

THE GUIDELINE*Psalms 31:3***CHOICES**

See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; 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. But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; 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. 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:(Deut.30:15-19)

The above passages bring to light the clear teaching that men on this earth will always be obligated to make choices until the end of the ages. We can choose to do good or we can choose to do evil. From our selected passage we learn that if we choose to keep God's commandments we shall live, but if we choose not to keep his commandments we shall perish. Whether a person chooses to keep God's commandments and live or turn their hearts away and perish is the difference in heaven and hell, "...Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:.....And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." (Matt. 25:31-46)

I believe this can be understood by the simplest of minds, but along come supposed "intelligent men" who say otherwise. One of the most miserable doctrines of men is found in the false doctrines of Calvin. Here is an excerpt from the Presbyterian Confession of Faith in which Calvin's teaching has found residence,

"God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass." Presbyterian Confession of Faith, chap. iii, sec 1. "Question 12: "God's decrees are the wise, free, and holy acts of the counsel of his will, whereby, from all eternity, he has, for his own glory, unchangeably fore-ordained whatsoever comes to pass, especially concerning angels and men." (Larger Catechism)

Read this quote carefully and what do you find? We learn that this doctrine is a slap in the face of our Heavenly Father! This false doctrine teaches that it is impossible for men to err. Whatever a person does in this life according to God's fore-ordained will is acceptable and, unchangeable, and cannot be wrong. If a person lies, steals, cheats, murders, or fornicates it does not matter because God fore-ordained it. Not only did he fore-ordain it he did so "unchangeably." Can this be true?

Countless thousands believe it to be so! The Bible shows it to be false.

In Exodus 20:13-16 we have this record, *“Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”* Here we find a tremendous conflict between Calvinism and God’s word. God says thou shalt not murder yet there are thousands of murders every year. God said, Thou shalt not commit adultery yet thousands of babies are born out of wedlock every year. I can go on with these illustrations, but to get to the point, God has forbidden several things and yet people still do them. But wait! He has unchangeably ordained them. The question then is how can we resist the ordinance if God has unchangeably fore-ordained it? How do we resist the unchangeable? This obviously shows that he did not unchangeably ordain them. So Calvinism has God “fore-ordaining whatsoever comes to pass”, then condemning people to eternal hell because they did what He fore-ordained them to do! This is totally in conflict with His wonderful character, *“For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; And his truth endureth to all generations”* *“The Lord is good to all: And his tender mercies are over all his works.”* (Ps. 100:5, 145:9)

We learn from the scriptures that we choose which path we shall walk. We are responsible for what we think, (2 Cor. 10:3-5), what we know, (Prov. 5:11-13, Acts 17:30), what we believe (2 Thes. 2:12), what we say, (Matt. 12:36-37), what we do (Luke 12:47), what we love (1 John 2:15-17), what we teach (1 Tim. 2:7, James 3:1), and we are responsible for our own souls, (Heb. 13:17, Acts 2:40).

This heinous doctrine of John Calvin strips away man’s choice. If not why not? †

James Cossey

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