**THE LORD’S WILL ON EARTH**

*“Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matt. 6:9)*

Jesus told us to pray for His Father’s will to be done on earth as it is being done in heaven. We recognize that all principalities and powers in the heavenly places are submitting to God’s will (Rom. 8:38; Col. 1:16; 2:15). But on earth? There is the rub.

Not everyone on earth is doing God’s will. Why? For starters, most people on earth neither know His will, or care. Some are going to be destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6), while others for lack of care (Malachi 1:13). As Jesus sadly put it on the day of judgment: “*Not everyone that says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he that does the* ***will*** *of my Father in heaven*” (Matt. 7:21).

But for us, who now write and read these words, we seek to know, and care, about God’s will on earth. We want God’s will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Our heart and soul is in this struggle to believe, then propagate, God’s will on earth. To do that we need to constantly rehearse in our minds, then in our words, God’s will. Our attitude is to mimic that of our Lord’s: “*I seek not my own will, but the* ***will*** *of the Father which sent me*” (John 6:38).

The word *WILL* is the Greek word *THELEMA* and carries the idea of “what one wishes or has determined to be done; will, choice, desire, pleasure.” Allow me to share with you exactly what God has willed or desired to be done on earth, allowing Him to speak in His own words to us.

First, God’s will to ALL MEN:

“*It is not the* ***will*** *of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones perish*” (Matt. 18:14).

“*God is not* ***willing*** *that any perish, but all come to repentance*” (2 Pet. 3:9)

“*For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who* ***desires*** *all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* (I Tim. 2:3)

“[Christ] *gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the* ***will*** *of God and our Father*” (Gal. 1:4).

Second, God’s will to ALL CHRISTIANS:

“*Do not be conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, acceptable and perfect* ***will*** *of God*” (Rom. 12:2).

*“having made known to us the mystery of His* ***will****, according to His good* ***pleasure*** *which He* ***purposed*** *in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him; In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the* ***purpose*** *of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His* ***will****, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory” (Eph 1:9-11)*

“*For this is the* ***will*** *of God, your sanctification, that you should abstain from fornication*” (I Thess. 4:3).

“*In everything give thanks, for this is the* ***will*** *of God in Christ Jesus concerning you*” (I Thess. 5:18).

*“Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, 14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the* ***will*** *of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men”* (I Pet. 2:13-15).

*“Therefore let those who suffer according to the* ***will*** *of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator”* (I Pet. 4:19).

I could multiply the verses just mentioned almost ten-fold, for God’s will is specifically mentioned over 60 times in the New Testament, and implied hundreds of times throughout the 27 books of His “*Last Will & Testament*.” As the beloved Paul put it so succinctly, “*Do not be unwise, but understand what the* ***will*** *of the Lord is*” (Eph. 5:17).

Why do I write this today? I keep getting asked by people all the time “What is God’s will for my life?” By that they mean, show me specifically who I should… Date? Marry? College? Career? Rent or Buy? Vacation? Invest? Etc etc etc. To which I always reply, “God doesn’t audibly speak specifics to men today, but does reveal by scriptural principles spiritual wisdom and understanding so that you may make good decisions.” I get that answer from Paul’s words in Colossians 1:9-10 when he prayed…

*“that you may be filled with the knowledge of* ***His******will*** *in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”*

If I saturate my mind and heart with God’s “Last Will and Testament” by becoming a diligent student of the Word (2 Tim. 2:15), I will walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him. That’s all that matters! I will not get audible inspired instruction on whether to marry Martha or Mary, or whether to become a Civil Engineer or Sanitation Engineer (aka Garbage collector), but I will learn the principles on how to be a good husband and good employee, regardless of whether my wife turns out to be Abigail or Jezebel, or my job turns out to be Heaven Inc. or Hell Corp. By “*understanding what the will of the Lord is*” (Eph. 5:17) I can ultimately know every detail of what God purposes for me on earth. It’s all right there in black and white. Just read it. Then, just do it!

Until tomorrow… pray today for God’s will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Then answer that prayer with a day of walking by faith, not by sight.

I love you. Rick