The Gospel For Misinformed Christians

As a new Christian and actually for almost the first 10 years as a Born-Again believer, I “learned” theology from reading lots and lots of biblically inaccurate Gospel tracts and from bits and pieces of sermons and Sunday School lessons. Yet in those first 10 years I never realized that what I was reading and hearing was not really the true Gospel of Jesus Christ but rather what is called the “Free-Will” gospel or more specifically, the doctrine of Arminianism, named after Jacobus Arminius. Also, something called “prevenient grace” had to be invented in order to deal with (get around) the Biblical reality of Original Sin and Total Depravity, which are things about an unregenerated sinner that make the free-will gospel an impossibility. This “other gospel” has so permeated Christianity that it is preached and accepted as the “one true gospel delivered to the saints” in practically every church and seminary that calls itself “bible believing” nowadays, except those that still adhere to the doctrine known as “Calvinism“. Sadly, most Christians in these “free-will” environments don’t learn the truth because the institutions they are in actually have an entire system of bad theology built around their Arminian free-will “gospel” that undermines each point of the corresponding correct theology in Calvinism. For more information about this subject check out our articles about predestination and free-will. In the meantime, let me summarize my above claims about the false free-will (Arminian) gospel by example:

The average Christian who has not learned salvation correctly will say: **But, but, I have a free will…**

You say we all have a free will? Do you even know what that means? Check out our article “The Myth Of Free-Will” (by Walter Chantry) to learn why your will is not as free as you may think it is, especially in regards to seeking God and worshipping God in Spirit and in truth.

You say some choose Christ and some don’t? The Bible says you’ve got it backwards… Scripture says God does the choosing as indicated throughout scripture (for example: John 15:16&19, 2Thess 2:13).

You say the sin of unbelief condemns people to hell (while the Bible says their SIN condemns them to hell – all their sin – not just the sin of unbelief).

The Bible says that none of the unsaved seek after God (Romans 3:11). Are you the one and only exception that sought after God even while you were yet unregenerated?

The Bible says the unsaved are spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1). Are you the one and only exception that was a spiritually alive unsaved person?

The Bible says that the unsaved are slaves to sin (Galatians 4:3). Are you the one and only exception that was not a slave to sin before you were saved?

The Bible says the unsaved are spiritually blind, and lame and naked (Revelation 3:17). Are you the one and only exception that was not blind, not lame and were fully clothed prior to salvation?

The Bible says the unsaved are spiritually lost (Luke 19:10). Are you the one and only exception that was not lost? You knew where you were going? You knew you were headed for heaven?

The Bible says that the unsaved are enemies of God (Romans 8:7-8). Are you the one and only exception that was not an enemy? You were just an "average" guy waiting for an opportune time to accept Christ?

The Bible says that the unsaved are at the mercy of God (Luke 18:13). Are you the one and only exception to that rule too? God was at your mercy, waiting and hoping for you to accept His Son?

Sorry Charlie. God is God. His is in charge. His is sovereign. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. You are most definitely at His mercy, like it or not.

But **you say** God is a gentleman… He won't force anybody to accept Him against their will.

The Bible does not call God a gentleman. In fact it says in Daniel chapter 4, verse 35:

> Daniel 4:35 – "All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and **he doeth according to his will** in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?"

Notice that in the above verse from Daniel, it does not say "He doeth according to His will unless an unsaved sinner does something to change His plans".

And here is a "free will" preacher's least favorite Bible passage in their least favorite chapter (Romans chapter 9):

> Romans 9:18-21 – "Therefore **hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth**. Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?"

They may argue that it does not mean what it says, because in their minds it sounds like a God who is "not fair". What is not fair is for God to have had to sacrifice His only begotten Son to save *anyone*. We are talking about grace and mercy here, for people totally unfit for the holiness of heaven. We are not talking "fairness" from the perspective of those whose opinions are seriously prejudiced and blinded by sin.

If God is going to have a people for Himself, **He has no choice but to make sinners willing** precisely because they are lost, blind, lame, naked, dead, helpless and without hope, unless He intervenes and takes out their heart of stone and gives them a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 36:25-27).

Oh, but wouldn't that make us just a bunch of "puppets" (or "robots") if God chose us rather than us choosing Him? What it makes you is alive when you were dead. And if indeed, God is the potter and we are the clay, then He can do what He wishes with the clay (read Ephesians chapter 1 if you need more clarification on what God does in regards to electing sinners to salvation). If the lost sinner is the one who ensures his or her own salvation, then it makes the sinner something better than LOST, something better than God says he or she is.

> Sinners become willing in the day that God exercises HIS power to make them willing, through regeneration:
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> Psalms 110:3 – "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power."
>
> Philippians 2:13 – "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."
>
> Ezekiel 36:27 – "And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."

