

PREVENIENT GRACE

Though preached by priestly scholars
or a damning demon's voice,
Begone, that fruitless doctrine
of "a will without a choice"!
If God demands that wayward souls
must heed what they have heard,
Then saying, "They're unable!"
makes a folly of His Word.

While all are "dead in sins"
and darkly bound in Satan's night,
The lost have no excuse, because
God blesses each with light.
His Word pervades creation—
speaking loudly, shining clear—
To shake each blinded conscience
wide awake enough to hear!

And that's the crux, my brethren,
caught by Calvinistic creed
To controvert God's mercy
meant to meet Man's fallen need.
Christ seeks out every straying sheep
and calls them to repent—
Their free response enabled
by His grace prevenient.

On both the good and evil
God makes rain and kindness fall
And by His "whosoever will. . ."
invites us one and all.
With every heart's reply foreknown,
God chose our destiny,
Because His love's elective grace
predestined liberty.

The Hindus teach that choices seem
but are illusion still;
Reductionists say chemicals
determine human will;
And Islam's fatalistic god
has never been "good news";
But Scripture's Sovereign Lord ordained
each sinner's chance to choose.

— David L. Hatton, 1/23/2014