

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER 2 THESS. 2:13-14

➤ This view would **also** note that:

A. Man is finite

Man was never free as God is free

B. Man is fallen

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Ephesians 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. Ephesians 2:4 **But God**, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Ephesians 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is **not** subject to the law of God, **neither** indeed **can** be.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth **not** the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: **neither can he know them**, because they are spiritually discerned.

Man certainly chooses, but those choices are limited by:

(1). His finite nature as a creation

(2). His fallen nature as a sinner

He may choose good for some not-so-good reasons

C. Man is **also** constrained by divine fiat

1 Corinthians 4:7 For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

Ephesians 1:11 In whom **also** we have obtained an inheritance, **being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:**

Ephesians 3:11 According to the **eternal purpose** which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

Psalms 76:10 Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.

Psalms 115:3 But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

Psalms 135:5 For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Psalms 135:6 Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.

Matthew 11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Matthew 11:26 Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. Matthew 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Matthew 11:28 **Come** unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:29 **Take** my yoke upon you, and **learn** of me ($\acute{\alpha}\pi\prime$ ἐμολῶ); for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. Matthew 11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

FREE WILL

Do humans have a free will? This question must not, and really cannot, be answered with a yes or a no!

We need to consider man in his **different / specific** states:

1. Pre-fall man: state of innocence

Posse peccare et posse non peccare: Able to sin and able not to sin

2. Post-fall man: the state of sin

Non posse non peccare: not able not to sin

3. Reborn man: the state of grace

Posse non peccare: Able not to sin

4. Glorified man: the state of glory

Non posse peccare: not able to sin

The will of the glorified saint is made perfectly and immutably free to do good alone

Pre-Fall man	Post-Fall man	Reborn man	Glorified man
Able to sin	Able to sin	Able to sin	Able to <u>not</u> sin
Able to <u>not</u> sin	<u>Unable</u> to <u>not</u> sin	Able to <u>not</u> sin	<u>Unable</u> to sin

Augustine & (much later) Thomas Boston: Human Nature in its Fourfold State

A sinner by his / her fallen human nature alone:

1. Cannot bring forth good fruit

Matthew 7:18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, **neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.**

2. Cannot hear Christ's word that they might have life

John 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye **cannot** hear my word.

3. Cannot receive / accept the Spirit of God

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom **the world cannot** receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but **ye** know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

4. Cannot be subject to the law of God

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is **enmity against God**: for it is **not** subject to the law of God, **neither** indeed can be.

5. Cannot discern / accept the truths of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man **receiveth not** the things of the Spirit of God: **for they are foolishness unto him: neither** can he know them, because they are **spiritually discerned**.

6. Cannot confess, from the heart, that Jesus is Lord

1 Corinthians 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: **and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.**

7. Cannot inherit the kingdom of God

1 Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood **cannot** inherit the kingdom of God; **neither** doth corruption inherit incorruption.

8. Cannot control the tongue

James 3:8 But the tongue **can no man** tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

9. Cannot come to Christ except....

John 6:44 No man **can** come to me, **except** the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. **John 6:45** It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. **Every man** therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. **John 6:65** And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that **no man can** come unto me, **except** it were given unto him of my Father.