

Adult Quarterly

The Will of God

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

Lesson 1, March 4, 2018	
The Will of God in Salvation	3
Lesson 2, March 11, 2018	
The Will of God in Prayer	8
Lesson 3, March 18, 2018	
The Will of God in Obedience	13
Lesson 4, March 25, 2018	
The Will of God in Worship	18
Lesson 5, April 1, 2018	
The Will of God in Sacrifice	23
Lesson 6, April 8, 2018	
The Will of God in Praise	27
Lesson 7, April 15, 2018	
The Will of God in Godliness	32
Lesson 8, April 22, 2018	
The Will of God in Knowledge	37
Lesson 9, April 29, 2018	
The Will of God in Thanksgiving	42
Lesson 10, May 6, 2018	
The Will of God in Patience	46
Lesson 11, May 13, 2018	
The Will of God in Suffering	51
Lesson 12, May 20, 2018	
The Will of God in Security	56
Lesson 13, May 27, 2018	
The Will of God in Relationships	61

About the Writer



David O. Johnson was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in 1953, and was saved at age 7 and baptized by Ethel MBC in Antlers, Oklahoma. Brother David surrendered to the gospel ministry in 1976 and was ordained by Trinity MBC, Camden, Arkansas. He received training at Louisiana Missionary Baptist Seminary of Minden, Louisiana, Missionary Baptist Seminary of Little Rock, Arkansas, and Baylor University of Waco, Texas. He has served as pastor of churches in Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma. He has served as moderator or treasurer of local associations in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas and as moderator of the Baptist General Assembly of Oklahoma. He served for 11 years on the Standing Missionary Committee and the Baptist Sunday School Committee of the ABA. He currently writes the Adult BTC quarterly and is the author of one book, *What We Believe, and Why* (published by Bogard Press). He is married to the former Dianne Bryant. They have three children (Rebekah, Wendy and Tim) and seven grandchildren (Blake, Bryant, Caedmon, Hannah, Brady, Jordan and Isaac).

He may be contacted at daveoj53@gmail.com.

The Will of God in Salvation

APPLICATION

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

SCRIPTURES TO READ

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.

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

Introduction

The will of God should be a natural pursuit of the child of God. David was a man who sought God's heart in what he did. This does not mean he always did what was right. An examination of his life shows the failings of his humanity. In spite of his failures, his desire was to know the will of God and to pursue it. He wrote, "I delight to do thy will, O my God" (Psalm 40:8). This phrase has the idea that David was inclined toward God's will. He desired to do what God wanted. This should be the desire of all Christians. This quarterly will focus on many ways the will of God should be pursued in life. This lesson deals with God's will concerning salvation.

The natural condition of every person is that of sinfulness. God is completely holy, so there is a divide between humanity and God. Something had to take place to restore fellowship between people and God. The desire of God is for Him to have full fellowship with His creation but that communion does not come naturally. Something had to provide the way of fellowship between God and people. Since His desire was for companionship, God determined a plan whereby all people could have their sins

forgiven and could come into a relationship with Him. This is the will of God concerning salvation.

1. _____ **God's Desire (1 Timothy 2:4)**

Paul wrote that God “will have all men to be saved” (verse 4). Some think God will ultimately save all people. Instead Paul simply said that God’s intense and determined purpose was for all people to understand their need of salvation, and to call upon the Lord to receive it. This is God’s desire, but the verse does not declare that all people will be saved. What did Paul say about God’s desire to save?

God’s salvation is provided for all people. Other Scriptures agree. “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men” (Titus 2:11). “All men” is an inclusive term declaring all people have this opportunity. The sacrifice of Christ was not for a limited number of people. God’s desire is for all people to be saved, so He provided the means by which all people could be saved. In going to the cross Jesus did “taste death for every man” (Hebrews 2:9). His offer of grace is not limited. He took the place of every person by bearing everyone’s sins on the cross. Salvation is provided for all people.

God’s salvation should be offered to all people. God’s people have the responsibility to share the good news of Jesus. Since the price of salvation was paid for all people, then all people should have the opportunity to be saved. This can only come as churches and church members reach out with the gospel story of the death, burial and resurrection of the Savior. If all people can be saved, then they should be given the opportunity.

If people reject God’s offer of salvation, it is their own fault. God has provided the means by which everybody can come into a relationship with Him. However, God will never arbitrarily impose His will on any person. He created people with the freedom to choose. People can accept His purpose or reject it. That is their choice. No matter how much He wants people to become part of His family, God will never force people to trust Him. Just because it is His will (determined purpose) for all people to be saved, He will never exert absolute power to override human will. It is each person’s choice to determine what to do with Jesus.

