

Discovering God's Will for Your Life (2)

Introduction

- A. Christianity has been designed by God to "work". He has made an adequate provision for us so that we may know and do His will.
- B. God expects us to know His will - generally and specifically; He expects us to obey Him and do His will; and, He expects us to make a success out of life. If we are going to fail we must get out of His will.

I. The Meaning of the Will of God: To Live for His Glory.

For ye are bought with a price, therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. I Corinthians 6:20

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. I Corinthians 10:31

Observation: This is the goal that is set for everyone. All of us have the purpose in life to live so that God is honored, praised and magnified through our attitude, actions, and priorities of life.

II. The Explanation of the Will of God: All Believers are "Called."

A. The fact of God's call, Romans 8:28.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

Observation: This verse reminds us that God's call comes equally to all Christians. God has a purpose in the creation and salvation of every one of us.

B. The objective of God's call, Romans 8:29.

For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Observation: As the firstborn boy in the Jewish family was given an unusual place of respect and honor - so the Lord Jesus Christ is to be recognized as worthy of all the honor that could be given to Him. This is the purpose of our creation and salvation. We are "called of God" to live so Jesus Christ is honored.

C. The inescapable nature of God's call, Romans 11:29.

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Observation: This simply means that God does not change His mind. There is no way that a Christian can avoid being "called". We can refuse the do the will of God but we cannot escape the solemn responsibility of being chosen of God to live for Him.

III. The Requirements for Knowing God's Will: An Honest Willingness.

If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or whether I speak of Myself. John 7:17

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:1,2

Observation: Here we have the Biblical principle stated: to know the will of God I must be willing to do it. We may not ask God to "run His will past us" and if we like it then we will do it! All of us have the problem of wanting to do our "own thing". If we want God's will - we will know what we are to do.

IV. The Responsibility Regarding God's Will: Do His Will Today!

A. It is the will of God for the believer to be delivered from the world, Galatians 1:4.

Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.

Observation: The purpose of Christ's death is here described as deliverance from the sin of self-love or worldliness (I John 2:15,16). The Christian who lives for himself is out of God's will.

B. It is the will of God for the believer to live worthy of God. Col. 1:9-12.

For this cause we also since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. That ye might walk (live) worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness, giving thanks unto the Father

Observation: God's will is here clearly described. This should be matched in our daily life by priorities. When we choose to do His will - today - then we have the enablement to live that way.

C. It is the will of God for the believer to be sanctified, I Thess. 4:3.

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication.

Observation: Sanctification is related to personal holiness. It is being truthful, loving, and holy in daily life. We cannot be a sensual, selfish, liar and cheat and then say we are living in His will.

D. It is the will of God for the believer to be joyful, to pray, and to be thankful, I Thessalonians 5:16-19.

Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Observation: Are we the opposite of these verses?

Victor M. Matthews