

15 April 2018

The will of God: Pt 6 Speak against evil, suffer for good,
and give thanks.

This is our sixth and final teaching on the topic – The will of God. In our previous study we established the role of the Spirit in discerning the will of God when a door is being opened unto us “of the Lord” (2Cor.2: 12). Given that the scriptures say that we are to understand the will of the Lord (Eph.5: 17), let us conclude this topic with the specific things that the scriptures speak of as being “the will of God” that we do not have to discern, but simply obey.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. It is the will of God that we abstain from fornication.

“For this is the will of God...that ye should abstain from fornication” (1Thes.4: 3).

2. It is the will of God that we put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.

“For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men” (1Pet.2: 15).

A fool is one that says in his heart – “there is no God” (Ps.14: 1). Do you put to silence the foolish? Do you proclaim the glorious gospel of Christ to those who are ignorant and foolish?

3. It is the will of God that we suffer for well doing rather than evil doing.

“it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust” (1Pet.3: 17 & 18).

4. It is the will of God in Christ Jesus that believers give thanks in everything.

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1Thes.5: 18).

It is the will of God for us to give thanks for His word, food, our jobs and our families – everything!

Additional comments to our three points –

What is our attitude to the will of God?

Submission, obedience – “Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart” (Eph.6: 6).

Praying for our brethren that they would “stand...complete in all the will of God” (Col.4: 12).

An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

Abraham Lincoln said “The only think necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”

Question to think about.

If the Lord is “not willing that any should perish” (2Pet.3: 9) then why does God who is all powerful not simply ordain every living human being to receive and believe Him?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

Our heavenly Father has given each of us a free-will, where we choose to believe Him (see the example in Josh.24: 15) and receive His Son (Jn.1: 12), or reject Him, we are not robots. When an ignorant foolish man believes God and becomes a son of God he is not then forced by his heavenly Father to obey His will, the believer continues to choose whether to obey the will of God or not. When you speak out against foolish men, those who say that evil is good and good is evil, then expect to suffer, and both – putting “to silence the ignorance of foolish men” and suffering for well doing are the will of God, as is giving thanks in everything, And so we say – in everything give thanks, whether you are abased or whether you abound, whether you suffer for well doing – for putting to silence foolish men, or not. In all things give thanks, for this is the will of God.