

A tale of two Gospels

"Repent, that you may be forgiven" vs. believe, that you may be saved. Salvation by forgiveness through repentance vs. salvation by grace through faith, are absolutely two different gospels. One is based in man's "Free-Will"; the other one is based on "Justification by faith Alone"

Did we inherit the "Freedom of the Will" with which we were created, or did we inherit the "Bondage of the Will" with which we left the Garden? The answer to this question is the foundation of sound doctrine.

Yes, God created us with "Free will". He also created us naked and innocent, and then we sinned. Now we have to cover our nakedness and go about in a state of guilt. What happened to the Will? Did it remain intact? or did it come under the bondage of the fallen nature, just like every other part of Man?

If man can choose to obey God, to believe in Christ, and to depart from sin, out of sheer volition, then Grace is irrelevant. But if man is dead in trespasses, and his will is bound to his death, then Grace alone can bring him back. Dust can make itself bodily alive so much as a man who is spiritually dead can raise himself up to a spiritual life. As it is written: *"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith He has loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ; by grace are ye saved. Ephesians 2:4-5.*

Man cannot exercise saving faith, any more than Lazarus could have heard the voice of the Lord, make a decision to obey it, and wake up by the exercise of his will. Lazarus had no part in his resurrection, he was dead; dead is dead, he woke up by the Sovereign Will of Him, who alone has Free Will. Man cannot "repent" without the operation of Grace. Will's self-determination is a contradiction of terms. By such way of thinking, we are describing man as a "Sovereign" moral agent. Can there be more than one Sovereign Will in the universe? Does God's Sovereignty demand all other moral agent's choices to be measured, allowed or disallowed by the one Sovereign Will? Can God be sovereign, if there exist any other moral agent with the ability to govern his decisions all by himself? Or is God the one who operates in us the willing and the doing? In which case we find ourselves acting willingly, but not by our own will, but willingly by His Will. If God is not able to soften; or harden for that matter, the heart of man, without man's consent, then He is not Sovereign. And if He is not Sovereign, He is not God. Sorry Free-willers, Salvation is of the Lord

A forgiven sinner is a sinner; And sinners will not inherit the Kingdom of God. It takes more than forgiveness to be saved, it takes justification, which is obtained by Grace through Faith. Did Jesus forgive mankind from the Cross? If the answer is yes, then hell is full of forgiven sinners. A justified man is just, as in “not guilty”

Justification is not a Pardon, but an acquittal

