

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”

May 7, 2023

GOD’S WILL vs. MY WILL

by Jim Stauffer

Jesus said as He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, *“My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.”* (Matthew 26:39) When Jesus came to earth it was to carry out the will of His Father in heaven in the redemptive process God planned for sinful man. He spent His entire effort in preaching to ascertain He was indeed God come down to earth. In all His undertakings He emphasized He was bringing the message of God, the very God the Jews had worshiped from the days of Abraham. *“I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”* (John 5:30)

By His very actions he taught sacrificial love eloquently (Philippians 2:5-8). And Paul uses His example to teach us the very same attitude (Philippians 2:1-4). When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, His reply was*And He said to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.”* *“This is the great and foremost commandment. “The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’”* (Matthew 22:37–39) He explained these two commands are the very heart of the teaching of God for mankind. Jesus is trying to teach us what a righteous God values most.

John teaches us in his first epistle that God is love (1 John 4:8). Paul tells us His love is what led Him to the merciful extension of His grace to save us through the great offering of His only Son (Ephesians 2:4,5).

It is as we reflect on Jesus’ prayer in the Garden, we see how God’s great love is the impetus of His will for mankind. This love is so powerful He was willing to pay

the enormous price of the suffering of Jesus to redeem us for Himself. That is, to purchase us from damnation to righteousness to achieve a reconciliation between sinful man and his Creator (Romans 3:24-26; Colossians 1:13,14; 2 Corinthians 5:17ff).

In light of this knowledge, which is not a new thing to most of the world, how can we not revere Him and His will to the extent Jesus did, in that we would give all, including mortal life to preserve and carry it out.

Yet we live in a world where people are so concerned about this temporal mortality they spend a fortune on enhancements of appearance, pleasurable living, the search of the greatest sensuality they can find, instead of concerning themselves with first their salvation from sin and that of others so they may enjoy the heavenly inheritance in His presence.

Far too many are not taking care to faithfully and truthfully worship God (John 4:23,24). Those who claim to worship God often demonstrate little to no concern about leading others to obedience to His will. The reality is most simply do not care one way or the other about the will of God.

His will is that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). That occurs when we believe in Jesus. When we believe in Jesus we will truly seek the will of God as He did, *“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”* (John 6:38) While He is patient, He is also righteous and will not tolerate unrighteousness. Therefore, His wrath will come to those who reject His will by rejecting His Son. (2 Pet. 3:10; John 3:36)

Whose will is your choice?

God's Plan

Bill Walton

In the first century, God's plan for saving the lost and caring for the saved was made known through the apostles and put into practice by the disciples. God's plan was simplicity itself. And its success was the marvel of all the world. The gospel was sent to the lost. The poor and needy were cared for. And the church was edified.

How was the gospel sent to the lost? By congregations (**1 Thessalonians 1:2-8**) and individual Christians (**Galatians 6:6**) supporting evangelists to carry the gospel message all over the world, and by every faithful Christian (*"who (would) teach others also"*) (**2 Timothy 2:2**).

How were the poor and needy cared for? By each congregation caring for its own needy saints (**Acts 4:34-35, 1 Timothy 5:16**) and receiving help from other congregations when needed (**Romans 15:25-26**), and by each individual Christian *"doing good unto all men"* as there was opportunity (**Galatians 6:10**).

How was the church edified? By the elders of each congregation *"feeding the flock of God which is among them"* (**1 Peter 5:2**), and by Christians *"exhorting one another"* and *"provoking one another unto love and good works"* (**Hebrews 10:24-25**).

This plan is tried and proven. It worked in the first century, and it will work in the twentieth century. We do not need a new plan. We do not need an improved plan. But we do need renewed zeal for executing God's plan. That's what makes Christianity unique.

~via *Northside Proclaimer; Hillsboro, Ohio.*

Forgiving As God Forgives

David A Cox

"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors... For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." — (**Matthew 6:12, 14-15**).

