

“God’s Will Be Done”

(Part One; Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Matt. 7:21-23; 1John 2:17; James 4:15
 - 1. Much confusion has persisted for years about the nature of God's will
 - 2. Many theories, speculations about the nature and attitudes of God, false expectations about the will of God
- B. Seek to understand God's will, what is it, how can we accomplish it, and how does it relate to each of us?
 - 1. What is God’s will?
 - 2. What does the Bible teach about God’s will?
 - 3. What is our part in God’s will?
 - 4. How does God’s will affect my free will?
 - 5. Are life’s exigencies God’s will or random occurrences?

I. GOD'S WILL

- A. What is "will" in this context?
- B. “Will: choice; determination; pleasure; command; direction; disposition; power; especially divine determination, counsel” (Webster's)
 - 1. Greek noun form is “thelema: what one wishes or has determined shall be done: will, choice, inclination, desire, pleasure” (Thayer's)
- C. God's will = God's divine determinations, counsel
 - 1. Concerns God's actions, His intentions for Jesus, for believers, for sinners, for nature in this planet, for law in this universe, etc
 - 2. Some have attempted to make sense of all of this by positing that God has multiple wills; yet in scripture, all the different facets are just spoken of as "God's will" - Eph. 1:11

II. GOD'S PERMANENT PURPOSES

- A. There are some dimensions of God's will that are firm, true, and indissoluble
 - 1. God establishes certain purposes for Himself; no one can alter them
 - 2. Humans might benefit from some of these aspects of God's will, but whether they obey God or disobey God, it will not matter; God's will, at least in these aspects, is inevitable
- B. Rev. 4:11
 - 1. The creation and the continued sustenance of creation are established by God's will, and will not, cannot, change apart from His will
- C. Luke 11:2
 - 1. Jesus is not suggesting that it is possible that God’s eternal purposes may not be carried out, but is teaching us two matters:
 - a. That our prayers express our support of and loyalty to God’s will
 - b. That those matters of God’s will that are dependent on the choices of men will also be fulfilled
- D. Deut. 29:29; Isa. 55:8-9
 - 1. Some of God’s will is unknown, perhaps even unknowable, to man

- E. Theological conundrum: why is not all of God's will inviolate?
1. God's will features God's determination to give free will to human beings; to not compel or coerce humans into believing in Him, or be forced to love Him
 2. Thus, God has determinations for people, but people may not choose to accomplish those determinations
- F. Why did God give men free will knowing they would go against His will? What kind of world would this be without free will?
1. A world without beauty or blessings. Fire can be good: heat, cooking, manufacturing, defense, light, comfort. Misused, it can cause harm. Do you eliminate everything from this world that can be misused?
 2. A world that is arbitrary. People only want some evil eliminated; that which is done by others, not their own. The very people who rail against murderers, rapists, molesters, thieves, wanting God to interfere when they do wrong, do not want God to intervene when they do wrong
 3. A world in which the laws of nature are disrupted. Imagine driving through red lights assuming that God is going to act to prevent harm. No law of consequences, madness is a short trip away
 4. A world in which there is no freedom. Virtue would not exist because vice cannot occur. When you and everyone else is forced into only one course, you are slaves or robots
 5. Rather than cursing free will, thank God for allowing you to choose it to share in His will - Deut. 30:15-20

III. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MAN IN CHRIST

A. God's will for Christ

1. While Jesus did the will of His Father - John 4:34, 5:30, 6:38, 19:30
2. He had to obey God's will, and the possibility existed that He could have turned aside from it - Heb. 4:15, 5:7-10
3. Matt. 26:39-42; Mark 14:36; Gal. 1:4, Heb. 10:7-10