

Are You Doing God's Will Part 3

“1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; 8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; 9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: 10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: 11 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: 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. 15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” (Ephesians 1:1-23 KJV)

Four times in the above passage we encounter the statements, ‘the will of God,’ and, ‘His will.’ Therefore we will use Ephesians 1:1-23 to know the will of God. The Scripture will always teach us how to comply with His will and how to live it.

“1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:” The word apostle means a person who had met Christ and who was sent by Christ to a certain groups or categories of people to start a work of God among them. Paul was made apostle by the will of God. Paul obeyed the will of God and lived it and the fruit of that obedience is that he had reached vast number of people in various places and gave them the Word of God and declared to them the will of God. We too need to do the same. God calls us to tell others about Him and to declare to them God’s will. Paul was responsible for the lives of certain people and he was to declare the will of God to those people.

Paul wrote His letter to the saints and the faithful who were composing the church at Ephesus. We need to be saints and that is God's will. We need to live holy life. We need to be faithful and be saints living in holiness. It is relevant today too, for God had called us to be faithful and characterize by faithfulness. It is the will of God to live in holiness and to be faithful to God.

“2 Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.” Grace is unmerited favor and peace is ours when we live in God’s will. The peace of God will help us to endure and go forward even in the midst of heavy trials.

“3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:” Paul introduced to the saints the heavenly blessings of God, and not the worldly one. The heavenly blessings will empower us to do and achieve the whole will of God.

“4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:” Another blessing, is that we have been chosen before the creation of the world by God to be holy and blameless. It is God’s will for us to be holy and blameless. Holiness is to live away from sin. Blameless means there is no fault in our lives. God wants to polish our lives so that there will be no stain. We need to be spotless. We are not called to be liars or cheaters, lazy or complacent. Our God is a perfect God and He expects perfection from us. To work for our perfection we need to see ourselves in the mirror of God's Word so we move on doing His will in our lives.

“5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.” God chosen us to be saint, faithful, holy and blameless and to be his sons and daughters; we are adopted as sons of God not sons of the world. Moses was pharaoh’s daughter son but he was willing to throw that all away in order to be called the son of God. Through the blood of Jesus we are adopted and became the children of God. God placed us in His church, adopted by God to fulfill His will and His pleasure.

“5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will. 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.” God do that for the praise of God's grace. And we need to comply with God’s will so that the praise and the glory will go to Him. Therefore we need to be different from the non believers. There should be a difference. Today many churches have sons of Belial who are worse than the worldly people. The non believers need to see something different in us; that is our testimony so they will praise God our heavenly Father.

“7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;” We have redemption through the blood of Jesus and the blood of Jesus will cover our sins as long as we are in repentance and living and walking in the will of God.

“8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;” When we are in God's will He will bestow on us wisdom and prudence. If these are not in our lives then our Christian walk is questionable. Those who do not have them then they have only foolishness and their salvation is in peril.

“9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:” God has revealed His will according to His good pleasure. We as believers should know the will of God in our lives. Things may not be pleasant in our life, but if that is God's will, then we need to endure them. The meaning of the word mystery is something obscure and not understandable. ***“Having made known unto us the mystery of his will”***, that means that he made things clear to us. Therefore when people move away from God's will you found them are not able to understand what is going on in their lives and we as church recognizes it for God has made known unto us the mystery of His will. As well as when God had made know to us His will then we cannot hide but we shall be surely be recognized and caught when we astray from living and doing the will of God..

“10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth;” *even in him:* God will put into effect the purpose of His will. The purpose of His will in the lives of many of his people will come to the destination that He had planned, that finally we all will be meeting the Lord when He will be coming down to take us. God had revealed His will to us and to His church. Therefore the church has to have access to our lives to correct us and to confirm to us His will. God's will in our life need to be confirmed by the church. When Christ comes, the mystery will be revealed, for He is the director of all the scenarios of our lives and the lives of all the saints. We need to realize that there is a time for implementation of what Christ ordained to us according to His will. Therefore there must be a time to put everything that He ordained for us into practice. The Church' head is Christ, and when He comes everything will be complete. Paul could see ahead of time God's will for the people of Ephesus. We as church should discern the will of God in the life of the people whom God entrust under our care and we need to help them to achieve and abide in God's will for their lives. Those who are doing their own, we as church, should confront them, rebuke them, and hinder them from going astray into wrong ways and plans.

“11 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:” We have been chosen by God, to implement God's will in our lives. There is no escape. We cannot give any excuse and we cannot go back. As we go forward to do God's will then we are titled for an inheritance kept in heaven for us. ***“Being predestinated according to the purpose”***: God have a purpose for each and everyone life and we need to comply with that plan of God, that will finally give us inheritance in heaven.

“12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.” Again apostle Paul mentioned that we are the praise of His glory. Therefore we need to be a good testimony at the present time. We need to be a good example to others. Our style of living will show whether we are living for Christ or not. Let our lives so shine before men so they will see our good deeds and praise God our Father in heaven.

“13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.” Paul said to the people of Ephesus that they are sealed with the Holy Spirit after they heard, believed and trusted in Jesus. Today we are also sealed with the Holy Spirit. There is no playing safe; we need to get involved in serving God and in obeying fully His will. We are

accountable. Once we hear the message, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit. We are marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit. Therefore there is no backing out. The seal of the Holy Spirit is still there with us. The message for us today is to be serious and behave and not take God for granted and start not to do our own will.

