

DELIGHT IN THE WILL OF GOD

"I delight to do thy will, O my God." Psalm 40:8

God has a will. God's will determines His actions. God has a will concerning man. What a glorious truth that insignificant man has engaged the mind and will of God! God has a plan for every life. He has a pattern for every character. He has an ideal for every soul. To make His will known and get it accomplished has always been the biggest undertaking of God. To do the will of God was the biggest business of Christ when He was here on earth. Satan tried to get Him to do something else, but Christ was obedient to the will of God in everything.

With reference to the will of God, our text teaches us that there are three things of great importance to us.

I. The Discovery Of The Will Of God.

There are different phases of God's will:

1. The secret will of God.

2. The determining will of God.

(1) The will of purpose or decree.

This is always done. "Who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" (Ephesians 1:11).

(2) The will of desire or wish.

This is not always done. He permits man to act contrary to His wish. "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).

(3) The will of command or authority.

God sets forth the rule of duty and tells us what we should do. It is our solemn duty to obey every command of God. Alas! we all know that we do not always do it.

God's will of purpose always comes to pass. His will of desire does not always come to pass. His will of command is frequently disobeyed. However, God's will of purpose is not dependent upon us for accomplishment. It may be accomplished without us, by overruling and finding others who are willing to do it. But God's will of desire, that is, what is well-pleasing to Him, we should seek to discover and do. His will of command should be learned and obeyed.

There is no substitute for the will of God. God's will is the biggest and best thing for any life. To ascertain His will for our lives is the greatest discovery we shall ever make. To discover His will for our lives is the greatest privilege that we shall have in this life.

II. The Doing Of The Will Of God.

To discover God's will is not sufficient. We should yearn above all else to do His will. Really to desire to do God's will is not always easy. Christ Himself did not find it so, but still He prayed, "Nevertheless, not my will, but Thine, be done." God always wills that which is highest and best for us. To follow His plan for our lives with unwavering fidelity

and to achieve His will in our lives are the greatest accomplishments we shall ever make. After all, life is not just a question of being this or of having that, but it is a question of discovering and doing the will of God.

In this connection the words of George McDonald are most appropriate:

OBEDIENCE

I said: "Let me walk in the fields."
He said: "No, walk in the town."
I said: "There are no flowers there."
He said: "No flowers, but a crown."

I said: "But the skies are black;
There is nothing but noise and din."
And He wept as He sent me back --
"There is more," He said, "There is sin."

I said: "But the air is thick,
And fogs are veiling the sun."
He answered: "Yet souls are sick,
And souls in the dark undone!"

I said: "I shall miss the light
And friends will miss me they say."
He answered: "Choose tonight
If I am to miss you or they."

I pleaded for time to be given.
He said: "Is it hard to decide?
It will not seem so hard in heaven
To have followed the steps of your Guide."

I cast one look at the fields,
Then set my face to the town;
He said, "My child, do you yield?
Will you leave the flowers for the crown?"

Then into His hand went mine;
And into my heart came He;
And I walked in a light divine,
The path I had feared to see.

III. The Delight In The Will Of God.

Each of us can and should delight in doing God's will. Why should we delight in doing God's will?

1. God's will is right.
To do right is man's highest duty, and should be his greatest delight.
2. God's will is best.
God knows better than we what is best for us. Failure to do His will always means self-injury.
3. God's will is enriching.
There are numerous benefits to be derived from doing God's will. Certainly it is permissible to consult one's improvement and enjoyment. It is right to improve one's condition and situation provided God's will is done. Even self-love should cause one to delight in doing God's

will. Safety, satisfaction, and joy always result from doing God's will.

Moreover, great satisfaction and joy are derived from benefiting others in accordance with God's will. In this connection it is well to remember the exhortation of Goldsmith who said, "And learn the luxury of doing good." When we do God's will we always promote the well-being of others with whom we associate.

Let us say, "Help me, O my God, whose I am and whom I serve, that I may have a clearer vision of Thy will concerning me and a keener delight in doing it for Thy glory!" We should deem it a great privilege to be able to do God's will, and delight in it.