

## **FREEWILL (JND)**

J N Darby

edited David C F Wright DD

The renewed interest in the matter of freewill ministers to the false claim by the natural man that he is not entirely lost. All who have never been convicted of sin believe in personal freewill, to do whatever they like. If Christ came to save those who are lost, freewill in this particular context had no place, that is to say that man had no say, no choice, no free will in influencing God to grant salvation or to send the Lord Jesus to be our Saviour. Man did not even know God.

But God does not prevent man from receiving Christ. Far from it.

God employed and employs all possible motives and means and everything that is capable of influencing man and yet man will have none of it because he is so corrupt and his will is determined not to submit to God. Nothing will induce him to receive the Lord and forsake sin. And we must remember that Satan encourages man to sin.

If man has the freedom to sin, that obviously means that no one forces him to accept the Lord. If because of sin, he cannot neither escape from his sinful condition nor chose what is good, then he has no liberty at all. He is not, nor can he be, subject to the law so that, in his flesh, he cannot please God.

An unsaved man is called the old man; a saved man is called the new man.

Is it the old man that is changed or, in order to be saved, does the old man receive a new nature? In our day, Christianity is not completely denied nor is the rejection of Christ openly expressed but, rather, that man can be re-established as a child of God

I see in the Word of God, and I recognise in myself, the total ruin of man. I see that the Cross of Christ is the end of the means that God has employed to gain the hearts of men and, yet, this proves to be impossible because man wants to continue in his freedom to sin. God has exhausted all His resources; man has shown that he is wicked beyond recovery. The Cross condemns man and yet for those of us who believe, the judgement of sin is behind us. We are dead to sin and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Redemption loses its power when we entertain the old man. Salvation is a practical deliverance from the old man. Christianity teaches the death of the old man, his redemption through Christ, a new life, eternal life. If Arminianism, or rather Pelagianism, teaches that man can chose in order that the old man be ameliorated, made better, is false.

Such freewill that man can improve himself is a false theory. Man ought to obey the Lord, be saved and enjoy the peace of God. But man is disposed to follow that which is evil and this means that he must be indifferent. But in all things, man must have a motive. If he has none, it is because he is indifferent, showing no concern or interest. If he is not indifferent, it is because he has chosen; he has made his choice.

Man has a conscience. He has a will. He has lusts which lead him. The first man, Adam, was free in paradise and in the enjoyment of God's goodness. He made use of his freewill and became a sinner. To leave him to his freewill, now that he is disposed to do evil, would be cruelty. God is not cruel. He is the God of love not willing that any should perish, not willing that any should be lost.

God presented Adam with a choice.

People should believe that God loves the world but they should not believe that man is wicked beyond remedy. Men do not know God, nor themselves.

The Lord is coming. The time of this world is passing away. It is time for men to seek the Lord while He may be found.

---

© COPYRIGHT David C F Wright, DD 2011. No part of this article, however small, may be reproduced or stored in any system whatsoever. It must not be copied, altered or downloaded. Failure to comply is illegal being theft and contrary to International Copyright law and will render any offender liable to action at law.