

# EAST CAMBRIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

*"A first century church in the 21st century"*

## Bible Reading Plan

### Week 17

- 1 Samuel 9-10; *Acts 8*
- 1Sam 11-13; Ps 38; *At 9*
- 1Sam 14; Ps 124; *At 10*
- 1Sam 15-16; Ps 39; *At 11*
- 1Sam 17; 1Chr 1; *Acts 12*

## Leading Services

Announcements: Mike V.

### *Morning:*

Song Leader: Zack V.

Opening Prayer: Ben V.

Lord's Table: Ron V.

Asst By:

Closing Prayer: Brock G.

### *Evening:*

Song Leader: *Song Service*

Opening Prayer: Richard L.

Closing Prayer: Bill G.

Scripture Reading: Ben V.  
(Matthew 10:1-38)

## Sermons

AM: A Changeless Gospel  
PM: *Song Service Evening*



## Free Will

One of the consequences of the false doctrine of Calvinism is that man is declared incapable of choosing spiritual good over evil. It is argued that when Adam sinned, he plunged the entire human race into spiritual ruin and thus he lost for himself and his descendants the ability to choose in the spiritual realm.

It is true that Adam brought sin, and its consequences, upon mankind. However, the Bible says nothing of us losing our free will as a result of Adam's sin. A casual reading of the Bible shows that it was written to a race capable of choosing to serve God. All emphasis are mine.

"If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, *but you should rule over it*" (Genesis 4:7).

"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; *therefore choose life*, that both you and your descendants may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19).

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## Does man have free will?

"And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, *choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve*, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. *But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD*" (Joshua 24:15).

"Come now, and let us *reason* together,' says the LORD..." (Isaiah 1:18).

"*Come to Me*, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

"And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. *Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely*" (Revelation 22:17).

The Bible also makes it clear that man is held responsible for choosing not to come to God and not to receive His salvation.

"Because they hated knowledge and did not *choose* the fear of the LORD" (Proverbs 1:29).

"You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! *You always resist the Holy Spirit*; as your fathers did, so do you" (Acts 7:51).

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, *but you were not willing!*" (Luke 13:34).

In the above verse, Jesus is recorded as wanting desperately to save the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Their destruction was not blamed upon their inability to choose, but upon their refusal to accept the Lord. There is a difference between the two.

If we don't have free will, in what sense can we be held accountable for our sin and thus worthy of eternal damnation? What kind of a god would acknowledge our inability to choose, yet hold us responsible for our actions? This is not the God of love that we read about in the Bible (1 Timothy 2:3-4).

A theology that denies man's ability to choose does not offer freedom from sin, but from responsibility. Herein lies both the attraction, and the deception, of the false doctrine of Calvinism.

- *Heath Rogers*