Forgiveness is not the natural way for a man to react. "I will forgive, but I won't forget" seems to be the motto lived by so many. Perhaps this is why Jesus, early in his ministry, dealt with the subject of forgiveness in the

"Sermon on the Mount." Jesus, giving an example of prayer for his disciples, said, *"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"* (**Matthew 6:12**). Jesus gives this instruction because men will not be forgiven if they do not forgive. Jesus makes that point very clear: one who does not forgive will not be forgiven by God.

What Does It Mean to Forgive?

Many believe that forgiveness is merely a ceasing of hostile actions toward another. Often there is a willingness to place the one that committed a wrong on probation, but not a full restoration as if nothing ever happened. To truly understand forgiveness, we must see how God does it. When God forgives sin:

1. He pardons our sins. He removes the very thought of the transgression from Him (**Hebrews 10:17**). An example of this is in **Luke 15**. The main character in this parable, the forgiving father, is a picture of God. The father receives the son who had sinned against him and was not worthy to be called his son. As the son returns to the father the text reads, *"But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'"* *"But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry"* (**Luke 15:20-24**).

2. He treats us just as if sin never happened. In **Luke 15**, the father forgave the son and restored him to the position he had left. The best robe was put on him; the ring was placed on his finger, and shoes on his feet. This son wanted to be a servant, but the father wanted him back as his son; with forgiveness, that is possible. Without a doubt, God is seen receiving us back into his love, favor, and fellowship unconditionally. God greatly loves us and patiently waits for us to repent so He can show us His great mercy.

Having a Heart of Forgiveness

Forgiving is a difficult thing to do, but we must learn to do so. We must develop a heart for forgiveness. When you examine the word "forgive," you will see the word "give." The word "give" is vital when it comes to having a heart of forgiveness. We must give before we can forgive.

We must give up pride, the delusion that we are always right, and always having our way. Until we can give up these things, we cannot forgive as we should. We may

call it forgiveness, but there will always be expectations beyond the contrite heart that we will expect. We must learn that we cannot control the lives of people and everything around us. We must allow others to make choices in their lives and for their lives. We must let God control us and let the Word work through us and into the lives of those around us. The heart of forgiveness must always possess the willingness to forgive. Remember, Jesus taught his disciples not to forgive until *“seven times, but up to seventy times seven”* (Matthew 18:22).

May we work to develop a heart that is tender and genuinely forgives as God forgives.

Be Careful, You're Bending That Twig

We are all aware of the old proverb that says, "As a twig is bent, so will it grow," And when we seriously consider this, we know it is true. But it is so easy to forget this lesson. For parents) Solomon expressed the same principle when he said, *"Train up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."* (Proverbs 22:6).

Parents, remember, you are bending that twig. One way or the other, to the right or to the left, for better or for worse, you are determining the course of life which that child will take. Be careful, lest you bend it in the wrong way!

Paul commanded parents to *"Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"* (Eph. 6:4). This includes:

- 1) Train your children in morality - in clean thoughts, words, and deeds. "Wild oats" that are practiced in childhood and adolescence cannot be productive of purity later. If you complacently watch their immodesty in childhood, you can expect to see impurity in adulthood.
- 2) Train them in honesty. It is still the best policy! Help them to regard truth and fidelity as precious qualities. Show them, by word and by example that half-truth is only a lie and that a man's word should be as good as his bond.
- 3) Train them to respect authority, always - the policeman, the teacher, the parent, and the Lord. If they

do not learn to respect the first three, they will hardly respect the Lord either.

Your children deserve the best you can give them. They did not ask to be born, and their destiny is not really theirs alone, but in your strong or weak will. And the best you can give them is not just measured in education, culture, financial security, etc., but in the character which you produce in them.

Yes, you are bending that twig. Be sure you bend it right.
by Leslie Diestelkamp

About Jesus ...

This Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science and learning, He shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined; without the eloquence of schools, He spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet; without writing a single line, He set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise, than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times."

by Philip Schaff

"We offer either in home studies in person or by way of Correspondence Courses.

Call me, Jim Stauffer at 913-620-0563, Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ

We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study
Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship
Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship
Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

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Bible Classes: Sunday Morning
Prayer - Ron Peck

Wednesday Evening - **Minor Prophets - Jim Stauffer**

Sunday Sermon: **DETECTING APOSTASY IN GODLINESS**



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10