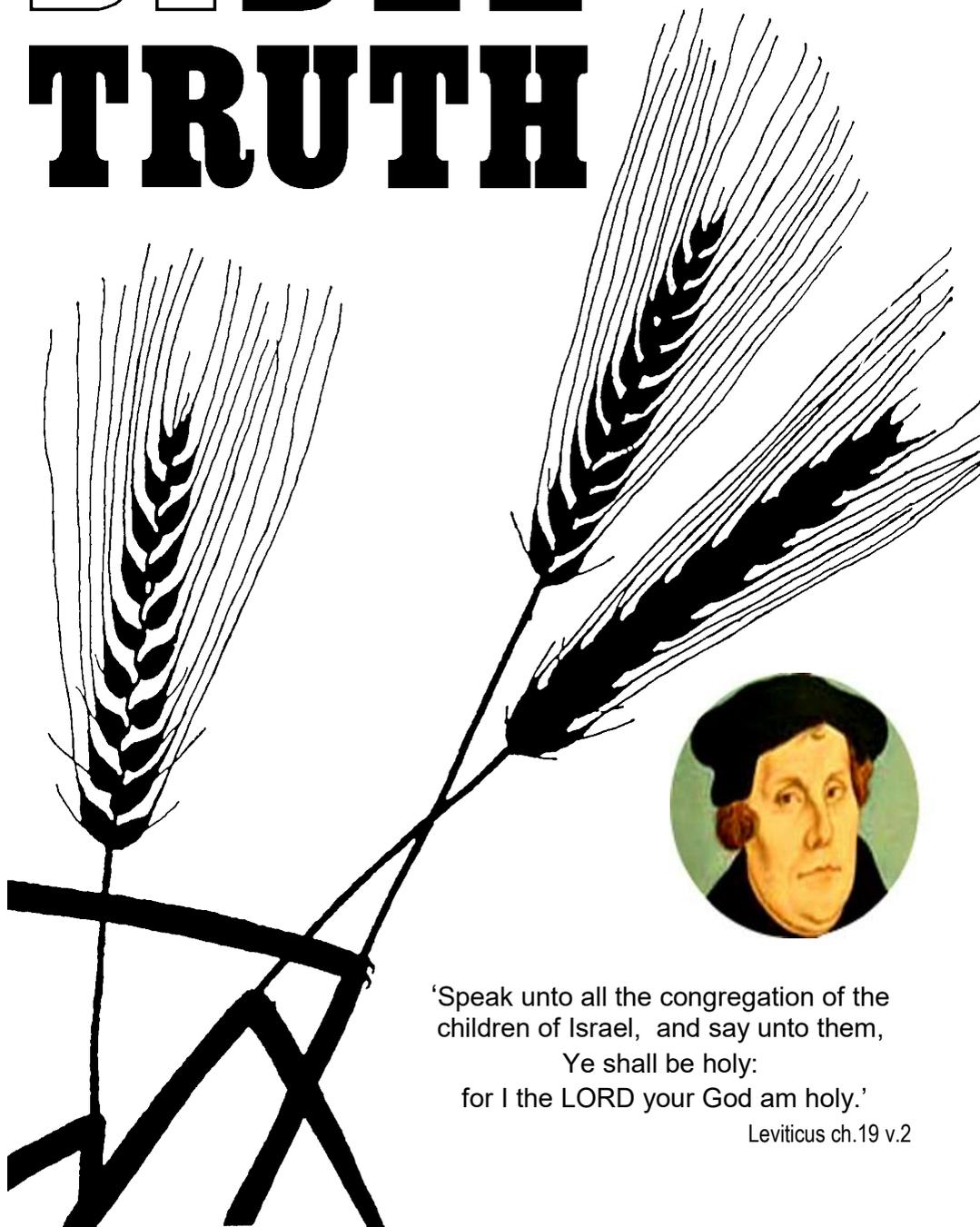


BIBLE TRUTH

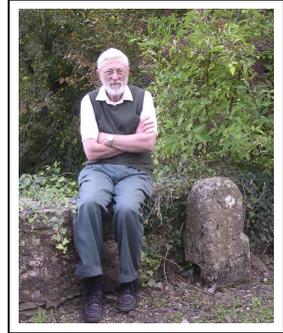
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'Speak unto all the congregation of the
children of Israel, and say unto them,
Ye shall be holy:
for I the LORD your God am holy.'

Leviticus ch.19 v.2

Choice - by Arthur Eedle



Every day of our lives we make choices, some of them are so small that we are not even aware of the fact. What shall I have for breakfast? Where shall I go for lunch today? What shall I buy for little Johnny's birthday? What colour for our new curtains? Which bus shall I catch? So it goes on. We take it for granted that we have the power of choice, and yes, God has granted mankind that great gift. But this freedom of choice, this gift of freewill brings with it a great responsibility. Let's think further.

Making a choice of things like those already quoted is all part of everyday living, but there are greater choices to be made, and the One who gave us the power to choose, also asks us to use that power wisely. The gift of freewill has come attached to another gift, that of conscience. These two gifts together make up the background to every year of our lives on earth.

This gift of conscience, latent within us as a 'sense', enables us to make positive choices, choices that are not harmful, either to ourselves or to others. But if this gift is overridden, squashed flat, burned out (the Bible speaks about it being 'seared with a red-hot iron') then we become antisocial, and a danger to all. It is the beginning of a death march, where freewill leads to antisocial behaviour, and even murder, because there is no 'checking mechanism' left. This is seen to operate not only on a personal level, but also nationally, where leaders are held morally responsible for the nation's well-being. Let us see what the Bible has to say.

Through the mouth of Moses, God's spokesman, came these words.

'I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.'

Deuteronomy ch.30 v.19

Joshua had this to say.

‘And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.’

Joshua ch.24 v.15

Elijah spoke these words to the crowds on Mount Carmel.

‘... How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.’

1 Kings ch.18 v.21

Through Isaiah the Lord spoke this.

‘Therefore will I number you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to the slaughter: because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not.’

Isaiah ch.65 v.12

These and other examples show that God has placed His righteousness before us, declared His mind and purposes, as well as showing us the results of both good and bad decisions. But still He leaves us with the freedom to make choices. But this cannot go on forever. If mankind corporately sinks downwards, ignoring God’s counsel, a time comes when there remains ‘no remedy’ other than for Him to intervene and bring judgment.

‘But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.’

2 Chronicles ch.36 v.16

Could it be that we are fast approaching that day, ‘the Day of the Lord’, so frequently spoken of in Scripture? If so, then it is time for all those who have chosen to be faithful to the Lord to remain steadfast and not be moved when all around is changing, moving, sliding downwards towards an evil outcome. Thus the Apostle Paul can write this.

‘Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.’

Ephesians ch.6 v.13