The bottom line is this:

People who think they get saved by accepting Christ and not solely by a supernatural act of the Almighty (and through the preaching of the gospel) have seriously misunderstood what it means to be LOST. If you are one of those folks then you have a BIG problem. What is that you ask? **You attribute to yourself qualities and abilities that God himself declares are NOT IN YOU, like the ability to turn to God while yet unsaved.**

If you are truly saved, then and only then should you consider reading the following, and meditate upon these statements and the referenced scriptures, accepting them as Biblical truth:
Christ died for the ungodly. (Romans 5:6)
I am ungodly apart from the Spirit of God dwelling within me. (2 Corinthians

13:5)
I was lost but now am found. (Luke 19:10)
I did not find myself. God sought me out and found ME. (Romans 10:20)
I did not choose God. God chose me. (John 15:16)
God chose me from before the foundation of the world. (Ephesians 1:4)
I was spiritually dead and did not even know it so how in the world could I have sought God. (Ephesians 2:1)
God had to open my spiritual eyes and save me before I was capable of knowing Him, seeking Him, following Him, or serving Him. (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

What the free-will churches have done is they have rewritten the gospel:

This "new and improved" modern gospel accomplishes the following:
Makes man better than God says he is, and therefore capable of choosing the God that he is in rebellion against.

Makes God less than the Bible says He is, and therefore not electing people but rather relinquishing that task to those (the spiritually dead) who are actually incapable of accomplishing it.

Creates LOTS of false converts – people who think they are saved simply because they recited some "salvation" prayer, responded to an emotional plea to accept Christ, etc.

You say that's not exactly true, do you? You say you agree that God elected people but only those whom He saw would choose Him when He looked down the corridors of time. What nonsense! That's not choosing. That's letting someone else do the choosing and then saying you did the choosing. That's called "lying". God's not a liar. Either HE did the choosing or the spiritually dead sinner does the choosing. And in my Bible, **God says He does the choosing**:

> 1Corinthians 1:28 – "And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God **chosen**"
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> John 15:16 – "Ye have not chosen me, but I have **chosen** you , and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."
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> 2 Thessalonians 2:13 – "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning **chosen** you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth"
>
> John 15:19 – "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world,

therefore the world hateth you."

Ephesians 1:5 – "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will"

In order to "have an answer for everything" (meaning every objection to their free-will theology), these free-will churches have also distorted the truth about:
Whom God loves
Whom Jesus died for (see also: The Extent Of The Atonement)
What Christ accomplished at the cross
Whether or not you can lose your salvation
Whether or not a person's will can resist or overpower God's will
Whether or not "the sin of unbelief" is the unforgivable sin
What happens to infants and children when they die

Does it matter if I believe in Free Will?

Does it really matter if a Christian believes and preaches the "free-will" gospel, that says a person can become saved of their own free-will by accepting Christ as their savior, while yet unregenerated? After all, shouldn't Christians just agree to disagree at times? The real question is, does it matter to God if a Christian believes the truth about God, the truth about the extent of the lostness of mankind and the truth about the Gospel of salvation? Read these Bible verses and then decide for yourself if it matters what you believe about these things:

3John 1:4 – "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

Galatians 1:6-9 – "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

John 18:36-38 – "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, What is truth?"

Summary

I strongly urge you to think “outside the box”, meaning: do your own bible studies independent of your own church or denomination. If you have never spent lots of quality time looking at Calvinism and why it is an absolutely true biblical doctrine and it is actually just a very accurate and concise summary of the Gospel, then how can you be sure that you have not been misled about the most important and essential of all doctrines in Christianity?

I also recommend that you do some research into Church history. Find out who the Reformers were of the Protestant Reformation. Find out what they believed. Find out how modern day churches have drifted away from sound Biblical teaching regarding the sovereignty of God and the depravity of man. Read books that were written by great Bible teachers of the past like John Gill, Martin Luther, John Owen, John Calvin, Matthew Henry, Charles Spurgeon, Robert Young, Arthur Pink and others. And read biographies ABOUT these people so that you will know why they are worth learning from. Ask yourself why so many churches and so many Christian book stores are full of books that were published recently by people who are popular for reasons that have nothing to do with the deep things of scripture, but simply because they are good story tellers who don’t know any more about the sovereignty of God and depravity of man than most other professing Christians.

And lastly, I have to admit that I personally believe that Matthew 24:24* (and Galatians chapter 1) is referring to the false “free will” gospel that has replaced the unpopular truth of salvation by grace alone with the much more popular gospel of “accepting Christ”, as if the Alpha and Omega was just one more god at a religious salad bar for self-righteous sinners of the world to choose from. As for me, I don’t tell people to “accept Christ” to get saved. I tell them what sin is to a thrice holy God. I tell them about God’s Law and that they are law-breakers. I tell them that all human righteousness is as filthy rags to God. I tell them what God tells me to tell them… from scripture. God will use my preaching as He sees fit, to convert or condemn the hearers who are lost – and to comfort, encourage, sharpen and perhaps chastise the hearers who are saved.

Don’t like this message? Well then you are not alone… Regarding the biblical doctrine of *election* John MacArthur has rightly stated: “It’s like the doctrine of eternal punishment. It conflicts with the dictates of the carnal mind. It’s repugnant to the sentiments of the unregenerate heart.” Which is why Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:18: “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”. Surely “the power of God” mentioned in the previous sentence is not referring to sinner’s choosing God, but rather God regenerating sinners through the power of the Holy Spirit. People who don’t like the doctrines of election and predestination are either unsaved or they may be genuine Christians who just have a lot of bad biblical teaching to “unlearn”. — RM Kane