

CALVARY MADE THE CHOICE

“Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done...” Luke 22:42

March 29, 2006

I grew up hearing from every direction that “the choice is yours”, you have a free will to choose obedience or disobedience to God. Let me say right here and now that yes we do make choices everyday but ultimately the plan of God is going to be worked out in our lives no matter what choice we make. One of my daddy’s favorite sayings was “a little of your gravy has run all over my plate” and then came the belt. Well, enough of hearing about the “choice is mine.” I don’t really have a choice in this plan of salvation and if you seriously consider it you don’t either as a son of God. Jesus recognized in the garden that it didn’t mean a hill of beans what His flesh was saying, His meat was to do the will of His Father who sent Him. We heard it preached on Sundays (and the beat goes on), especially Easter, the story of the Garden of Gethsemane and Jesus’ struggle with flesh and blood ultimately bowing to the will of His Father, “nevertheless, not my will but thine be done.” In the final analysis before Calvary, Jesus didn’t see Himself as having a choice in the matter of the cross or His express purpose for being. There was never a consideration of His freewill to do it or not. Before the foundation of the world it was predestined that the lamb slain then would manifest in this earth. It didn’t come as a surprise to Him after He was born and grew up that the cross was waiting on Him; God was in Christ reconciling the world back to Him; it was for this cause that He came and for this cause that He died.

But I believe it surprises the Body of Christ that the very plan of God which was set before creation, which has been preached and taught continually, not only has manifested but continues to unfold as we sit idly by waiting for it to happen. The thoughts and plan of Our Father haven’t just begun to unfold through the ages but the ages are the perfect manifestation of God’s thoughts and plans; the revealing of Himself in and through a people who will set creation free. As He was in Jesus reconciling the world unto Himself, His Christ body (we who will overcome), will take up that ministry of reconciliation, and finish the work.

Let me give you my spiel on this matter. As a body we (subconsciously or unknowingly) use choice as a rationale or excuse to justify our comfort zones as unfulfilling as they are. We’ve become “watered down saints” who desire a religious experience every Sunday and menial denominational works in the interim to justify our “Christian” duty. Many have never denied themselves and taken up their crosses as our elder brother Jesus; we’ve not gone to the garden alone.

There’s a garden of Gethsemane awaiting each and every one of us who declare that we are a part of that first fruit company of sons that creation is waiting on. Some are awakening to the revelation that Jesus indeed was the pattern, the example, the blueprint if you will back to the restoration of all. Calvary defeated the Adam nature laying the axe to the root of it. When Jesus said it is finished He didn’t mean for us to just sing on

Sunday, bible study through the week until we die and go on to be with Him; He didn't even intend for us to mark time until we are "raptured away." Rather, He gave us a clean slate, He created the bridge by which we could cross over from living a natural life, to walk and live a spiritual one. The duality of religion has not only left the body weak and powerless, but it continues to perpetuate a false sense of God's ultimate plan for creation.

Before Jesus died there was justification in part for God's people making choices, but since Calvary there is no more choice. If any man be in Christ he is a new creation old things are passed away and behold all things have become new and all things are of God who through His son Jesus took every choice and excuse to the cross along with the very sinful nature that we still yield to and keep alive by glorifying it more than we do Our Father. There's more preaching done on the ills and wills of the natural man and the devil than the finished work of creation and the cross. In the beginning when God and the Christ said "let us make man in our image" creation didn't end there with that spoken word but it has been a perpetual manifesting and unveiling of Our Father through His creation, throughout the ages.

One of my sister's favorite saying is "you need to think outside the box." One day the Lord gave me to tell her to come out of the box. It's time for God's sons to die to the religious concepts we have been taught about God and His plan for creation and mankind and awaken to the revelation that there is more to it than people getting saved, staying saved, dying and going to heaven while those who do not end up in a Christless hell to burn in a lake of fire for all eternity (another writing as God gives). It's time to let go of politics and economics and all the natural things that distract and distort our view of Father's revealing of Himself to and in His people. It's time to awaken to the government within and leave the one without. It's time to seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and allow the natural things we desire to manifest in our lives as Father provides; it's time to overcome all things. God used a brother in California (my first pastor after moving there) to enlighten me to one fact; "you have no need that any man should teach you." When I heard that it frightened me a little but the rebel inside was willing to follow his instructions; "forget everything you have been taught about God, Jesus and the whole nine yards and allow the Father to reveal Himself to you." That was the greatest awakening and blessing of my life and has been a perpetual revelation ever since. The hell I had lived in for so many years began to quake and the very foundations of my being were disrupted. I felt as though my mind was failing and in fact I was losing it. God was beheading me that **His** mind could come forth to not only lead and guide me but that my very existence from then on would no longer be mine but His. My world was turned upside down and life "appeared" to be taking a downward spiral. I am walking out even as Jesus did the plan that God has set forth for His sons as He conforms me along with the rest of His overcomers into His very image; a body that will be useful in the Master's hands.

Calvary sure did make the choice and the only one for us who are called by His name. Bow down and worship Him, go boldly into your garden and let Him bring you through the struggle where you too will say “your will be done”; let Him nail you to the cross that’s been purposed for you. Awaken unto righteousness all you sons who are hearing another trumpet sounding in your being. It’s the sound of the deep calling unto the deep; it’s the beckoning of the Overcomer saying “you too can overcome the world because I overcame it.” Can’t you hear that still small voice saying come up hither, there are great and mighty things I desire to show you that you can’t imagine. Your eyes have not seen, your ears have not heard neither has it entered into **your** heart the things I have prepared for you. It’s that place where peace passes all understanding where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched until all the dross of “humankind” has been burned off and only the Christ of God remains. Behold, I show you something new is His promise and the new is “Christ in me my hope of glory.” Stop waiting to die beloved, we are alive forevermore.

In His Love and Service,
Gwen Riley