

HUMAN WILL

Does man have a choice relative to acceptance of God's righteous demands? Only to a limited extent - he may choose to believe thru assent of heart and mind, or he may choose to remain in unbelief. The confirmation is given in John 3:18,36. See Acts 17:30,31.

It is impossible for man to understand the "Mystery of Godliness" with the natural mind (1 Tim. 3:16). The Word of God contrasts human wisdom with the wisdom of God - see 1 Cor. 1:18-25. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Cor. 2:13,14). God is a spirit (John 4:24), and says of Himself, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways" (Isa. 55:8). God is eternal (a fact beyond our comprehension), and when asked by Moses of His identity could say "I am That I am" (Gen.3:13,14) The Bible states "without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Heb.11:6).

Our conscience can convict us of sin (see John 8:9), but conviction is spiritually meaningful only when of the Holy Spirit of God (John 16:7-11), who even to this day is striving with man (Gen.6:3). "Now is the accepted time ... now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). When a sinner gives assent of mind and heart in trusting faith to God's offer of salvation through Christ Jesus, the miracle of the new birth occurs (John 3:5). It is all of God (John 1:13). Read Romans 10:13, 17 carefully.

God does not hate the sinner, but rather the sins. Because He is Holy, Righteous, and Just, sin (and therefore the sinner) is condemned before Him because righteousness cannot be compromised. We gain some understanding of righteousness compromised, in the viewing of "light and inequitable sentences" of criminals, before our bars of justice. That God does not hate the sinner, but rather loves the sinner, is abundantly clear in the Bible. Amongst other verses, see 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Cor. 8:9; Rom.5:6,8; John 3:16; 1 John 4:10. I have some understanding, because I love my children even when I hate some of their actions. God showed His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners (unlovely and unlikeable), Christ died for our sins.

He who is "almost persuaded" and dies will be altogether lost. And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment (Heb. 9:27). Scripture speaks of a man who exercised many choices, for he said "I will" again and again. But God said ... - see Luke 12:16-21.

Be not ashamed . . .

To serve others for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and to be looked upon as poor in the eyes of the world.
If you possess riches do not glory in them, nor in friends;
but glory in God who provides you with all things,
and above all, desires to give you Himself.

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