God desires all people to come into a relationship with Him and to have an understanding of His truth. No one must settle for limited understanding of eternal matters. God wants people

to know about salvation and what it means for their eternity. Each person must decide what to do with Jesus.

2. _____ **God's Uniqueness (1 Timothy 2:5)**

The ancients often believed in many gods. They looked at the forces of nature and decided they must represent some impersonal deity. Throughout the Bible, the uniqueness of a single God is promoted. The lesson text gives a clear declaration of God as a unique individual, "For there is one God" (verse 5). This statement presents something important.

He is God alone. Paul taught He is the one true God as opposed to one of many. Though the world may make gods of many things, He is unique, and no other gods exist. If there were many gods, then they might stand in opposition to each other and might work against the plans of others. Since Jehovah is the only God, His plans and purposes are steadfast and sure. He is Almighty God and no one can stand against Him.

Since He is the infinite God, and people are finite beings, He provided a bridge to span the gap between them. That bridge is Jesus Christ. The Son of God came to earth as the Son of Man so that He could meet the need of the human race. Considering the deity and humanity of Jesus can be confusing. While on earth Jesus did not cease being the Son of God. Many times His divine nature was demonstrated. On the mount of transfiguration Jesus' form was changed, so His divine nature began to show. He did not change who He was. The veil which had covered His deity was lifted momentarily to reveal His true nature. His miracles gave evidence of His divine character. Jesus and the disciples were in a ship when a storm arose on the Sea of Galilee. The disciples were afraid, but Jesus simply spoke to the winds and waves and they immediately quieted. This was not a natural event. Even after a storm the waves would continue to roll for a while. Jesus had the ability to influence nature. Many more examples could be given of the deity of Christ expressed while on earth. His humanity was very evident. He grew weary when faced with deprivation or exertion. When headed to the cross, Jesus felt the pain inflicted on His body when the whip struck His back and when the nails were driven into His hands and feet. Jesus was fully God, but He was fully human as well. This unique character of the Son was vital in fulfilling the will of the Father.

It was this sacrifice of the Son which opened the doors of salvation to all people. Jesus is the only Mediator who can stand between God and people to plead their case before the Father. He is not the Mediator for one group of people, but for all people. The only way people will gain a relationship with the Father is for them to come to Jesus in repentance and faith. Then He will stand before the Father pleading their case.

He is God alone. No one can approach His position because all things were created by Him. This unique God desires people to come into a relationship with Him, so He provided a Mediator to be the go-between for humanity. Jesus is also unique as fully God and fully human. What a glorious God we serve! His purpose is for our salvation.

3. _____ God's Provision (1 Timothy 2:6)

The sacrifice of Christ on the cross was not something which God planned after Adam sinned. Jesus was “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8). Before the world was brought into existence, God knew what would happen and prepared for it. In eternity past, Jesus agreed to become the sacrifice for the sin of the world. He “gave himself a ransom for all” (1 Timothy 2:6). What does this mean?

He was the ransom for sin. The word ransom speaks of the means by which release or deliverance is made possible. An illustration of this meaning would be to untie or unchain someone who had been bound. Before he was loosed, he was unable to have freedom. When untied, he was free. Jesus was the One who was able to pay the ransom for those bound by sin. Without Christ, all people are eternally bound by the chains of sin. They are helpless to change their natural condition. Jesus was the ransom for sin. He broke off the chains and gave life to that which was dead.

His ransom was for all people. The word for was the general preposition for substitution. Jesus took the place of all people on the cross. The sin of the world was placed on His back. He was the substitute. Abraham had been given a son of promise, Isaac. The time came when God tested Abraham telling him to offer his son as a sacrifice. He agreed and set about to do what he was told. At the last second, God stopped the sacrifice and provided a ram to be the substitute. The ram took the place of the son. This was what Jesus did. Every person deserves to die in sin, but

Jesus willingly went to the cross to bear the sin of the world. He is the ransom for all people.

This glorious gift deserves our testimony. The Lord gave instructions to His churches for them to be engaged in telling the world about the offer of salvation. Since it is God's will for all people to be saved, they must be given the opportunity. This will happen as God's people—pastors, missionaries and all church members—engage in the work of sharing the gospel with the world. Someone has said, "They won't know unless we go." We must testify about Him at the appropriate time. That time is now.

Conclusion

Understanding the will of God is important. Knowing that God's desire is for all people to be saved means we will do our part to make sure all people have the opportunity to hear the gospel. This should be our natural desire. Since it is God's purpose, then we must do our part in helping reach out to the world. The need is not for some people to hear, but for all people to hear. Do we understand God's will concerning salvation?