

## MADE UP MINDS

In our article entitled "THE PREPARATIONS OF THE HEART" in which we attempted to destroy the acclaimed virtue of a so-called "made up mind" (that is if it consist of supposedly good intentions which spring from "the will of man") as being the same as a house made of sticks or straw, we also used the three little pigs as illustrative of "varying levels of Christian commitment".

It can be asserted that each one of the three little pigs had a "made up mind" for they each built a house, and one does not build a house without having a "made up mind" try it some time and find out for yourself. The problem came about as a result of their choice of building material. This same lesson is given in a little different form in the parable of the wise and foolish men of Mt. 7:24-27. Both of these men were likened to those who build houses, but here also the problem was a consequence of the house foundation. This parable teaches the same lesson as the story of the three little pigs.

We will now remit to some degree on our criticism of the phrase "a made up mind" but will repeat our verdict that such counsel to the weak and wavering can be worthless if they are not made to understand that the establishment of the heart through prayer and otherwise seeking God is the only way that the mind will ever be anchored against the temptations of this life.

We do here acknowledge that both Elijah (on Mt. Carmel) and Joshua (in Shechem) called upon the children of Israel in so many words to "make up their minds" although they did not employ such radical latter day Arminian terminology. We ourself will not deny that under certain circumstances we might use this type of exhortation more or less as a last resort even as they did. What we are kicking against is something which seems to be tending toward an exaltation of the flesh. One song which we think might be a bit bold proclaims "I look him straight in the eye, I say, I've got my foot on the rock" you know the rest of it. The great man Moses himself also seems to have been calling upon the children of Israel to "make up their minds" see Deut. 30:15-19, although he does not use this phrase, but the great Apostle Paul reveals to us what is perpetually transpiring inside the secret chamber which houses the secret knowledge that seals the eternal foundation, which even the mighty prophet Elijah suffered ignorance of until the Master (figuratively speaking) brought him through an outer perimeter of the chamber, see Rom. 11:4,5 also Amos 3:7. *He revealed (to Elijah) the number but not the identity of this elect group of individuals. The elect identity is a deeper more inaccessible element of this secret knowledge which infallibly seals the eternal foundation against the possibility of any identity theft or error. We say however that this will be a matter between the Master and the individual, 1Pet. 1:10. We believe that the elect eventually grow into an underlying knowledge of their election, although with many of the number the actual acknowledgment neither will (nor can) ever be achieved in this present life.* At this point it is necessary (as a precautionary measure) that we recommend also a sincere study of 11Cor. 10:5.

Although we say again that we might use this form of counsel as a last resort, we still maintain that the only way for an individual to attain to that desired state which we commonly call "a made up mind" is through prayer, fasting and other means of seeking God and not simply by taking thought "I'm going to prove that I can do it" for such we say (whenever the scorching sun beats down upon them, or the rains descend and the floods rage against them, or the briars and thorns spring up around them) will surely fall away even as did the Apostle Peter in the judgment hall of Pilate.

R. Corn 09

Post Script. Paragraph five of this piece (especially the italicized portion) will likely be above the reach of those who (spiritually speaking) are still on "the breasts". (We recommend here a very diligent study of Is. 28:9). This bit of counsel (in paragraph five) is intended for those who desire some meat to go along with their milk. For those who choose to study this paragraph we recommend also our piece written under the title THE SPOTLESS OFFERING. See also our up-coming piece entitled FREEZE DRIED CALVINISM OR DIVERSIONARY ARMINIANISM.