those who are to be saved. And may I say that there is reason enough for such a controversy, for the Bible is written in such a way as to cause men to miss the true revelation. That is to say, if we do not have a revelation from God Himself about the subject. A renowned man of God, one that I have read after for years and that I highly respect as a Bible Scholar, Brother A.W. Pink, made the following statement in his book "The Sovereignty of God."

QUOTE: "Concerning the nature and the power of fallen man's will, the greatest confusion prevails today, and the most erroneous views are held, even by many of God's Children. The popular idea now prevailing, and which is taught from the great majority of pulpits, is that man has a "FREE WILL" and that Salvation comes to the sinner through his will co-operating with the Holy Spirit. To deny the free will of man, his power to choose that which is good, his native ability to accept Christ, is to bring one into disfavor at once, even before most of those who profess to be orthodox. And yet Scripture emphatically says, **"It is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy."** (Rom. 9:16) Which shall we believe; God or the preachers?" (End quote)

I am sure our readers will agree that the above Scripture, and others like it, will leave the impression that man has no free will. But, I pray you will also agree that there is another set of Scriptures that must be considered before we pour concrete around this doctrine, or any other

FREE MORAL AGENCY "A SCRIPTURAL DOCTRINE"

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doctrine for that matter! Our good Brother Pink is now with the Lord, and he left the scene before he had a chance to study the Message of God's End-Time Prophet. It is this writer's belief that had he known the Message, he would have had a different view of man's Free-Moral Agency and Election. He was a great Bible student, and greatly used of God, nevertheless, it took a Prophet to unravel the Scriptures concerning Free-Moral Agency. Many of us, including this writer, had it wrong.

I would ask our readers to understand that I do not preach this message to cause strife, nor to just be different, and most certainly not to lose friends or to condemn any of them for what they believe. Some of them have felt they needed to correct me, and I appreciate that very much. I have studied their views, but when I take into consideration all the Scriptures, and the Prophet's explanation of them, I am compelled to take the stand that I have. I would only ask that you do me the same favor that I have done you, in that I studied your teaching, remembering that a closed mind is a dangerous thing.

Referring back to Br. Pink's statement and the Scripture he quoted in Rom. 9:16, we do know that every word in God's Bible is exactly the truth. When it says that, **"It is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God**

that showeth mercy" this is the truth when properly understood. It brings to mind the Scripture in John 6:44, **"No man can come to Me, EXCEPT the Father which has sent Me draw him; And I will raise him up at the last day."** Please notice the word "EXCEPT." No man can come EXCEPT! But when the Father draws us by convicting us of our sins, and opening our spiritual eyes so that we see our lost condition, and the fact that we are on the road to Hell, THEN man has a choice he must make!

It is THEN that the man becomes responsible. If he chooses to repent and serve his God, all the BLESSINGS named in Deut. 28:2-14 will take place in his life. If he refuses to repent and serve God, all the CURSES named in Deut. 28:15-47 will take place in his life. How clearly does the Bible teach that a man MUST CHOOSE his own destiny.

Deut. 30:15-19, **"See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;**

16 In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but

shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them;

18 I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.

19 I call Heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."

It is scripturally true that man is not responsible BEFORE God has opened his Spiritual eyes (John 6:44), because he has no will to come to God. He is NOT A FREE-MORAL AGENT UNTIL God calls him and opens his eyes. But, from the time that he is shown his spiritual condition, he IS A FREE-MORAL AGENT. God, at that time, restores his will to him that has previously been under the control of Satan! It is because that God restores man's free will to him that he then becomes responsible to God. With his will loosed from the power of Satan to the degree that he now can make his own choices, God requires it of him. Our precious Br. Pink saw half the picture, the part where man was born lost, with his will under Satan's control, but he did not see that when God calls man, He restores his free will so that he not only CAN CHOOSE, but also that he MUST!

We are investigating the Scriptures and the Message concerning the matter of Free-Moral Agency. It is of vital importance that we understand Free-Moral Agency so that we will be able to see that rather than our Righteous God electing some to be lost without reason, He gives every man a CHOICE of Heaven or Hell. And not only does He give him the choice, but He does all that is possible to lead him to the right

choice. Far from electing some to be lost without cause, His great Heart is broken when we fail to choose Him!

Ezek. 18: 21-23, "But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

22 All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live.

23 Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? Saith the Lord GOD: [and] not that he should return from his ways, and live?"

Our Prophet taught that our eternal destination is a choice. That is to say after God has called us and opened our spiritual eyes so that we see our terrible need!

