

LESSON 16

Topic: The Will of God.

Text: Matt. 26:36-39, Ephesians 2: 9-10, Jeremiah 9: 11-13.

Aim: To help believers explore what God desires for humanity both generally and specifically and how they can understand and align with His purpose.

Introduction:

The will of God means God's expectation or desire for humanity both generally and specifically. This study will look into two areas of God's will: 1. GOD'S SOVEREIGN WILL – this is God's predestined plans for the universe which He will accomplish. This is something humans cannot change or influence. 2. GOD'S PERMISSIVE WILL – this is what God allows even if it deviates from His perfect plan, often as a result of human choices or sin. This study will also acquaint the Christian with what the will of God for humanity is, how to know this will, the dangers of not knowing the will and the benefits of doing the will of God as revealed in the Scriptures so we can begin to live the abundant Christian life in the centre of God's perfect will.

Discussion Questions.

1. Identify the key aspects of God's will in the following passages. Matt. 26: 36-39, Matt.10:29, Matt.7:21, 1Thess 4:3, 5:18.
2. How can we know the will of God for us? 2Tim. 2: 15, Rom.8:26-27, Rom. 12:1-2, Is. 30:21
3. What are the consequences of following our own will instead of God's will? Prov.14:12; Pro. 3:6, 1 Samuel 8:6-7, 10 -14; 1 Chron. 21:1-4, 7; James 4:13 - 16
4. What are the benefits of submitting to the will of God? Prov. 3:6; Phil. 1:13 -14; Luke 22:42 - 43

Conclusion: God's desire for man is to follow His will. It is beneficial to know and walk in His will. Examples of such benefits abound in the scripture: joy, spiritual strength, a deeper relationship with God, freedom from sin, God's guidance in difficult times and ultimately eternal life. However, there are grave consequences for not following the will of God both in this life and in the life after. These consequences can range from a lack of peace and broken relationships to facing God's judgment and experiencing spiritual or physical harm. Ultimately, it can mean missing out on God's purpose for one's life and the blessings that come with aligning with His will.

Memory verse: "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that you might be filled with the knowledge of His WILL in all wisdom and spiritual understanding"- Colossians 1:9