

1 John 3:24

And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

In those passages where scripture may suggest man's will has a part in redemption what must be understood is a little known but profound truth—God's will in any man's life is always influenced by the Holy Spirit. No man affects his condemned position by some independent, innate, latent "prevenient grace." Arminianism's belief in this non-existent goodness welling up within the individual when circumstances are just right teaches:

1. Man's superiority above others—this is augmented by Darwin's *Origin of Species* and Spencer's evolutionary mantra of "survival of the fittest"
2. Religion—man's rejection of the Bible's inerrancy and authority, Christ's crucifixion, the Holy Spirit's existence, indwelling, and ministry
3. Universal redemption—part of a false belief in self rather than Christ that is currently fueling a larger universal 'Christian' apostasy, ecumenism, and falling away. Jesus' teaching from the parable of *The Sower and the Seed* clearly teaches a profound distinction between the children of the devil (directly and indirectly under his influence and control), the counterfeit conversion (the 'believer' that goes around telling people he's saved until he's confronted and rebuked by the word of God), the worldly 'believer' (who believes he's in the Christian fold until Jesus declares he's naked and blind), and the true believer (who's good because that individual has acknowledged, not chosen, Christ as Creator of all things)
4. Conditional salvation—salvation is conditioned upon the individual having their dormant "prevenient grace" awakened
5. Works based vs. faith-belief based—a works based system of salvation never produces "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding." (Phil. 4:7)



LIBERTY VS. BONDAGE (FREE-WILL)

ACKNOWLEDGE

To acknowledge simply means to agree, or assent, to what is evident. It differs from choice in that the individual is not ascertaining, or determining, good and evil, right or wrong. This is the chasm differentiating acknowledgment and "free-will." Agreement can be to verbal testimony or physical evidence, or both. Acknowledgment reveals the absence of choice which involves a minimum of at least two alternatives. Choice takes upon itself (independently from God) in determining what is right, whether it is or not, from its subjective viewpoint. Choice is inwardly focused, not outwardly surrendered. Man's responsibility before his Creator lay in merely acknowledging what is self-evident. From this basic, fundamental, biblical tenet, man either stands guilty or condemned before his Creator, Jesus Christ. Man will either acknowledge God's self-evident truths or not. Romans 1:21 says man is "without excuse." Whether an individual is truly "born again" will ultimately be reflected in the individual's thoughts, words and conduct—fruit produced by the indwelling Holy Spirit. If no fruit is evident, no redemption is apparent.