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We are free moral agents. God made us that way. We can choose right, or we can choose wrong. We can build our lives upon the rock, or we can build them upon the sand. Though we are free to make decisions, we aren't free to decide what the consequences will be for us. As the result of our decision. Adam and Eve made the decision to eat from the forbidden fruit, but God had already made the decision as the consequences of eating of the fruit.

Version:1.0 StartHTML:0000000197 EndHTML:0000004694 StartFragment:0000002382
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SourceURL:file:///localhost/Volumes/SERVER/EDITORIAL/1-18-11/COLUMNS/Rural%20Viewpoints.doc @font-face { font-family: "Times New Roman"; }p.MsoNormal, li.MsoNormal, div.MsoNormal { margin: 0in 0in 0.0001pt; font-size: 12pt; font-family: "Times New Roman"; }table.MsoNormalTable { font-size: 10pt; font-family: "Times New Roman"; }div.Section1 { page: Section1; }

Man is free to play the lottery, but he cannot decide the consequences of so doing. Just because the government may sanction something, that does not make it right. The evidence is overwhelming- 5 million gambling addicts. There is a Compulsive Gamblers Hotline that should tell us something.

Man is free to pump intoxicating beverage through his system, but he isn't free to determine the outcome of his so doing. Sickness caused by drinking, deaths upon the highways, children taught to drink by the bad examples of their parents, all attest to the high cost of drinking.

Man is free to stay home on Sunday and not go to church, but he isn't free to determine the outcome of his decision. All across America multiplied millions choose to sleep or watch television on Sunday instead of worshipping God. And what are the consequences? A Nation drifting away from God is the real answer. And without God this Nation is nothing.

President George Bush, Sr., President Bill Clinton, and Vice-President Al Gore made the decision to send this Nation's factories to Mexico and China, but they couldn't control the results. Jobless communities, poverty stricken rural areas, bankruptcy on every corner, multiplied millions driving countless miles a day to work at jobs that pay meager wages- that's

the results.

Uncaring citizens can choose not to vote the next time there is an election, but they can't control the outcome of their unwise decision. We are free to vote or not to vote, but we aren't free to determine the outcome. Incompetent men and women are elected from the City Hall to the White House, who are incapable of running government and the result is always tragic. An office seeker with an IQ only a little higher than a chimpanzee, if elected, creates dirty towns, jobless towns, towns with no business, neglected young people and senior citizens, while they divide the cities finances among a few cronies. That will be the results.

A Church Bulletin Blooper

"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of things not worth keeping. Bring your husbands!"