

## Whosoever Will - cont.

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can't help myself..." or "he's a victim of society". We chose to sin. We are not forced to sin against our will (James 1:13-15). We are not born with a predisposition, tendency, or inclination to sin (Ecclesiastes 7:29).

We also learn that the gospel invitation is offered to all and you can freely accept it or reject it. Jesus invites all (Matthew 11:28-30; John 7:37; Revelation 3:20). Whosoever will may come (Revelation 22:17). Friend, you have free-will to accept the gospel and you have free-will to reject it. A saved person can also freely "fall from grace" later in life (Galatians 5:4).

We also learn that all people need to be taught how to make the proper, free-will choices between right and wrong. We need to make good choices in life based upon guidance from God's word (Psalm 25:12).

Finally, we learn that all mankind will stand accountable (morally responsible) before God in the judgment day for their free-will choices. All mankind will be judged according to what they have freely chosen to do in this life, good or bad (Romans 2:6; 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10). So, how will you use your free-will today? - *Chris Reeves*

## Sentence Sermons

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- Give in to God and he will give out to you.
- Without money, a person is broke, and without love, a person is broken.
- It is better to ask twice for directions than to go the wrong way.
- Your courage to stand for right will be tested when you are in the minority.
- Be loving as brethren.

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# THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# Whosoever Will May Come

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*“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that hears say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”*

- Revelation 22:17

In the great passage of scripture above, both the Holy Spirit and the bride (the church) invite the lost to come to Jesus and be saved. They say, “Whosoever will, may come.” They recognize that a person, any person, has a will or a desire to freely come to Jesus or not.

The will of mankind (the desire, the wish) is a very important topic that is often misunderstood today. Let’s briefly examine what the Bible says about the free-will of mankind. Do we have a free-will, and if so, how should we use it?

We know from the beginning of time that mankind was created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). A part of being made in the image of God is having free-will. God freely acted to create (Genesis 1:1) and he allows men and women to freely act as well. Mankind was created with free-will because God has free-will. Adam and Eve were given a command regarding what

tree to eat and they were given free-will to choose to obey or not. They chose, with their own free-will, to disobey and they sinned (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-22).

For many years various Bible students have tried to make the point that Adam and Eve lost their free-will after they sinned and no one since that time has been given true free-will. They also have tried to make the point that if God is truly sovereign, then mankind is not truly free to act. However, the Bible does not teach this.

We know from the Bible that God is completely sovereign and in control of all his universe. He rules over all (Psalm 103:19). But, God’s sovereignty does not cancel out man’s free will, but allows it.

How can God still be in control if mankind has free-will? Well, consider three things. First, God chose to allow man to have free-will which places him in control (Acts 14:16). Second, God will ultimately judge all of man’s free-will actions which places him in control (Ecclesiastes 12:14). Third, God alone sets the conditions of acceptable free-will service which places him in control (Matthew 7:21-23). God’s control and mankind’s free-will are not at odds with each other.

What about God’s predestination of

mankind to salvation, or his fore-knowledge of future events? Doesn’t that nullify the free-will of mankind? Again, let’s consider some Bible truths.

First, God’s predestined choice of those who are saved and lost does not cancel out man’s free will (1 Corinthians 1:27; Ephesians 1:4,13; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Revelation 17:14). God determines who will be saved or lost by setting the conditions for salvation or damnation that mankind can then freely choose.

Second, God’s foreknowledge of those who are saved and lost does not cancel out man’s free will (Acts 2:23,36-37; 1 Peter 1:2). God can know something in advance without altering the free-will choices of mankind.

Third, mankind had free will in the beginning and that free will was not removed (or held in bondage) with the fall of Adam and Eve. Mankind has had free will and the ability to choose since the fall (Deuteronomy 30:19; Joshua 24:15; Isaiah 7:15-16; 56:4).

What then are some lessons that we can learn from a study of the free-will of mankind? We learn that there are no excuses for our sins, like “I