

“God’s Will Be Done”

(Conclusion; Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Previously - God’s will takes more than one form:
 - 1. Permanent will - Absolute and unalterable by anyone but God
 - 2. Revealed will - Revealed, unchangeable instructions for humankind
 - 3. Unrevealed will - Unknown, unknowable plans of God
 - 4. Requisite will - Commands given to humankind that require human will to complete; never without consequences
 - 5. Permissive will - God allows a choice without imposed consequences
- B. Presently - God’s will and human will, collectively and individually
 - 1. What does God purpose for man that requires his cooperation?
 - 2. Does God have particular purposes for individuals?

I. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR HUMANKIND IN CHRIST

- A. God's will for humankind
 - 1. Matt. 18:14; 1Tim. 2:4 - God wills for all men to be saved
 - 2. Matt. 7:13-14 - Jesus makes evident, not all shall be saved
- B. God's will for believers
 - 1. John 1:13 - Believers born by will of God
 - 2. 1Peter 4:2 - We are to live our lives for God's will
 - 3. Eph. 6:6 - Believers to do will of God from the heart
 - 4. 1John 2:17 - Those who abide in God's will live forever
- C. Believers are to know God’s will
 - 1. Rom. 12:2 - Believers are to discern God's will by testing
 - 2. 1Thes. 4:3; Heb. 10:9-10: God's will for man is his sanctification
- D. God’s Will for humankind is for our greater good; but, in order for it to be accomplished, we must cooperate with it

II. GOD'S PARTICULAR WILL FOR INDIVIDUALS

- A. Does God have a will for each one of us?
 - 1. How can it be known? Only speculation or feelings; nothing is revealed about His will for you
 - 2. A very popular concept even among members of the Lord’s Church
 - 3. Many even pray to God for revelation of His particular will for them
 - 4. Some worry whether their decisions about major and minor life events are consistent with God's will for them
 - 5. Others are convinced that God does not have a particular will for individuals anymore, just the generic will for all
- B. Phil. 2:12-13 – Which is it? Our will or God’s will?
 - 1. Paul - 1Cor. 1:1 – God willed that he be called; Paul accepted the call
 - a. 1Tim. 1:1 – By the commandment of God
 - b. Acts 22:14 - God appointed Paul to learn of His will, to see Christ
 - 2. Jesus' will for John - John 21:22

- a. Jesus reminds Peter that his job is to follow Jesus no matter what His will is for others
 - b. If Jesus' will was for John to live until He returned, that would not change anything about what His will was for Peter
 - 3. Seems to imply some level of individual purposes
 - a. However, please note that these are in the context of specific commissions
 - b. Please note that there were specific revelations by the Divine; the receiver was not left to guess God's purpose for him
- C. James 4:13-15 seems to imply specific purposes for individuals today.
 - 1. Will in this context means permits; God may have other purposes
 - 2. There is no clear revelation in scripture for individual purposes
 - 3. And as there is no individual revelation, it is a moot point
 - 4. This passage is about pride; the world has not come to an end because God has chosen not to end it at this time. Our purposes will not impact that decision at all
- D. So what does this mean?
 - 1. God has an overarching plan for humankind and this world. No force can stop it
 - 2. God has a will for human behavior that does not interfere with human free will, but instead requires human cooperation to be fulfilled
 - 3. God has provided the environment and allowed all things to exist and subsist, without which, we could do nothing, either good or bad
- E. So how does this work?
 - 1. If it happens that way, God has willed it, because He created the conditions to bring it about
 - 2. 1Peter 3:17 - Suffering evil for doing good
 - 3. If we do good, as commanded (1Peter 2:15), and we get evil in return, God created the conditions that for it and has allowed it to take place, hence, it is willed
- F. God has given each of us different abilities, implying individual purposes
 - 1. By creating the conditions that generate different people with different abilities, He has given us gifts - Rom. 12:3, 6
- G. How are we to understand God's will for us?
 - 1. God has already declared His will for us: to believe in His Son, do what is good, avoid what is evil, be saved
 - 2. Acts 16:6-10 - Even the Apostles, guided by the Spirit, acted according to what they thought was best under the circumstances; sometimes God provided specific directions other times not
- H. How do we live without a specific plan from God?
 - 1. The will of God is not some nebulous thing we must see or understand before we move forward
 - 2. Questioning over and over whether any event in your life is God's will is folly, for such a judgment is always subjective
 - 3. Remember: Satan has a will, too - Luke 4:6

4. How would you be able to discern if any given path is the will of God or the will of Satan?
 5. Therefore, we ought to go through life living according to God's instructions, using the opportunities and abilities that come our way
 6. We should not expect that God will explicitly declare His will for us in specific ways in specific situations
 7. But we should pray and ask for wisdom - James 1:5-6
 - a. Not for Him to reveal His will but to give us wisdom to make the best decision by means of His revealed will
 8. Esther 4:13-16
- I. How can I know God's will for me?
1. Look for answers in the word of God; it is God's will for you
 - a. 2Tim. 3:16-17
 2. Listen to counsel from faithful Christians; it is God's will for you
 - a. Phil. 3:17
 3. Take advantage of opportunities to do good; it is God's will for you
 - a. Gal. 6:10
 4. Abstain from every form of evil; it is God's will for you - 1Thes. 5:16-22
 5. Use abilities and resources for righteousness; it is God's will for you
 - a. Luke 12:48