

“God’s Will Be Done”

Lesson One

God's Will Be Done

- Matt. 7:21-23 - “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'”
- 1John 2:17 - “And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”
- James 4:15 - “Instead you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.”

God's Will Be Done

- What is God's will?
- What does the Bible teach about God's will?
- What is our part in God's will?
- How does God's will affect my free will?
- Are life's exigencies God's will or random occurrences?

God's Will

- “Will: choice; determination; pleasure; command; direction; disposition; power; especially divine determination, counsel” (Webster's)
- Greek noun form is “thelema: what one wishes or has determined shall be done: will, choice, inclination, desire, pleasure” (Thayer's)
- God's will = God's divine determinations, counsel, commands
- Eph. 1:11 - “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will”

God's Permanent Purposes

- Rev. 4:11 - “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”
- The creation and the continued sustenance of creation are established by God's will, and will not, cannot, change apart from His will

God's Permanent Purposes

- Luke 11:2 - “So He said to them, When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.”
- Jesus is not suggesting that it is possible that God’s eternal purposes may not be carried out, but is teaching us two matters:
 - That our prayers express our support of and loyalty to God’s will
 - That we desire those matters of God’s will that are dependent on the choices of men will also be fulfilled

God's Permanent Purposes

- Some of God's will is unknown, perhaps even unknowable, to man
 - Deut. 29:29 - "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."
 - Isa. 55:8-9 - "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."

God's Permanent Purposes

- Why is not all of God's will inviolate?
 - God's will features His determination to give free will to human beings, to not compel or coerce humans into believing in Him, or be forced to love Him
 - Thus, God has determinations for people, but people may not choose to accomplish those determinations

God's Permanent Purposes

- Why did God give men free will knowing they would go against His will?
- What kind of world would this be without free will?
 - A world without beauty or blessings.
 - A world that is arbitrary.
 - A world in which the laws of nature are disrupted.
 - A world in which there is no freedom.
- Rather than cursing free will, thank God for allowing you to choose it to share in His will

Deut. 30:15-20 - "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, 16 in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, 18 I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; 20 that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.

God's Purpose For Man In Christ

- God's will for Christ
- While Jesus did the will of His Father...
 - John 4:34 - “Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.”
 - John 5:30 - “I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.”
 - John 6:38 - “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

God's Purpose For Man In Christ

- God's will for Christ
- ...He had to obey God's will, and the possibility existed that He could have disregarded it
 - Heb. 5:7-10, 10:7-10

God's Purpose For Man In Christ

- Heb. 5:7-10 - “Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, 8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, 10 called by God as High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek”

God's Purpose For Man In Christ

- Heb. 10:7-10 - “Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come--In the volume of the book it is written of Me--To do Your will, O God.’ 8 Previously saying, ‘Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them’ (which are offered according to the law), 9 then He said, ‘Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.’ He takes away the first that He may establish the second. 10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

God's Purpose For Man In Christ

- Matt. 26:39-42 - “He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.’ 40 Then He came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, ‘What? Could you not watch with Me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.’ 42 Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.’”
- Mark 14:36 - “And He said, ‘Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will’”
- Gal. 1:4 - “Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father”