QUOTE: CHOOSING A BRIDE, 1965 PAGES 6-7, "Your eternal destination is a choice, and maybe tonight some of you will make the choice of where you will spend eternity—before this service ends tonight. There will be one time that...If you turn God down many times, there will be one time that you will turn Him down the last time. There is a line between mercy and judgment, and it is a dangerous thing for a man or a woman, boy or girl, to step across that line, for there is no return when you step across that deadline. So tonight, it might be the time that many will make their decision where they will spend the endless eternity.

Remember, when the Jubilee Year come, and the priest rode with his trumpet sounding that every slave could go free, but if they refused to accept their freedom, then he had to be taken into the temple to a post and an awl bored him through the ear, and then he served his master always. And it was put on his ear

as a type of hearing. Faith cometh by hearing. He heard that trumpet, but he didn't want to listen to it.

And many times man and women hear God's Truth and see It vindicated and proven Truth, but yet they don't want to hear It. There is some other reason. There is some other choosing that they have than to face up to Truth and facts. Therefore, their ears can be closed to the Gospel. They'll never hear It again. My advice to you, when God speaks to your heart, you act right then.

Elijah gave then a choice which they should, "Choose you this day whom you shall serve. If God be God serve Him; but if Baal be God, serve him." (End quote)

Scripture teaches that man has a choice, and that he must choose. If he must choose, then it stands to reason that he has the ability to choose, and that ability is what we call Free-Moral Agency. We present the following Scriptures as proof of this statement.

Mat. 13:15, "**Their heart is gross, their ears are dull of hearing, AND THEIR EYES THEY HAVE CLOSED.**" (Not that God refused them Salvation, but that they refused it. God called them but they closed their own eyes and ears.)

John 5:40, "**You WILL NOT come to Me that you might have life.**" (Life is offered to everyone that will come.)

Mark 8:34, "**And when He had called the people unto Him with His Disciples also, He said unto them, WHOSOEVER will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.**"

Mark 3:35, "**Whosoever shall do the will of God the same is my Brother and My Sister and My Mother.**"

Rev. 22:17, "**And the Spirit and the Bride say come. And let him that heareth say come. And let**

him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

Joshua 24:15, “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, **CHOOSE** you this day whom you will serve.....”

QUOTE: SEAL BOOK, PAGE 126, “Alright, He had to stay there, because He came to die for those that God had ordained to Eternal Life. By His foreknowledge he saw them, NOT BY HIS OWN WILL. His will was THAT NONE SHOULD PERISH.” (End quote) (Notice, God did not, without reason, elect some to be saved and some to be lost.)

John 7:37, “In the last day, that great day of the Feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst let him come unto Me and drink.” (Notice, the call was to “Any Man.”)

These Scriptures and many more, teach Free-Moral Agency. But in no way do they do away with the fact that man was not free in his will BEFORE God called him and convicted him of sin. Free-moral Agency actually started in Heaven when God set before all his God-like Angels the choice of following Lucifer or Himself. Knowing before He created him that Lucifer would rebel, God still created him, and placed him in Heaven to act out his Free-Moral Agency. From the Scriptures that declare that one-third of the Angels rebelled with Lucifer, and two-thirds stayed with their Creator, we clearly see that they were all presented with a CHOICE. This choice would not have been possible had they not been created Free-Moral Agents.

And so Free-Moral Agency, having been instigated in Heaven, was continued on Earth with Adam and Eve. Again, we say that they were presented with the choice of obeying or disobeying the Lord, thus

proving that they were Free-Moral Agents with the ability, and the right, to choose. Having chosen wrong, they lost their Free-Moral Agency, and had God not *Called Them*, they could never have come back to God. But thanks be to God He did call them after they fell, and lost their free will. Gen. 3:8-9, “And they heard the voice 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 amongst the trees of the Garden. And the Lord God CALLED UNTO ADAM, and said unto him, Where art thou?”

In reading between the lines of Scripture, we can see that the Lord explained His plan of Salvation to the couple, in that He would kill an innocent lamb in their place, waiting the time when the true Lamb of God would shed His own Blood. In other words, they were CALLED and made aware of their terrible plight, and this call was the return of their Free-Moral Agency. It was Grace all the way, up to the point of the return of their Free-Moral Agency, then they had to accept God’s offer of forgiveness, or choose to stay hid in the trees. They chose to repent and accept God’s Grace!

