

Sponsor’s Guide

To be used with Junior High, Young People and Adult

The Will of God

Quarterly Aim: The student will conclude that God has a purpose or will for every person.

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About the Writer



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He has been pastor of Trinity MBC, Camden, AR, since March 1, 1991 and a writer for the BTC curriculum since 1993. He loves writing, reading, piano, hunting and whittling. He has served two years as moderator for the Arkansas State Association and on the Baptist Sunday School Committee for several years. He has three children (Chuck and wife C. J., Staci, Holli and husband Chris Robertson) and five grandchildren (Bethani Sewell, Carlie Merritt, Brody Merritt, Michael Robertson and Zachary Robertson).

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The Will of God in Salvation

Lesson Text: 1 Timothy 2:3-6.

Related Scripture: Matthew 4:17; 11:28-30; 18:14; Mark 2:1, 2; Luke 19:10; John 3:1-10; 4:28-34; 5:24, 40; 6:26-29; 10:10.

Application: The student will discover it is God's will that all will be saved.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS

Sadly, Many Never See, Believe or Accept the Son of God, John 6:35-40.

Sinners must look to Jesus for salvation. "God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities" (Acts 3:26). God's gift of salvation comes from God the Son. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). There is no other Savior. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9). Those who are saved place their faith in Jesus.

Many choose not to trust in Jesus. The Pharisees, scribes and Jewish leaders rejected Jesus (John 1:11-13). Jesus made many attempts to show them that they needed to be saved. Any person who chooses to do so may reject Jesus.

It is God's will for every person to have the opportunity to receive everlasting life through Jesus Christ. God's offer of salvation is for every person. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men" (Titus 2:11). John 3:16 declares salvation is for "whosoever" will. It is God's will for all to be

saved. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). Any person may repent, trust in Jesus and be saved.

EXAMINING THE TEXT

1 Timothy 2:3-6. It is the will of God for us to pray for all men (verse 1). Intercessory prayers ought to be prayed on behalf of governmental leaders, those in positions of authority and anyone who needs Christ as Savior. Intercessory prayer is praying on behalf of another. We should pray for those in authority in business. Our prayers should be invested in seeking the salvation of those who need Jesus. "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved" (Romans 10:1). Those who are truly burdened for those who need Jesus will pray for their salvation. Paul's burden was great (Romans 9:2, 3). Believers should pray for others to know Jesus.

It is acceptable to God that all men have the opportunity to be saved through Jesus Christ the Savior (1 Timothy 2:3). No one is automatically sent to hell. No one is rejected by God without the opportunity to be saved. The word opportunity refers to an open door. Jesus

Christ made the way to Heaven an open door to those who will trust in Him. "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries" (1 Corinthians 16:9). The reason the opportunity of salvation is like an open door is that God has made it possible for sinners to go to Heaven. Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved" (John 10:9). Satan cannot close the door of opportunity for salvation. The only reason people do not go to Heaven is that they refuse to go through Jesus the Door.

God's will is good (1 Timothy 2:3). "Good" means beautiful, morally valuable or virtuous. One of God's characteristics is goodness. The goodness of God provides all sinners the chance to be saved (Romans 2:3, 4). God the Holy Spirit works to convict sinners of the need to be saved. He calls and draws every sinner to Christ. It is good for people to be saved. There is rejoicing in Heaven and on earth when people are saved. We can rejoice in the power of Almighty God to save eternally. It is good to rejoice in God's salvation.

God's will is acceptable (1 Timothy 2:3). "Acceptable" means to be in agreement, to welcome fully or to approve. We should be in agreement with the will of God (Romans 12:1, 2). The will of God compels the children of God to serve Him; to live a holy life for Him; to use the Word to prove what is acceptable to God. When the children of God do not want the will of God, they are out of step with Him. Those who are found in the footsteps of Jesus will follow His example in doing the will of God.

It is God's will for all people to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4). "Will have" refers to God's first option. It is not a passing whim. "All" means everyone, any or whosoever. "Saved" means to be delivered, preserved and protected. God's assurance of salvation delivers the believer from doubts. "These things

have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:13). Jesus died for all. His death on Calvary reveals He was willing to be the Lamb of God and every sinner's substitute. His atonement is for all and is effective for whosoever will trust in Christ. Every child of God can give testimony to the truth that God was willing to save him. Since it is God's will for every person to be saved, we should seek the salvation of all people.

God's will for every believer is to know the truth (1 Timothy 2:4). After salvation, God commands His children to know the truth. God's truth is found in the Bible. "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). All God's truth is found in the Bible. The only way to learn the truth is to study the Word. "Knowledge" (1 Timothy 2:4) means recognition and full discernment. Those who study the Word will be able to recognize truth and know truth from error. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). "Study" means to make every effort. Every effort includes reading, considering, praying about the meaning and hearing the Word taught and preached. One of the evidences of salvation is that a believer will have a thirst for Bible knowledge.

There is one God (1 Timothy 2:5). The Old Testament presents the unity of God. "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD" (Deuteronomy 6:4). They were to teach this truth to their children (verses 6, 7). A scribe said, "Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he" (Mark 12:32). The heathens believed in many gods. The nation of Israel was to be God's witness to the truth that there is only one God. The unity or oneness of God is also taught in the Old Testa-

ment. "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). The use of the plural in the Hebrew language indicates three or more. The one true God is manifested in three persons—God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The whole world needs to know the truth that there is only one God.

Jesus is the Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5). The word "mediator" means go-between, reconciler and intercessor. Only Jesus can reconcile sinful man to a just, holy and righteous God. "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (Romans 5:10). What Jesus did on Calvary made it possible for sinners to be brought into reconciliation with God. "He hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12). Jesus did what we could not do. "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us" (Romans 8:34). Jesus is the only Intercessor for sinners.

