THE WILL OF GOD

Matt. 7:21; John 7: 17

INTRODUCTION:

1. God has expressed His will to man in Words -- I Cor. 2: 9 - 13; Heb. 1: 1 - 2

2. The things that God has EXPRESSED to man in words BELONG to man -- Deut. 29:29

3. Man needs a fixed authoritative expression of God’s will to GUIDE him -- he cannot guide himself -- Jer. 10:23

4. When God has revealed His will to man and put it in MAN’S REACH, it is possible to learn and DO the will of God.

5. God in creating man, gave man the CAPACITY TO UNDERSTAND HIS WILL -- Matt. 13:15; Eph. 5:17; John 7:17; Col. 1:9

6. Two questions to ponder:

   (1) Is man, as he is created, able to understand the will of God?

   (2) Is God able to express His will so that man can understand?

I. GOD HAS EXPRESSED HIS WILL TO MAN TODAY SO MAN CAN DO IT

1. Man cannot acceptable seek God without KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL.

   (1) The men of Athens, without the knowledge of the will of God, and in their ignorant seeking of Him, had led them into idolatry. Acts 17: 16 - 31

   (2) The Gentile world by its wisdom was unable to search out the will of God -- Rom. 1: 18 - 27

   (3) Paul deals with this in the first chapter of I Corinthians -- I Cor. 1: 20 - 21

2. God has spoken to man TODAY by His Son

   (1) Heb. 1: 1 - 2

   (2) Matt. 17:5

   (3) Matt. 28: 18

3. Christ has REVEALED God’s will to man by the Holy Spirit to the APOSTLES and PROPHETS

   (1) Eph. 3: 5

   (2) John 14:26

   (3) Matt. 18:18

   (4) John 16:13

   (5) I Cor. 2: 9 - 13

   (6) Rom. 10:8

   (7) I Cor. 15:3

   (8) Gal. 1:12

4. They put it in writing -- II Tim. 3: 16 - 17; I Cor. 4:6; John 20: 30 - 31; I John 5:13; I Cor. 14:37

II. THE WILL OF GOD, THE NEW TESTAMENT, IS COMPLETE AND ADEQUATE

1. Christ’s promise of a complete and adequate revelation of His will -- John 16: 12 - 15; 14:24; 14:26
III. GOD EXPECTS MAN TO DO HIS WILL

1. The Kingdom of heaven is RESERVED for those who do the will of God -- Matt. 7:21
2. One cannot do his own will or some other man’s will and be pleasing unto God -- Matt. 7:22 - 23
3. Conscious human effort is involved in doing the will of God -- one does not do the will of God accidentally -- Rom. 6:17
4. One must have KNOWLEDGE of the will of God before he can do the will -- Matt. 28:19 - 20; II Tim. 2:15; Heb. 5:12 - 14
5. God in His will requires an UNDERSTANDING of the will of God -- Eph. 5:17; Col. 3:16; I Pet. 2:2; Matt. 13:15; Acts 22:14 - 15
6. God requires an understanding and the DOING of His will:
   (1) Matt. 7:21
   (2) I Pet. 4:2
   (3) I John 2:17
   (4) II Cor. 5:10
   (5) James 1:22 - 25
   (6) Heb. 13:12

IV. ESSENTIALS TO UNDERSTANDING THE WILL OF GOD

1. Man must WILL to do God’s will -- John 7:17
   (1) The man that doesn’t will to do His will, will not learn the truth -- II Thess. 2:10 - 12
2. Man must have and OPEN HEART -- Acts 17:11
   (1) The man who closes his mind will not learn the truth -- Matt. 13:15
3. One must study GOD’S WILL
   (1) No man can reach an understanding of the will of God without study
   (2) Heb. 5:12 - 14
   (3) II Tim. 2:15
4. One must be willing to take ALL THE WILL SAYS
   (1) Acts 3:22
   (2) Acts 20:27
5. One must grow in knowledge -- it takes EXPERIENCE
   (1) I Pet. 2:2
CONCLUSION:

1. The will of God can be understood.
2. You can understand the will of God.
3. In fact, you MUST understand it to be saved -- Matt. 7:21.

Donald Townsley
(Hebron Lane 1986)