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Church

February 21, 2021 Valley
Week 2 - God's Will

Theme Verses:

Romans 12:2

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Big Idea:

With a quick study of the New Testament, we find that God's will is actually clear and easy to know. Furthermore, we discover that God's will is compatible with every one of us, right now, wherever we may be in life.

Key Points:

1. GOD'S WILL: _____

First, we see that God's will is salvation for anyone and everyone who will believe: "The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). This is God's will—He is not willing for anyone to reject the Gospel and die without salvation. God's heartfelt longing is for all to come to repentance.

2. GOD'S WILL: NEW WAYS TO _____ AND _____

Next, we see that it's God's will that we take on certain mindsets that fit with who we are in Christ: "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). The Gospel can inspire us to exclaim, "Wow!" And that is God's intention. His will is that we rejoice and give thanks for the Good News.

3. GOD'S WILL: _____!

The bottom line is this: God's will is Jesus Christ in you (salvation) and expressed through you (bearing fruit). God's will is not about having to search for all the right choices to get right and stay right with Him. There's no lack of clarity in knowing God's will for us.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Historically, how have you perceived the will of God? Be specific.
2. Have you heard that God's will is like a target or a series of doors, or that it's difficult to "find" the will of God and then "stay" in it? (i.e. "Like finding a needle in a hay stack") What effect does this perspective have on you?

Ponderings:

3. What attitudes underlie Paul's various commands in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18?
4. What impressions of the Christian life do these commands give you? (1 Thessalonians 5)
5. How does God enable you to fulfill His will? (1 Thessalonians 5; Philippians 2:13)
6. How can trying to "stay in God's will" become a form of works-based righteousness?
7. Where is the balance between not denying our feelings and yet not living by feelings, but by faith? For example, see Psalm 44.
8. Do you agree or disagree that every Christian can consistently experience God's joy?

Promptings:

9. What has most helped you to grow in joy, prayer, and thankfulness?
10. When we discover that God's will is clear and easy to know, what confidence and peace does this give you in your day to day life? Share an example from your life.
11. This week how can you rest in knowing God's will?