

***Our devotion is an outline of the message at Belfield  
Baptist Church for April 11, 2021.***

**THE WILL OF GOD      PSALM 40:1-11 (8)**

This Psalm contains an intimate and colorful description of the Psalmist's experience of God's grace.

It is a clear picture of what happened when he found himself utterly helpless, in danger and in eminent perils.

He called loudly unto God for mercy and deliverance. Now he knows what it is to be saved. He is mightily stirred, and he is happy to have the privilege of telling what happened when the Lord took over.

He does not show his gratitude by observing the *mere externals of worship, but more especially by his delighting to do God's will*, by having God's law in his heart, and by proclaiming His glorious attributes and gracious dealings as set forth in the first ten verses of this psalm.

**The delight in doing God's will as expressed by the Psalmist ought to speak to our hearts today.**

As we look over the approaching months of this summer, we need to face the immediate future with one resolution which we are determined to keep: **That during the days ahead we shall do the will of God. Not our will, but God's will.**

**I. WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD?** Let me suggest three senses in which this term "GOD'S WILL" is used:

**1. THE WILL OF PURPOSE.** This type of God's will is always done, for what He purposed He performs.

His will is at work in the world to perform that which is necessary to conform to His good conscience for the needs of mankind. Daniel 4:35: **<sup>35</sup> And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?** Paul in the NT era expressed it in much the same way in Ephesians. 1:11: **<sup>11</sup> In whom also we have obtained an**

**inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:**

The first form of will is the will of necessity. It must be done, and God is going to get someone to do it.

We have a chance; will we use it?

**B. THE WILL OF WISH OR DESIRE:** This type of God's will is not always done, because He allows us to be free agents to act counter to His wishes.

When He created man, He gave to this unique creature the ability to make decisions. As a result, man may choose to do the will of God, or man may choose to do the will of Satan.

Jesus expressed great anguish over man's choice of ignoring Him when He cried out, **<sup>37</sup> O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!** (Matthew 23:37)

**C. The will of command** ... Every command of God is our duty to obey, but it is not always done.

John 15:12 **<sup>12</sup> This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.**

At Mount Sinai, certain laws which began "**Thou Shalt Not**" ... you know the ones that He gave as a guide.

How tragic that Christians do not realize that to break these commandments is to break the express commands of the will of a righteous God.

Though we live in the Christian era, not one of these laws have been set aside, for Jesus clearly pointed out to His followers that He did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it.

**II. THE FULFILLMENT OF HIS WILL.** God's will is going to be done in this world whether we like it or not.

**1. God's purpose is not dependent on us for accomplishment.** He may overrule us, or he may simply find others through whom to conduct His divine Will. Just think: to carry out His judgments by one stroke Sodom and Gomorrah, was gone. Look at the flood.

**2. God is capable of raising up a heathen nation to be a whip to bring about submission.**

**3. He can bring about the fulfillment of his will by breaking down our stubborn and rebellious wills. (Look at Jonah)**

**III. We should always do God's will even if it does not bring delight.**

(We expect our children to do things they do not like, for their own good)

As Christians, it may not always be a pleasure to do the will of God, but when we do it, it will be a joy.

**There are a number of reasons why we should do the will of God.**

1. We must do His will from a sense of duty. (He died for us)

2. We must do His will because of Love. He loved us

Often doing the will of the Lord involves fear or criticism or of being different, but His will must be obeyed.

Rearranging the words of our text we should be able to say: TO DO THY WILL, O MY GOD, IS MY DELIGHT!

Are you in the will of God? Have you been as true to God as you should have been? Are you His child?

As we make our journey here on earth, we need to realize that Jesus is with us in each step that we make. He also knows all our thoughts and if we are keeping His will or commands.

S.

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