

WORDS OF TRUTH

A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ

Volume IX ~ Issue VI ~ November 2nd, 2008

<http://www.wordsoftruth.net>

Edited By: Brian A. Yeager



Sunrise Acres

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting at:
8625 Robert Drive
El Paso, TX 79904

915-525-5794

OUR MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Bible Class: 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:55 AM

Are You Visiting With Us?

If you are visiting with us, we want to welcome you to the Lord's church (Matthew 16:18 and Colossians 1:18). Our goal is to simply get to Heaven and to help you do the same. We use the Bible as our standard to govern what we do in our work and worship for the Lord (Colossians 3:17, II Timothy 1:13, II Timothy 3:16-17, and I Peter 4:11).

We welcome your questions and would love the opportunity to study further with you. Luke recorded a fascinating statement we all need to consider: *"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able"* (Luke 13:23-24). We invite you to join us in being one of the few that are saved!

The Denial Of "Free Moral Agency"

By: Brian A. Yeager

Most of our "brethren" would teach the truth if asked if we have the choice to do right or wrong. Most would confirm that we have free moral agency (freewill). After all, the word of God clearly teaches so. In the Old Testament we find: *"And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee... 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: That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them... Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods" (Exodus 15:26, Deuteronomy 30:19-20, and Joshua 24:14-16).*

God also shows us the freedom of choice in the New Testament: *"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister... For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done*

the will of God, ye might receive the promise... But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it... Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation” (Colossians 1:21-23, Hebrews 10:36, Luke 11:28, and John 5:28-29).

Even though most of our “brethren” would concur with the above passages, they often say and do things contrary to the truth concerning “freewill”. Some think there are guardian angels which keep us on the path of righteousness and protect us. Some think and even pray for God to open the hearts of some and give them an understanding. Some even think that God will keep them from falling away as they sing songs that teach this Calvinistic error. So, why say one thing one moment and teach the other the next? Some simply do not understand that God gives us the right to choose spiritual life and death. We will briefly examine the common errors just mentioned to aid us in having a better understanding of this basic truth!

Do Guardian Angels Protect Us and Keep Us On The Path of Righteousness?

Some pervert Matthew 18:10 in teaching that there are guardian angels. The text does not teach so. At best, we can see angels watch from Heaven what is going on here. God has and always will allow man to commit physical and spiritual errors. God will not permit one from hanging himself (Matthew 27:1-5) nor will he prevent one from sinning (Acts 8:13-24). God will allow harm to come upon one of His own children (Mark 6:17-29, Acts 3:14-15, Acts 7:51-60, and Acts 12:1-2) just as He will allow harm upon anyone else (Matthew 2:16). God will allow Christians to sin (Galatians 1:1-6) just as He will allow choice to alien sinners (Acts 21:27ff.) without sending an angel to prevent it. In fact, God has chosen preaching through men as His choice of saving souls (Mark 16:15-16, Acts 8:26-40, and Titus 1:1-3). The time wherein God used miracles to confirm the word has ceased (Mark 16:15-20 and I Corinthians 13:8-10; cf. Acts 16:22-40). God allows man to choose to obey or disobey without His direct influence either way!

Does God Open Hearts And Give An Understanding Of His Word To Us Aside From His Word?

It is the word of God that pricks the hearts of men to cause them to be saved (Acts 2:36-41, Romans 6:17, and James 1:21-25). It is also the word of God that men must search to have an understanding of His will (John 5:39). While it is true that understanding and wisdom were gifts given by the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12:3-11), that period of time has ceased (I Corinthians 13:8-13). Some simply will not use their ability to reason in understanding that if God supernaturally influences the conversion and understanding of men to His will that everyone lost would be God’s fault, not man’s fault! Brethren, it is God’s will for all to understand and obey His will (I Timothy 2:4), but He still gives US the choice (Matthew 13:1-23). We need to be consistent in what we say and teach according to the truth!

Just What Are They Teaching In Songs?

We teach by song (Colossians 3:16). We’re supposed to understand what we sing (I Corinthians 14:15). Why then do “brethren” sing songs that say: “Lead me to Calvary”, “Lord make Calvary real to me”, “Jesus, hold my hand”, “He leadeth me, by His own hand He leadeth me”, “Never let me wander from thee”, etc.? Could it be that some make statements that are false because they do not know the truth? The answer is a resounding “yes”. Sadly, many will perish because of willful ignorance (Hosea 4:6 and Acts 17:30-31).

Conclusion

God has given us all a choice in our redemption (Acts 2:40). Let’s avoid ignorance and cling to knowledge (John 8:32). If we shall be diligent in our studies we’ll not err in ignorance (II Timothy 2:15).

What must one do to be saved (Acts 2:37)? Hear and believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16 & Romans 10:17), repent of their sins (Acts 3:19), confess Christ (Acts 8:37), and be baptized (immersed) for the remission of sins into the church of Christ (Acts 2:38-41; 47, I Corinthians 12:12-13, and Romans 6:1-6; 16:16). One must then remain faithful (Colossians 1:23).