

Sermon Handout

Is Man's Will Free?

Ephesians 1:3-8

I. God's Sovereignty in Election Eph 1:3-8

- a. Chosen in Christ vv. 3-4
 - i. Before the founding of the world *cf.* I Pet 1:18-21
 - ii. To be holy and blameless *cf.* Rom 8:29
- b. An act of God is required to bring us to Christ Jn 6:41-44
 - i. Salvation is of God, not of ourselves Tit 3:3-7; Eph 2:8-10
 - ii. Men are made alive by the will of the Father Jn 5:19-24

II. What About Man's Will: Is It Free?

- a. "Free will"
 - i. Pelagius: Adam's sin not transmitted to his posterity.
 - ii. Augustine: "Freedom is sufficient for evil" not enough for good.
- b. The doctrine of total depravity
 - i. Gen 6:5; Jer 17:9-11; Rom 1:21; Eph 4:17-19
 - ii. Doesn't mean men can't do what is just and good (*see* Calvin)
- c. Phases in human history – the limitations of "free will"
 - i. Pre-fall Adam – contrary choice
 - ii. Post-fall unregenerate mankind – alternative choice
 - iii. The redeemed in Christ – contrary choice II Cor 5:17; Eph 4:21-24
 - iv. Glorified man after the general resurrection – alternative choice
- d. Man's freedom of will without grace is restricted by his fallen nature
 - i. We are not preaching to pre-fall men but post-fall men
 - ii. Eph 2:1-9; Rom 5:8-12 *cf.* Jn 6:44
 - iii. Kuyper's illustration of the shackled man.

III. Salvation is a free gift of the Sovereign God

- a. Chosen in Christ before creation Eph 1:4, 7-9
- b. It is God's doing, not ours Eph 2:8-10; Phil 2:12-13

Closing: Daniel 6:10-16

Unlike Darius, God is not bound by a law higher than himself.

As Bible believing Christians, we must not sacrifice God's grace on the altar of man's free will. To do so is a sacrilege.