

# What Does the Bible Teach About the Freewill of Jesus?

June 30, 2022 Thursday  
Indepth Bible Class of the  
Trilacoochee church of Christ

# Do We Understand What Free Will Is?

- “The power of self-determination; the ability to choose one's actions and to determine what reasons are acceptable motivation for actions; the doctrine that human beings are able to choose their actions without being caused to do so by external forces.” *(Wiki)*

# Do We Understand What Free Will Is?

- God has given us the power to decide what we are going to do and the ability to know why we choose to do it; we are not forced to make choices and take actions by agencies outside of our own will.
- We may feel pressured to make choices we do not like by circumstances we like even less, but they are still our choices.

# Does The Fact That God Knows The Future Mean That Our Choices Are Pre-Determined?

- God is not bound by time. He lives apart and outside of it. Past, present and future are all known to Him.
- Just because He has access to the future does not mean that He has foreordained that those things will be, any more than knowing the past does not mean He returns there to change it.
- Knowing a matter before it happens does not mandate that He makes it happen.

# Why Did God Give Man Free Will?

- God is love. If God is love itself, then He must love things outside of Himself.
- If people do not have the freedom to choose good or evil, they are simply extensions of God, and He cannot love them as something outside of Himself.

# Why Did God Give Man Free Will?

- In addition, if a person does not have free will to choose goodness and faith, then all of the commandments in the Bible to love God and neighbor are worthless, since no one can choose to do or not them.
- It is impossible that a God who is love and infinite wisdom would give impossible commandments.

# The Freewill Of Humankind

- Freewill was given to humankind from the beginning.
  - Gen. 4:7 - “If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”
  - Deut. 30:19 - “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.”
  - Joshua 24:15 - “And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

# The Freewill Of Humankind

- Rom. 6:16 - “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”
- Rev. 22:17 - “And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”
- Acts 17:30 - “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.”



# The Freewill Of Humankind

- Acts 13:48 - “Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.”
- Rom. 8:29-30 - “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”
- Acts 10:35 - “But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.”

# The Freewill Of Humankind

- 2Thes. 2:11-12 - “And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”
- 2Tim. 1:9 - “Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.”

# The Freewill Of Humankind

- Jude 4 - “For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

# The Freewill Of Jesus

- Jesus became flesh.
  - John 1:14 - “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”
  - Phil. 2:5-8 - “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

# The Freewill Of Jesus

- Heb. 10:5 - “Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: ‘Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.’”
- Heb. 2:14-18 - “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. 17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”

# The Freewill Of Jesus

- The temptation of Jesus
  - Matt. 4:1-11
- Scripture states that Jesus willingly became human. He willingly submitted to being tortured and crucified.
  - He stated that He could call twelve legions of angels to fight for Him. He didn't. He did it all by choice. Choice means free will.

# What Then, Did Jesus Choose By Means Of His Free Will?

- John 10:17-18 - “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”
- John 12:32-33 - “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself. 33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.”

# What Then, Did Jesus Choose By Means Of His Free Will?

- Luke 22:41-44 - “And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done. 43 Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. 44 And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”
- Matt. 26:47-56
- Luke 23:20-46



# What Then, Did Jesus Choose By Means Of His Free Will?

- Heb. 1:1-3 - “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”
- Heb. 5:7-9 - “Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, 8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.”

# The Freewill Of Jesus Mandates The Use Of Our Freewill

- Please understand free will.
- God has given humankind three gifts that have no equal: an eternal soul, the means of saving our souls, and the self-determination to choose to do so.
- The world speaks of free will often:
  - “You are free to the choice that you want, but you are not free from the consequences of that choice.” (*Itayi Garande, Broken Families*)

# The Freewill Of Jesus Mandates The Use Of Our Freewill

- “That's the thing about freewill: Every decision we make is a choice against something as much as it is for something else.” *(Rebecca Serle)*
- Even the father of Calvinism praised free will: “We do not run to Christ on our feet but by faith; not with the movement of the body, but with the freewill of the heart. Think not that thou art drawn against thy will: the mind can be drawn by love.” *(Augustine of Hippo)*
- “Part of any gift is the right to refuse the gift.” *(Craig Lounsbrough)*

# The Freewill Of Jesus Mandates The Use Of Our Freewill

- “Free will makes good or evil mean something; without it, good or evil is instinct and therefore beyond judgment. “Now there is discoverable in man, Freewill. His actions are of moral value to him if they are undertaken upon his own initiative; not if they are undertaken under compulsion. Therefore the use of choice is necessary to human dignity. A man deprived of choice is by that the less a man, and this we all show through the repugnance excited in us by unauthorized restraint and subjection, through coercion rather than authority, to another’s will. We cannot do good, or even evil, unless we do it freely; and if we admit the idea of good at all in human society, freedom must be its accompaniment.” *(Hilaire Belloc)*

# The Freewill Of Jesus Mandates The Use Of Our Freewill

- God has made this eminently clear in His word:
  - James 1:13-16 - “Let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.”
  - John 7:17 - “If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.”