

GOD'S WILL BE DONE

By

Curtis Dickinson

“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10).

In this portion of the prayer repeated by millions every week, there is both a statement of fact as well as a petition. It is a solemn fact that God's will shall be done! Before creation He had a plan, called the “eternal purpose” because it does not change with the changing times, but is fixed and will always remain the same. It includes the ultimate fulfillment of man as immortal and in glorious fellowship with God, as well as the means by which this attained by Christ's death, which “was foreknown indeed before the foundation of the world” (I Peter 1:20). According to God's foreknowledge He even knew who should attain this blessed hope, “and chose us in (Christ) before the foundation of the world” (Eph. 1:4). This refutes the false millennial claim that God intended for Jesus to set up a Jewish kingdom, but when the Jews rejected Him and had Him killed God changed His mind and postponed such a government until the second coming. Scripture states that Jesus came according to God's purpose to give His life a ransom for man by dying to meet the penalty for man's sin (Isa. 53), and that this was all accomplished by Jesus' obedience to God the Father.

Christ's birth, life, suffering and death was all in harmony with God's will. Jesus came in the worst of times. He resisted the greatest temptations, and suffered a most agonizing death. Then He ascended to heaven and began His reign at the “right hand of God” (Acts 2:33, Eph. 1:20–22). ***God's will was done.***

Jesus' accomplishment of God's will in taking man's punishment for sin has never ceased to be a matter of praise and thanksgiving for Christians. His death demonstrated that the destiny of the un-forgiven sinner is the final death in the day of judgment (I Peter 2:24, Jude 7, II Peter 3:7). God will have man in His own image, **or not at all**. Those who refuse the will of God reveal that they are opposed to Him and do not want the life He offers. God is good and His laws are perfect (Psa. 19:7). To reject them is gross wickedness, and the law-breaker knows it. One who believes God's word will rejoice in every act of the Father because he sees in it the execution of the “good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Rom. 12:2). Even in the day of judgment he will sing the song of thanksgiving (of Revelation, Chapter 11), because God at last wipes out all evil and every trace of sin and sorrow.

Therefore, when we pray, “Thy will be done,” we may be sure that God, indeed, will accomplish His will. However, the main thrust of this prayer is a petition., it is a prayer asking God to do His will in the one doing the praying.

The Kingdom has already come, Christ having already ascended to David's throne (Acts 2:30–36). Each Christian I translated into the kingdom upon his redemption from sin (Col. 1:13). But the kingdom is till coming, in that citizens are being added with every new believer. The Christian has his citizenship in the kingdom, but still must live upon the earth, “in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation” (Phil. 2:15). There is no way to escape the earthly kingdom, and we are bound by the word of Christ to live in

this world in such a way as to be alight and a witness to the unbeliever. Doing God's will requires that we deny "ungodliness and worldly lust," and "live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world" (Titus 2:12).

This means that we do not wait until the next world to begin doing God's will. This is the point of the petition, that God's will be done here on earth now, by and in the one doing the praying. This is dangerous praying. Jesus prayed, "Thy will be done" (Matt. 26:42), and within hours He was slain.

Even so, it was the right thing to do. With Jesus there was never a doubt that obedience to the Father would result in the ultimate good. It meant opposition from the world, but it meant pleasing the Father, and resulted in Jesus being raised up and exalted above all that is in heaven or earth.

We, too, must learn that pleasing God by doing His will is a purpose that far outweighs any other consideration. Bunyan spent 13 years in jail because he was dedicated to serving God rather than the corrupt church. Wycliff, Tyndale, and Huss all suffered persecution because they sought to please God, but their works have blessed and inspired millions. The apostle Paul was continually persecuted and suffered much, but also accomplished much, and rejoiced in the victory yet to come.

We are engaged in a warfare, "not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12). A government which is loaded with anti-Christian appointees and un-elected administrators who have power to enforce laws they create by their own directives is, indeed, a formidable power. As much as possible, we are to be at peace with all men, but when earthly decree conflicts with heavenly authority, we must say, as did the apostles, "we must obey God rather than man", and pray "Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven" (Acts 5:29).

The prayer is not that the same things be done on earth that are done in heaven, but that God's will be done here, as it is in heaven. It is not for us to know what goes on in heaven, but we have God's instructions as to what is to be done in earth.

It is a great mistake to think that we can establish a "heaven on earth" through legislation and a "New World Order." Steps now being taken toward this new global Utopia are diametrically opposed to this model prayer that God's will be done in earth. A major obstacle to the new Order is the belief held by Christians that man is to worship God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, and that His will supersedes that of all other "gods" and man's laws. This Christian principle stands squarely in the way of the new religion designed for the new order. This accounts for the concerted attempt by the controlled media and the government to silence the Christian witness and reduce the Christian faith to nothing more than another world religion on a level with Buddhism, Islam and Judaism. Church leaders and members who endorse this concept of "unity" are either shallow-minded or very corrupt.

The evils in the world are not due to man's environment nor to the mismanaged government, as many think, but to the rebellious nature of man, as expressed in Sinatra's popular song: "I Did It My Way." As long as man rejects the Creator's design for living, his world will continue to be fouled up.

A word needs to be said about the erroneous idea that God expects us to yield our will to the Holy Spirit so that the Spirit might take "full control." Countless errors, and

even crimes, have been committed by people who abandoned their will, to follow irrational inclinations rather than sober thinking.

Scripture never suggests we give up control of our minds. Rather, the influence of God's spirit will produce greater self-control (Gal. 5:23, II Peter 1:6), and thus enable one to do God's will. When Jesus prayed, "Not my will, but thine be done," He was not giving up control of His will and actions; rather, He was exercising His will in the strongest sense.

Instead of yielding control of His will, Jesus willingly humbled Himself to obey His Father, becoming "obedient even unto death" (Phil. 2:8). While Jesus was anointed with the holy spirit to an unlimited degree (John 3:34, Acts 10:38), He exercised His won will in submitting to the will of the Father.

Some praying may be simply asking God to help one attain his own earthly ambitions. But Christ did not come merely to help people over the rough spots on their way to final destruction. He came to turn them around that their lives might be ordered after God's will, as they seek for eternal life and immortality in the new creation (Rom. 2:7). The question for every Christian is whether or not he can honestly pray that God's will be done in his own life.

It was Jesus who said, "Not every one that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that does the will of my Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21).

Let us pray: "Thy will be done."

.....
Copyright © Curtis Dickinson. Formatted and Posted by Ken Fortier Ministries.
Permission is hereby granted by Mrs. Regina Dickinson to reproduce and distribute
Curtis' articles to as many as possible. This statement is to remain attached to this article
for permission to be valid. Vol. XXXVI, Number 1.
.....