Now, let us look further into the fact that the Angels in Heaven were created as Free-Moral Agents, including Lucifer, himself! We will see that neither Lucifer, nor any of the Angels that followed him were “Elected” to be lost without rhyme or reason, but rather that God had righteous reason for their permanent ruin. Knowing the perfect, loving, merciful nature and character of our God, we can know it was with a broken heart that He expelled them from Heaven! The Scripture declares that Lucifer was created a perfect being, but was later found with sin in him.

Ezekiel 28:1-2 & 6-8, “The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord God; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:

6 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God;

7 Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness.

8 They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die the deaths of [them that are] slain in the midst of the seas.

Notice God’s reason for expelling Lucifer and the Angels that followed him. It was BECAUSE his heart was lifted up (in pride). In verse six, it was BECAUSE he set his heart as the heart of God. Can we see that the Devil himself was not ELECTED to be lost without cause! It was not just because God was God and had a right to do with His creation as He willed. Although this is a true statement, He could have done whatsoever He willed, but His will was that, “...Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16) His will was that “.....The wicked man turn from his wickedness that he has committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, and he shall save his soul alive.” (Ezekiel 18:27). His will was that “.....Whosoever will let him take the water of life freely.” (Rev. 22:17) His will was that, “...Whosoever wants to come af-

ter Me let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me.” (Mark 8:34)

Can we see that the Devil himself was not elected to be lost for no reason. His choice was to rebel, therefore, God’s Hand was forced. Now if Satan himself was not elected to be lost without cause, how can we accuse God of doing so with any others of His Creation? We are taught that God “**Changes not**” and that He is “**The same yesterday, today, and forever.**”

I have chosen some statements that Br. Branham made after the Seals were opened, concerning the Bible doctrine of Free-Moral Agency.

QUOTE: MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE 1965, PAGE 25, “Now, He could not be just and make a man to fall. He had to put him on equal basis of free-moral agency to make his own choice but knowing he would fall. Now, He can’t be a Saviour unless something’s lost. He can’t be a Healer unless something’s sick. These things had to be that way. God made them thus, so that His great attributes could be displayed. If there wasn’t none, He’d never been a Saviour. But we know He was; even before there was a time, He was a Saviour. He was a Saviour. So there has to be something lost. How is it going to be? If He takes and loses it just in order to save it, then it isn’t justice to His judgment. He couldn’t send a man to Hell and be just. He’s kind, gentle, true, honest, and He’s a great

Judge. See, He’d be working against Himself. So He had to put a man out here and make him on free-moral agency so he would-knowing would fall.” (End quote)

QUOTE: THINGS THAT ARE TO BE, RIALTO, CA V-4 N-6 65-1205, “And all the words of God has to be fulfilled; therefore, we know that Jesus has gone to prepare a place to receive a people unto Himself. Who those people are, I hope it’s—we are part of those people tonight. If it isn’t, my friend, God has made a way, a condition, that you can be included in that if you want to. You’re on free-moral agency; you can act the way you wish to.” (End quote)

QUOTE: POWER OF TRANSFORMATION, PRESCOTT, AZ 65-1031M, “And then Adam deliberately knowing he ought not to have done it, walked out with his wife and did this act. Which, finally he would’ve come to it anyhow. But see, it had to be that way, the wisdom of God, ‘cause this-then that displays His attribute to be a Saviour, Father, Healer. You’ve heard me preach on that. See? Now, if that hadn’t have been done...

He just let them out there on free-moral agency to let them act. He couldn’t make them do it, and then still be just. But He could put them equal with Him in free-moral agency, and then let them do it themselves. And He knew they would do it.” (End quote)

QUOTE: CONFERENCES, TUCSON, AZ JUNE 1963, “And

you’re the same way this morning. You can accept life, or turn life down. But God made man thus, that knowing he would do it, not willing that he should do it, but knowing he would do it—that it would display His attributes. So there’s nothing out of time. Everything’s ticking just exactly according to God’s great timepiece. See? And this only displays his attributes, to select his children who really love Him and believe Him. And every man has an equal right. God being infinite, knew from the beginning what would be and what wouldn’t be, so therefore He wasn’t willing that any....but being infinite He’d have to know. So therefore He could say that He would have a church without spot or wrinkle, because He knew He would have it. He’s God.” (End quote)

QUOTE: LEADERSHIP, COVINA, CA V-7 N-7 65-1207, “...You are a mortal being and you are given the—you are given the opportunity of choice. You have a choice. God made it so you can choose. If He put Adam and Eve on free-moral agency so they could choose, and then they made the wrong choice. And, see, He can do no more to you than He did to them, He’s got to put you the same thing so you can choose or reject.” (End quote)

May God bless His Word and His End-time Message to our hearts! Amen.

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