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The Free Will Parallel of Jesuitism and Arminian Protestantism **Pastor Nelson C. Turner**

Jesuit de Ravignan wrote in his work "ON THE LIFE AND INSTITUTE OF THE JESUITS" (pub 1845 W. J. Cunningham, Philadelphia):

"We believe that enthusiasm, by regulating itself, purifies itself and raises itself all the distance which separates heaven from earth: we believe that the will of man, renouncing itself and submitting to the will of God, gains its most glorious victory: we believe that liberty never testifies with a higher of more worthy voice what she can do than in learning to obey."

The Jesuit made this statement after a discourse on the *Spiritual Exercises* of Ignatius Loyola. The Jesuit glories in the victory he has gained by his own power in the same manner as the vain Protestant boasters. He has made the big decision, he has chosen good over evil, he is impressed with himself and what he has achieved. He glories in man, not God. The sentiment he expresses is exactly that of modern Protestant "soul winners." The Jesuit, Mother Angelica and Pope Francis all agree with the words of the evangelical Protestant minister who stated (at the start of a memorial service for a deceased friend) with the words, "Jesus Christ will save you if you let him."

Is not it a falling away from the faith of Jesus Christ to have faith in yourself? Does it not denigrate the power of The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost to assign to man the power that belongs only to God? What saith the Scripture? *"Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD."* Jeremiah 17:5 *"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is."* Jeremiah 17:7

Again, what saith the Scripture? *"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."* Philippians 1:6 The confidence and ground of the hope of the Christian is not and can never be rooted in himself, he is to trust in God which raiseth the dead. God, not man, begins the good work of faith in Jesus Christ in the sinner, and it is God alone who will complete that work. Christ is *the Author and Finisher of our faith*. Without Him we can do nothing. The man that believes his own will is more powerful than the will of God plays the fool and tempts God. He declares his ignorance of the Scriptures in his boast that he obeys the Scriptures. He claims for himself what belongs to God alone.

The confidence of Paul was rooted in the faith of Jesus Christ, not the faith or reasoning of his own flesh. Paul was not saved because he chose to be saved, Paul was saved *"when it pleased God...to reveal his Son in me."* Galatians 1:15,16. This is the model, the example and the pattern of the salvation of a sinner by the grace of God.

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all long-suffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen." 1 Timothy 1:15-17

- The sinner is stout, steadfast and certain in his opposition to Christ (just like Paul was.)
- The sinner is in unbelief and in ignorance (just like Paul was.)
- The sinner does not wish or will to come to Christ, but is injurious, a persecutor, and blasphemer (just like Saul later turned Paul.)
- The sinner is wise to do evil, but to do good, he has no knowledge.
- The sinner prefers the riches of Egypt to the reproach of Christ, and would willfully lose his own soul to gain the world.
- He is by nature a child of wrath and disobedience through the whole warp and woof of his being.
- He has no good thing in him at all, and as such is worthy of death.

Only Christ can lead him out and give him pasture, only Christ can open his blind eyes, only Christ can unstop his deaf ears and cause his heart to hear the words that are spirit and life. *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*