

4/20/74

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People who seeing people carrying this doctrine to an extreme in their attitude go to an extreme in an opposite emphasis. The Bible teaches both -- it teaches the sovereignty of God, and just as clearly it teaches the free-agency of man. We are not automatons. We are not simply machines that move around as God presses a <sup>Button</sup> ~~button~~ and the result is what He says. God does control all, but God does it in a way that we cannot understand, but we must recognize the fact he has given us a power not to be mere automatons, but a power to make decisions. He says in Isa. 1:18-20, Come let us reason together. In the next verse he says, If you are willing and obedient you shall eat the fruit of the land, but if you refuse and rebel you will be devoured with the sword. Jesus Christ said, Come unto me all ~~that~~ ye that labor and are heavy laden.

There are those who go to an extreme on this side, and say, That is just irony! He did not mean that at all. Those people could not come to Him at all! The only ones who could come to Him were the ones the Lord pushes to come; it's just a form, an irony. Those who come are predestined; those could not come who were not. This was just irony! for Jesus to say Come unto me. This of course is utter nonsense. When Jesus said, Come unto me He was giving a real invitation. When the Lord said, come let us reason together, He was recognizing He has given to man the power of reasoning. When our Lord says in Revelation, Behold I ~~stand~~ stand at the door and knock and whosoever will open to me . . . He means what he says. When the Bible ends with the words that the Spirit says Come, and the Bride says come, And whosoever will let him come and drink of the water of life freely He means it. We cannot get a middle ground between these, but we must emphasize both because both are true, and we must not neglect either. When we do so we need to injure the Word of God.