“14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.” Even in the world, there is guarantee and warranty given to products. The Holy Spirit is our guarantee and the down payment for the eternal life that we received from God. ***“Which is the earnest of our inheritance”***, and that we should longed for, the eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,” Paul had planted the church of Ephesus and had made the disciples and told them the Word of God. After he left Ephesus, he received a report about a new believer that when he heard about their faith he had given God thanks. He had given thanks to God for their faith and for their sincere love to the saints.

“15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;” He remembered them in his prayers, giving thanks to God for their faith and believe. Therefore we as church we need to give thanks for those who are loyal and committed to the right faith. As well as those who are doing their own, we still need to remember them in our prayers that may repent and come back to the Lord and to His will.

“17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:” Paul prayed that God would give them the spirit of wisdom and revelation so that they may do God's will. The spirit of revelation so that the secret things of God might be revealed to them to continue to walk in faith and not by sight and live in the revelation of God. We need to pray for wisdom to manage our families, children, finances and so on. Revelation is revealing something that we are not aware of. It is a treasure that is revealed. Revelation also is knowing God better. Paul at the late part of his life he wrote to the Philippians church, ***“10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.”*** (Philippians 3: 10 KJV) Paul said, I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. He wanted to know God better. To do God's will, we need to know God better, we need to have a revelation from God and we need to be willing to share in His suffering.

“18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,” Paul also prayed that they will be enlightened when he said, ***“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened,”*** to see the hope to which they have been called according to His glorious riches. Christians are so blind these days that they cannot see the blessings of God. They are spiritually blind to the spiritual blessings around them. Our minds need to be enlightened to see the blessings of God. We as church need to pray for people to be enlightened so they can see what the good plan that God has for them and the inheritance that He prepared in heaven to those who obey Him.

“19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,” When we know Him better, we will understand His power and in return we will have that hope in Him. This great incomparable power of God was manifested during the resurrection of Christ and raising Him to be seated with His Father at His right Hand. Therefore people who do God's will, will not die until they had finish His work that He entrusted them to do. But people who don't do God's will, will die at any time and without previous notice, a sudden death and no protection for them, because they are outside God's territory and His will. We will have power when we do God's will. Our eyes will be opened, our faith will increase, we will know God's resurrection power; the same power that raised Jesus from the death and put him at the right hand of the throne of God. ***“20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.”*** Stephen while they were stoning him, he saw in a vision, this incomparable power, when he saw Jesus at the right hand of the throne of grace, ***“55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, 56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.”*** (Acts 7:55-56 KJV) Jesus said, ***“21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”*** (Revelation 3: 21 KJV) He who overcomes will sit with Christ on His throne, as Christ overcame and sat on God's throne. So we, who comply with God's will and overcome, will be seated with Christ on His throne.

“21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:” Jesus had authority over every power and dominion. We also will have the same privileges if we are in the will of God.

“22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church.” God had placed all things under His feet. The feet of Jesus; He is the head of the church. Therefore we need to honour the church since Christ is the head of the church. We are accountable to do that. God's rule will never change. Therefore we need to be accountable to the church. His word can never change. His will should be our will. We cannot wrestle with God and twist His arm. We cannot go on and fight against God and against His church. If we want to sit with Jesus at the right hand of God, then we need to submit fully to Him, and our enemies will be under His feet, and we will be preserved and saved from them.

My dear and beloved: As we honour the church ***“23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”*** Then Christ will be our head and our enemies will be under our feet. Let us endeavour to do His will and let us be firm in our faith having full trust in His Word that will sustain us in times of troubles. Lets us fully trust God in our suffering while doing His will, as Paul said, ***“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”*** (2 Timothy 1:12 KJV).

Let us stand. Come to God, come in repentance, and renounce all your sins and short comings. _____ Renounce your evil ways _____, and surrender your life and your heart and even all your plans to God. Persevere in the painful trials that you are passing through. God is doing a new thing in your life. God is making out of you a real man of God, a man who will do all what He desire of you to do and to achieve the very purpose of God.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your word that teaches me more of your ways. Lord thank you for declaring your will to me. Lord thank you for placing me in your church and you consider me as your child. Lord thank you for the good plan that you have for me.

Lord I repent of the followings sins _____.

Lord I repent from doing my own will _____.

Lord you are the hope that guards my heart. Lord give me wisdom to know you and to know your will in my life in a better way. Lord help me to know your power and be able to see the riches of your glory.

Lord I surrender my life into your hand, and Lord let your will be prevail in my life.

Lord I pray for my brothers and Sisters who delight to know you and do your will. Lord open their eyes and enlighten their minds with the truth and let them see the richness of the inheritance that you had prepared for them in heaven. Lord sustain them, protect them, and continue to provide for them so they will continue to serve you and live according to your will.

Lord bless your church and make it grow. Lord I pray for more evangelism and more people will be reached out for Christ. Lord I pray for more Bible study groups to be opened. Lord those who are obedient anoint them with the Holy Spirit and use them to reach the lost and to bring the fruit that you desire to see in the life of your church. Lord help us and protect us as we persevere in serving you. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let you hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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