

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me (John 5:30).

Time and again Jesus repeats the divine truth that it was the *Father* who sent Him.

The Jews knew Jesus claimed God as His Father, and that infuriated them.

But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God (John 5:17-18).

Jesus was sent by God Almighty.

Jesus was sent by the highest authority in the Universe.

And this authority is infinitely capable of designing Christ's mission so that its outcome would be exactly as He willed it to be.

First, He would send the One who would have the wisdom and power to execute the mission perfectly.

Second, the One sent would have the ability and desire to follow His instructions to the letter.

Third, His mission would consist of saving those chosen by the Father, whom the Father loved.

Fourth, the loss of one of God's chosen, whom He loved, would result in the mission's devastating failure.

Fifth, failure is not an option.

The Father had set before Jesus a daunting, seemingly impossible task.

He must leave Heaven, take on human flesh, grow from baby to boy to man, live in a world dominated by sin and Satan, and never once stray from the Father's will.

And if that weren't enough, He then had to face unbelief, hatred, persecution, and even execution – all the while remaining an innocent, righteous man.

Here's Where Things Get Sticky

For reasons unfathomable to this writer, there is a sharp division among Christians regarding why Christ was sent by the Father in the first place.

On the one side are sincere, sober and serious Christians who believe and teach Christ was sent for no other purpose than to make salvation 'available and possible' to all mankind.

Once the Gospel is heard, it is now up to the individual to make a 'decision,' pro or con.

By making salvation 'available and possible' to all mankind, God proves His love and desire that all men be saved.

Those who reject Christ do so despite knowing God loves

them and earnestly wants them to be with Him in Heaven, a place of perpetual joy.

Those who reject Christ force God, who loves them, to send them to Hell, a place of perpetual torture.

There is not any wrongdoing on God's part, for He makes salvation 'available and possible' for all: rich, poor, young, old, black, yellow, brown and white.

The choice is theirs to make.

On the other side, where this writer stands, we hold that God is all-wise.

He knows the devastating effects Adam's disobedience has on his descendants.

Sin permeates their being to such a degree, hatred of that which is holy, good and pure is their natural reaction.

Yet, despite knowing man's innate revulsion to the true God, as well as their natural affection for Satan, the god of this world, the Father had determined, within Himself, to love many of His enemies.

His love was not contingent on anything favorable foreseen in those chosen enemies.

No. They did not, could not and would not love Him unless He loved them first.

His love was not in word only.

It was an active love, powerful and effectual in achieving its purpose.

And that love is seen in His Son, Jesus Christ, whose purpose was to gather together those He so loved, that they would be His people and He would be their God, forever and ever.

Now to achieve that purpose the Father sent His Son to save those in the world, whom He so loved.

We know that to be the case because it was the Father's will (eternal purpose) that Christ lose none of those given to Him, who were loved by the Father.

Christ was to save every last one.

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day (John 6:37-39).

Is there any doubt that God the Father and God the Son know precisely the identities of those sinners given to Christ, who are so loved by the Father?

“The Lord knoweth them that are His.”

And are they not the same ones for whom Christ prays as their High Priest?

I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine (John 17:9).

And are they not the same ones for whom Christ prays while on the cross making atonement for their sins?

Father, forgive them for they know not what they do (Luke 23:34).

And are they not the same ones who never perish?

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand (John 10:27-29).

And are they not the same ones who will receive the free gift of faith, causing them to believe and never perish?

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

CONCLUSION: The Father knows how to design a plan to perfection.

His Son knows how to execute that plan to perfection.

The Father's love is omnipotent.

All those He loves will obediently and willingly comply with His command to 'repent and believe the Gospel.'

The Father has not left their salvation up to 'chance.'

His love melts hearts of stone.

For Christ merited and acquired all spiritual gifts necessary for the beloved to attain glorification.

Which side of the controversy are you on?

The side which teaches God loves all, but loses more of those loved than He saves?

Or our side which teaches God saves to the uttermost all those He loves because He loses none.

NEXT: The Holy Spirit is sent to effectually apply those gifts.