Jesus gave Himself a ransom for all (1 Timothy 2:6). The words "gave himself" refers to Jesus' voluntary sacrifice. "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Jesus fulfilled the picture of the animal sacrifices in the Jewish worship by His one offering for sins forever on Calvary. The word "ransom" (1 Timothy 2:6) means a redemption price. Jesus' blood and life given on the cross are the ransom for salvation for every person. No sinner can be a ransom for those who need Jesus as Savior. "None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him" (Psalm 49:7). As the One

who paid the ransom, Jesus may rightfully be called the Redeemer. Job knew his Lord as the Redeemer (Job 19:25). "Redeemer" means one who purchases. Jesus paid the price for every sinner.

The testimony of Jesus will be given by angels, the saved and by the Father. The testimony of angels gives praise to the Lord. "Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts" (Psalm 148:2). Every believer should thank God for salvation in Jesus Christ. "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man" (Hebrews 2:9). God's testimony concerning His Son Jesus relates the sure and certain truth of the deity of Christ. "And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased" (Luke 3:22). Unbelievers need the testimony of the children of God concerning salvation in Jesus Christ.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:17. The Lord began His preaching ministry after His baptism and temptation. Jesus preached to reach sinners with the gospel message. He urged sinners to repent. Repentance is necessary for salvation (Luke 13:3, 5). He preached the gospel with urgency. The words "at hand" (Matthew 4:17) mean to draw near.

Matthew 11:28-30. Jesus offered a great invitation to sinners. The burden of sin is heavy. The heaviness of sin upon the convicted person is very tiresome. Jesus offered rest to the weary, hope to the hopeless, help to the downtrodden and comfort to the sorrowing. Those who are saved by grace through faith need to learn about Jesus.

Matthew 18:14. Jesus explained the will of God concerning the salvation of sinners. The word “perish” means to be destroyed, to die or to lose. Those who die without Christ will perish in hell. They enter eternity having passed up their last opportunity to trust in the Lord.

Mark 2:1, 2. When Jesus preached in Capernaum, a huge crowd gathered. He preached the Word. He gave them the message He came to preach. Jesus’ preaching of the Word was sharing the message of Christ with sinners in a public forum. The gospel is truly the Word of God as it is part of the biblical record.

Luke 19:10. When Jesus spoke of Himself as the Son of Man, He spoke of His coming to earth as a man or God with us. He came where Zacchaeus was. He knew his need for salvation. He called him. He saved him. Jesus’ plan for every sinner is the same. It is His work to seek the salvation of sinners wherever they are.

John 3:1-10. Nicodemus came to Jesus at night. As a member of the Sanhedrin Council, he risked his place of respect with the other Jews if they knew he sought a private audience with Jesus. Jesus taught him about salvation in terms of the new birth. Nicodemus was a learned man and a teacher, yet he did not know how to be born again.

John 4:28-34. The Samaritan woman left her well with an urgent message for the people of her city. Some believed her and some did not. She revealed her personal salvation in her burden to tell other about Jesus. Jesus came to do the will of God on Calvary. In order to finish that work, He had to give His life and His blood for sinners.

John 5:24, 40. The experience of salvation changes people forever. They are on the road to Heaven. They have a

new mind, a new opportunity to serve the Lord and a new way to live. Believers do not have to worry about any condemning judgment about sin. God judged all sin at the cross once and forever. Jesus saves those who come to Him.

John 6:26-29. Jesus had something better to offer the crowd than feeding them when they were hungry. He had something more important than satisfying their curiosity. He wanted to save them. He invited them to believe on Him for God’s salvation. He stated He was sent by God.

John 10:10. Jesus spoke of Satan as a thief, desiring to do harm. He wants to destroy lives. The Lord contrasted His purpose with Satan’s purpose. He told how He came to offer salvation. Those who trust in Jesus have eternal life. Those who live for the Lord experience the real joy of the abundant life.

RELEVANCE OF THE TEXT

The Bible gives many invitations for sinners to be saved (Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:3). “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18). Jesus offered invitations using the word “come.” “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17). All these invitations teach us the importance of hearing God’s message and responding to it by faith in the Lord.

God knew man would sin in eternity past. His knowledge did not cause people to sin. Each person chooses to accept or reject Christ. Jesus used several symbols to refer to Himself as the way of salvation. In order to receive His salvation, we must ask for it. God made a provision for

the salvation of whosoever will in eternity past (1 Peter 1:18-20). The symbols Jesus used include: He is the Bread of Life, the water of life, the Door to Heaven and the Light of the world. Bread and water must be taken in if one is to benefit from them. The sinner's response to the gospel must be to seek it from the Lord. Only Jesus can save.

CONTEMPORARY APPLICATION

The testimonies of the saved are recorded in Hebrews 11. These men and women lived by faith. Their testimonies were that they believed God. They trusted God no matter what their circumstances were. Their testimonies are powerful. Their experiences have been repeated over the years. Some like Abel came to God according to His way. Some walked with God even though they lived

in a wicked world. Noah's testimony is of a righteous man who obeyed God and preached righteousness to his generation. Abraham's testimony included a willingness to follow God to an unknown destination. Sarah believed God could and would do what He had promised. Moses made the choice to place his life with the people of God and risked his life to obey the Lord. When these heroes of the faith made the right choices in life, they trusted and obeyed God.

God wants His people in the present to be witnesses to others about the power of God to save. Every person has a network of several circles in which many are not saved. The circles include family, friends, coworkers and neighbors. In addition, God gives us appointments on a daily basis to interact with strangers who need the Lord. They may be doctors, nurses or people we meet at the store. Every person needs your testimony.