

Freedom of Choice

God's creation of man was indeed unique in that man was endowed with the power of choice, a quality that placed him above the other creations of God. Along with this concession to man, God gave him the predominant hand over all other creatures, and also intended for him to have the controlling interest in his own life. God's creation of man placed him on earth as an individual character with the privilege of choosing for himself. This is the attribute that the other forms which God fashioned do not have. The use of this privilege very often is the element which decides if a man is really to live and enjoy life or merely to exist with no sense of peace and security.

People are now destined by God to be bond or free, happy or unhappy, but they attain these conditions by their use of their freedom of choice. Men have been forced into captivity, both actually and intellectually, by the use of this one predominant trait—either by their own use of it or by its use on the part of others. Even in our own day we have seen outstanding incidents of the wrong use of this characteristic in the persons of such men as Hitler and Stalin. Both of these have tended to lower the intrinsic worth of man and in its place establish the value of property.

The value of human life has been placed in the background and in its stead the importance of the state has been elevated. They believed the whole to be greater than the part, forgetting that strong parts make a powerful and substantial whole. In their minds the individual would be worth nothing, merely as an individual, but would be valuable when joined with others, all endeavoring to establish a powerful state. Thus, these men, in forcing people to believe and act as they do, have intruded on the rights of ordinary people by depriving them of the opportunity of making a choice for liberty and freedom. They were deprived of

freedom, both in mind and in body, in that they were not only told what to do and how to do it, but were also told what to think. Therefore, these leaders have over-emphasized the extent of their own rights, and at the same time forgotten the nature of God's creation of man.

Nevertheless, we in America, and even in North Carolina, or perhaps in Mars Hill, have been guilty of the same type of oppression on a smaller scale. We advocate the supremacy of the individual, the freedom of mankind, the equality of all people, the right to express one's wishes through the medium of democratic government. Our system of democracy was founded on the inevitable stones of justice, equality, liberty, and freedom. Nevertheless, these ideas and ideals were not mere "happen-sos," neither have they continued to predominate because of tradition. They have lived because Americans as a whole have practiced them in their own lives and permitted others to do the same.

The passing of congressional laws will not compel us to recognize individual rights of liberty and freedom in mind and in body. Only when we have the inward motivation to respect man's God-given rights of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" will genuine equality and freedom be assured and insured. Men are free to exercise their freedom of choice only to the extent that mankind is benefited rather than deprived of his natural rights and are obligated to keep in mind that every man has an equal right to his own choice. Until mankind comes to this realization, there

can be no hope for the dawn of a brotherhood of mankind upon the horizon of a world of chaos and confusion.

By
Dale Hooper

Too Busy for Life

I'd like to lie in bed at morn
And doze and dream or stretch,
Or snuggle covers in a knot.
The alarm breaks—that's the
the catch.

And with my friends o'er milk and
toast
I'd like to eat a meal.
I'd eat as slowly as I pleased—
Oops—I hear the first bell peal.

I trudge to class, but morning air
Spurs on my wanderlust
To tramp through fields or climb a
hill,
But go to class I must.

Oh just to stop upon the street
To greet some brother or sis,
And pass a joke or plan our years;
But there's no time for this.

The afternoon with classes done
Affords me time for fun,
But a meeting here and a practice
there
Leaves me with nothing done.

At night, when our friends all
have left
And it's quiet as a tomb without,
As I begin to study some
Or write the folks—Lights out!

—Janice Aiken.

When you can smile as life looks
bright,
The world smiles with you;
When you can smile through your
tears and heartaches,
The angels in Heaven will smile
back at you.

—Allen Brown.

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