

The Biblical Concept of the Will of God (2)

Introduction

- A. One of the sources of comfort, for the committed Christian, is to know that he is in the will of God.
- B. The will of God, as described in the Bible, designates how the Christian is to live and what he is to do with his life.
- C. One of the most searching questions that could ever be asked is: "Are you in the will of God?"

I. The Biblical Theme and Emphasis on the Will of God, Matthew 6:9,10.

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Observation: In this pattern prayer the Lord Jesus teaches us to keep His will continually before us. The believer must pray for, submit to, and obediently live according to God's will.

II. The Importance of the Will of God, Ephesians 5:17.

Wherefore be ye not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Observation: The evident teaching of this passage revolves around the content of wisdom. The summary is the verse before us – the importance of God's will. Those who live disregarding God's will are indeed unwise.

III. The Content of the Will of God.

- A. It is the will of God for the believer be delivered from the world, Gal. 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 the death of Jesus Christ 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 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 described as walking worthy of Him, pleasing Him, being fruitful, increasing in the knowledge of God and strengthened unto patience, longsuffering, joyfulness and thanksgiving. What thoughtful person would reject this? God has made the provision so this could be a reality in your life. Is it your choice?

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 living according to God's will particularly in the area of personal holiness. It is being God-like in truth, love and holiness. We must say as a decision of faith, "Thy will be done." Do you want God to leave you in your self-chosen bondage?

d. It is the will of God for the believer to be joyful, to pray, and to be thankful, I Thess. 5:16-18.

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

Observation: What would the Christian life be without these benefits? Many of us know – we live with such tragic deficiency. Has God said to you, "Since you haven't chosen My Will – I give you yours?"

IV. The Promises Related to the Will of God.

A. The promise of equipment, Hebrews 13:20,21.

How the God of Peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the Blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ

Observation: The word "perfect" in these verses is really "equip". God has made it possible for us to do His will.

B. The promise of endurance, I John 2:17.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God, abideth forever.

Observation: This verse comes to the earnest Christian with great assurance. In the midst of a world that is transitory he has the promise of God that he will not pass away but will live forever in divine fellowship.

C. The promise of answered prayer, I John 5:14.

And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us.

Observation: The profound magnitude of this promise cannot be comprehended. God promises to do anything for us – so that His will may be done! What else besides our indifference stands in our way?

V. The Instruction Related to the Will of God, Ephesians 6:6.

Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

Observation: This verse puts the finger upon our problem – it's our heart! Does your heart leap with expectation and praise as you read these verses? Is the answer "No"? Then by all means – ask God to reach your heart!