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Ministry Teaching Letter

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Word from the Watchman - Election or Free Will?

For centuries a debate has raged within theological circles. Which is the Truth: Election or Free Will?

ELECTION (or Predestination)

From the foundation of the world, God foreknew who would believe in him, and accept his only begotten Son as Savior. Therefore, **GOD HAS ALREADY CHOSEN** who will be saved, and who will be lost.

FREE WILL

Every person born into this world has been created by God with a Free Will. Therefore, **EVERY PERSON MUST CHOOSE** if they will accept Jesus Christ and be saved, or reject him and be lost.

So, which doctrine is right? Which one is the Truth? Actually, both are Truth. Why? Because, both are in the Word of God and all the Word of God is Truth.

How can this be? The two doctrines are opposed to one another. The words of Jesus in Luke 18:27 give us a really good answer: "...*The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.*" (NKJV).

Here is a Scripture that confirms Election (or Predestination):

"For whom He FOREKNEW, He also PREDESTINED to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." Romans 8:29 (NKJV).

But, listen also to a Scripture that confirms Free Will:

"...AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name." (John 1:12 NKJV).

Please turn the page over ➡

Recently, on Christian TV, I heard a Minister of the Gospel strongly emphasizing the doctrine of Election. Although what he was teaching was Truth, his teaching was out-of-balance, because he never even mentioned Free Will.

To strongly emphasize Election, while ignoring Free Will could lead to serious problems. For example...

Unbelievers, who hear teaching that overemphasizes Election, could begin to have foolish thoughts, and make foolish remarks: ***"Well, since I am going to Hell anyway, I may as well eat, drink and be merry, and indulge in all the sin my flesh desires. And, when I get to Hell, me and my friends will have a big party down there."***

Even believers – especially new or immature Christians – who are not yet grounded in God's Word, could hear such out-of-balance teaching, and become fearful, and needlessly begin to worry: ***"What if I am not chosen?"***

So, in this Teaching Letter, I will focus on the doctrine of **FREE WILL**, lest anyone should become confused.

CONFIRMATION OF FREE WILL – POINT # 1

The most well known verse of Scripture in the Bible clearly reveals that God so loved the whole world. He did not just love those in the world who will be saved because of predestination. Furthermore, that Scripture declares that **WHOEVER** believes in Jesus will be saved:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16 NKJV).

CONFIRMATION OF FREE WILL – POINT # 2

Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. He did not die just for the sins of those who would be saved because of Election:

"And He Himself is the propitiation (or, sacrifice) for our sins, and not for ours only but also FOR THE WHOLE WORLD." (1 John 2:2 NKJV).

CONFIRMATION OF FREE WILL – POINT # 3

God's Amazing Grace, which provides us with Salvation, has appeared to everyone; not just to those who were chosen before the foundation of the world:

"For the grace of God that brings salvation HAS APPEARED TO ALL MEN, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age." (Titus 2:11-12 NKJV).

CONFIRMATION OF FREE WILL – POINT # 4

Hell was prepared for Satan and his angels (see Matthew 25:41) Hell was not prepared for human beings. It is not God's will, nor his plan, to send any person to Hell, even though he **FOREKNEW** who would accept Jesus as Savior, and who would reject him:

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering toward us, NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH, but that ALL should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9 NKJV).

CONFIRMATION OF FREE WILL – POINT # 5

The final words of Jesus Christ – as recorded in the Bible – make the doctrine of **FREE WILL** abundantly clear:

"...let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (from Revelation 22:17 KJV).

Pertaining to **ELECTION** and **FREE WILL**, there is a well known illustration within The Church of Jesus Christ, which I have heard many times over many years. This famous illustration sort of sums up the matter. This well known saying is attributed to respected, departed Bible Teacher: Dwight L. Moody...

He envisioned a **DOOR** (which is symbolic of Christ). Above the door is written the words: "**WHOSOEVER WILL MAY COME.**" Then, when someone walks through the door – by accepting Jesus as Savior – then turns around, and looks back, above the door is written the words: "**CHOSEN BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.**"

For concluding remarks, please turn the page over ➤

There is a verse of Scripture, which contains both **ELECTION** and **FREE WILL**. Interestingly, this is the Scripture the Holy Spirit gave me when Barbara went Home to Heaven; specifically, to assure me that my beloved wife was with the Lord.

So, listen to these decisive words, but also comforting words spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ from John 6:37:

"ALL THAT THE FATHER GIVES ME WILL COME TO ME, and THE ONE WHO COMES TO ME I WILL BY NO MEANS CAST OUT" (or, drive away). (NKJV).

IN CONCLUSION

As long as there is God's Grace, there will also be **FREE WILL**. As long as there is Free Will, there will also be hope. So, keep on praying for those loved ones, who have not yet accepted God's **FREE GIFT** of Salvation.