

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

February 20

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Some Thoughts Concerning God's Will

Sadly, there are many today who do not consider or acknowledge God's will (i.e. His desire). So, with that thought in mind, let's consider some thoughts concerning God's will. Beginning with...

God Has A Will.

You see, it is important for us to understand that God has a will, and in Psalm 40:8, David said, *"I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart."* Now, wouldn't it be great if we all had the same attitude as David when it came to God's will? You see, it would be great if we all delighted to do God's will, for God desires for all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4). He wills for no one to perish, but rather for all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). However, those who do not acknowledge and obediently do the will of God will be among those who will not enter into the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 7:21-23).

God's Will Has Been Revealed.

Not only does God have a will, but also His will has been revealed to us. In 1 Corinthians 2:10-12, the apostle Paul informed that the Spirit of God has revealed the things that have been freely given by God. We also learn in Ephesians 3:1-7, that the mystery of Christ has been revealed, and in Colossians 1:26, we also learn this

fact. Therefore, my friend, God's will has been made known (Ephesians 1:9), and it has been revealed to us.

God's Will Can Be Understood.

So, God has a will, His will has been revealed, and it's also important to note that God's will can be understood. In Ephesians 5:17, Paul penned, *"do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."* You see, this passage implies that God's will can be understood, and going back to Ephesians 3:4, we learn that we gain understanding of God's will by reading the Scriptures. Therefore, do not be unwise, but rather be one who understands the will of the God. For, as we learn in Hosea 4:6, God's people of old were destroyed due to a lack of knowledge concerning God's will.

God's Will Does Not Change.

Another important point to make concerning God's will is that we must always understand that God's will does not and will not change. You see, God says what He means and means what He says, and in Psalm 119:89, we learn that God's word is forever settled in heaven. Therefore, know that the way of God is perfect (Psalm 18:30), and because of that it needs no changing. So, do not add to His word, lest He rebuke you and you be found a liar (Proverbs 30:6).

We Need To Be Reminded of God's Will.

Last, but certainly not least, we need to realize the need to be reminded of God's will. You see, as human beings we have a tendency to forget things. Therefore, it is important for us to be reminded of the things concerning God's will, and in 2 Peter 1:12, we learn that Peter understood the importance of not neglecting to remind others of God's will. Therefore, let's stir up minds by way of reminder, and let's be ever mindful of God's will (2 Peter 3:1-2).

Once more, God has a will, we must know His will and we must be obedient to His will!

✍️ Brad Phillips

KINDERGARTEN COPS

Several years ago the elders of the congregation where I was working gave the church a complete examination of their Bible knowledge. It showed there was a great lack of Bible knowledge.

From my observations I have seen the same. I have asked the simplest of questions in Bible classes and many didn't have a clue. Several years ago Connie Adams said he had been in classes that were a "Pooling of ignorance."

In 2Corinthians 13:5 Paul admonishes us to "Examine yourself." So, have you ever done that? Have you ever "examined yourself" spiritually?

BRETHREN WERE SCOLDED IN HEBREWS 5:12-14

"Of whom we have many things to say, and hard of interpretation, seeing you have become dull of hearing. For when by reason of the time you ought to be teachers, you have need again that someone teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of solid food."

TWENTY QUESTIONS

Are you "dull of hearing"? Are you too lazy to study - 2Tim.2:15? Are you too lazy to put God's word in your heart - Psm. 119:11. Are you too busy to serve the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul... Matt.22:37.

What if you were given a test of your Bible knowledge? Would you pass? Would you be put back into the kindergarten classes? Are you about to quit reading this article? Can you teach a lost soul God's plan of salvation? Can you give a scripture for each step?

Are you "giving all diligence, adding to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love"? - 2Pet.1:5-7 Are you growing? - 2Pet.3:18

Don't listen to the old adage, "You can't teach old dogs new tricks," it's a lie of the devil. Don't give up, don't quit, don't throw in the towel.

Get to work, spend time in the Book. In six months give yourself another examination. Guaranteed you'll see improvement.

✍ *Morris Hafley*

With All Boldness

Boldness is a noble quality that is needed in the lives of Christians. The word bold simply means: "not hesitating or fearful in the face of actual or possible danger or rebuff; courageous and daring: a bold hero."

In the Bible, Jesus' disciples prayed that God would bless them with this trait in the face of opposition. Specifically in Acts 4, where Peter and John were threatened and commanded not to speak in the name of Jesus, they prayed, "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to your servants that with all boldness they may speak your word" (v.29). These wanted to be able to press on in the good work of the Lord without fear. They desired that their message not be hindered by the ungodly actions of their enemies.

Oh that we too might pray for boldness! That we might have the courage to share the gospel with the lost. That we'd never hesitate to take a stand for God's will. That we'd consistently uphold truth and oppose error. Satan wants God's people to cover, be crushed to silence. God help us be brave - to ever conduct ourselves with all boldness.

✍ *David McPherson*

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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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