

Living by His word

CHOICE | *The Life That God Offers*

Sin is religiously—or traditionally—viewed as a moral deficiency that moves God into an anger that supposedly affronts Him personally.

God's nature which is love is never "personally" motivated. He hates sin because of its destructive consequences of death over humanity; physically, mentally and spiritually. God has complete understanding to the outcome of sin, where mankind does not. Death; or sin has the ability to invade the mind of a person, which leads to his tongue, which also affects his body or physical being. Because the sin nature is present, the choice between what is right, from what is a wrong stand before us every day. God's hope is that we choose life!

The beginning of sin is traditionally viewed as starting with the fall of Adam and Eve, but this is not the case. The origin of sin began at the fall of Satan, known formally as **Lucifer. (light bearer)** The Scripture **1 John 3: 8** clearly defines that "the devil has sinned from the beginning." I personally believe in the open view of God, "God reacting to reality as it happens." Adam and Eve were free to refuse or render obedience to God. Since freedom involves the presence of genuine alternatives, God would not give man the freedom to obey and at the same time with hold the power to disobey. "Freedom to obey" is nothing, if it is not also the freedom to disobey. Consequently, had man been incapable of disobedience, his fulfillment to God's requirements would not have been voluntary.

The word for moral (the distinction and concern with right and wrong.) could not apply. When Satan approached Adam and Eve he was already a fallen angel. The divine command was to refrain from eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **Genesis 2:16,17** indicates another important understanding in which reality was open. A command or commandment makes sense only if the recipient is capable of doing either what is required or forbidden, in other words, only if he is a responsible being. Divine prohibition gives man moral freedom. This means God gives man the right to choose for himself, just as Adam and Eve were free to choose.

Instead of merely acting upon the world, God also reacts to developments within the world. The influence between God and the world flows both ways. He not only affects the world, but the world also affects him. **(Please read Genesis 6:5-8)** If God could foresee from all eternity the fall of man and the success of salvation, then neither creation nor the incarnation, (God appearing in the flesh through Christ) really involves a genuine risk. If at creation God knew with absolute certainty that man would fall, He was not risking the moral harmony of the universe in making man. He was simply sacrificing it. Also if God knew with complete certainty that Christ's earthly mission would end in complete victory, He did not risk His son in sending Jesus to the world for man's salvation, He simply paid the price for a guaranteed result. This, my friends, is not the true love of God. His love is the complete willingness

to commit Himself wholly to another in spite of the uncertain and indefinite future of every single person's freedom to choose.

What a wonderful Father He is. The depths of His love are immeasurable. One final note, let's read **Deuteronomy 30:19**. "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 they seed may live."

Love,

Pastor Jann

You
CAN MAKE THE
NEWSLETTER BETTER

We would love to hear feedback from you.

GIVE US A CALL IN THE OFFICE

(see reverse side for office hours & number)



BASIC INFO

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Morning
10:30 AM

Wednesday Evening
7:00 PM

CONTACT

10110 Aqueduct Dr. E.
Tacoma, WA 98445

P.O. Box 110608
Tacoma, WA 98411

SOCIAL

Facebook Page **search for** "By His Word"



*...Today I have given you
the choice between life
and death, between
blessings and curses...*

Deuteronomy 30:19

HAPPY
mother's day

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mothers Of Pre Schoolers | Thursdays May 2nd, 16th **10 AM** in GRC

Men's Breakfast | Saturday, May 11th @ 8:30 AM in GRC

3-Week Members Class | Sundays, May 5th, 12th & 19th
Classes @ 9:30 AM

Last Women's Bible Study | Tuesday, May 14th, @ 10 AM in GRC

GUEST SPEAKER - Dr. Joe Hernandez | Wed., May 29th @ 7 PM

OFFICES CLOSED - Memorial Day | Sunday, May 27th



GROW KIDS

New Sanctuary
We've moved in
to the Grow Kids
Church sanctuary!

CULTIVATE YOUTH

Meet
Wednesdays
@7PM in GRC
Sanctuary.
Ask about serving
the at the Tacoma
Rescue Mission!