

Sunday Morning - August 27th, 2023

***Welcome To The
New Testament Baptist Church***

Current Series
Bible Doctrine

Today's Lesson
The Will of God

Pastor Jack

- **Psalms 115:1-3; 135:6**
- The will of God is
 - God's faculty of self-determination and choice
 - The inherent preference of God
 - The purpose and plan of God

The Qualities of God's Will

1) Freedom – God's will is absolutely free in the sense that it is not constrained by anything outside of His own nature.

“Much zeal is shown for the freedom of man’s will; little jealousy seems to be left for the freedom of God’s will. Men insist that it is unjust and tyrannical in God to control their wills, yet see nothing unjust, nothing proud, nothing Satanic in attempting to fetter and direct the will of God. Man, it seems, cannot have his own foolish will gratified, unless the all-wise God will consent to relinquish His! Such are some of the steps in the march of Atheism. Such are the preparations making in these last days by the wily usurper for dethroning the Eternal Jehovah.”

Horatius Bonar

The Qualities of God's Will

2) Power – God lacks no power to will that which He should will in accordance to the holiness of His own nature

Daniel 4:35

All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

The Qualities of God's Will

3) Immutability – God's will is the expression of His immutable nature and character, thus, His will is unchanging

- **Ephesians 1:11**

- Job 23:13-14 (KJV)

“But He is in one mind, and who can turn Him? and what His soul desireth, even that He doeth. For He performeth the thing that is appointed for me: and many such things are with Him.”

God's Will of Purpose

- This aspect of the will of God is also referred to in the theological world as God's secret will, His decretive will or His eternal purpose
 - *“Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure. Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country; yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have **purposed** it, I will also do it.”*

Isaiah 46:10-11

- What about sin?
 - God is not the author of sin but works His sovereign purposes through man's sin

“We do have a responsibility to make wise decisions or to discover the will of God, whichever term we may prefer to use. But God’s plan for us is not contingent upon our decisions. God’s plan is not contingent at all. God’s plan is sovereign. It includes our foolish decisions as well as our wise ones.”

Jerry Bridges

- Prov. 16:9 – “A man’s heart devises his way but the Lord directs his steps.”
- Greatest example of God performing His will through man’s sinfulness
 - The crucifixion of Christ
 - **Acts 2:23; 4:26-28**

“There is unquestionably a great mystery here as to how a holy God who cannot even look upon evil (Hab. 1:13) can work His will through evil, but that He does is the clear teaching of Scripture. If something could get outside the will of God, it would become a god unto itself and a rival to God. Such can never be the case. God alone is God; there is no other.”

Walter Elwell

God's Revealed Will

- This is sometimes referred to as God's will of approbation or God's perceptive will
 - God's revealed will is what is clearly seen in the scriptures
 - Man does not always obey God's revealed will

Proverbs 1:24-25

- We are responsible to obey God's revealed will
 - Not to obey what we think might be God's eternal and secretive purposes

Differences Between God's Will of Purpose And God's Revealed Will

- 1) God's will of purpose is always accomplished
- 2) God's will of purpose are only fully known to Himself

- *“The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us, and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.”*

Deuteronomy 29:29