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# Sermon Notes

June 4, 2023

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

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## YOUR Will Be Done

Matthew 6:10

### Questions

- ❖ How can I know God's will for my life?
  - at crossroads moments in life
  - likely a question all of us have or will struggle with at one time or another
- ❖ What happens if I get it wrong, misinterpret God's will, or make the wrong decision? Will I mess up my whole life as a result?
- ❖ Does Jesus' inclusion of the words *Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven* imply that God is not always in the process of sovereignly acting to accomplish His will?

### Understanding "Will"

- ❖ There are two different words in the Greek NT that are translated into English by our word, *will*
  - each word has several shades of meaning
  - the context in which these words are used is vital to understanding what an author has in mind when he refers to "the will of God"
- ❖ Historically, three major categories have been used to identify different aspects of God's will about which the NT teaches us

- the sovereign will of God
  - whatever God decrees comes to pass (Isaiah 14:24)
  - includes all of God's unfolding plan for the entire universe including heaven, hell, and earth
    - ♦ God allows sin to run its course and Satan to have his way for a season
    - ♦ in God's appointed time, sin's course and Satan's way will end in exactly the way God planned prior to His creation of the universe
  - this truth is a great comfort for believers (Romans 8:28)
    - ♦ God is not the author or originator of evil
    - ♦ God does not condone or approve of sin
    - ♦ God sovereignly allows evil and orchestrates all that happens in human history and in our lives for His glorious, perfect purposes
- God's preceptive will
  - revolves around His law and commandments
  - no one has the desire or the power to willingly and joyfully obey God's "precepts" until they come to Him through faith in Christ and receive the gift of the HS
    - ♦ the HS writes God's law on our hearts and gives us the desire and the power to obey God
    - ♦ the preceptive will of God can be and is violated on a global basis all day every day
- doing what is pleasing or displeasing to God
  - God is pleased when people are saved (1 Tim 2:4)
  - God is not pleased when people perish (2 Peter 3:9, Ezekiel 18:23)

- although it is contrary to the compassionate longing and desire of God's heart, and God is grieved when people reject Him, God's desires are not always fulfilled

### Your Will Be Done

- ❖ What is it that Jesus instructs us to pray?
  - "God accomplish your perfect, unchangeable, sovereign will?"
  - "Not my will but Yours be done?"
- ❖ *On earth as in heaven*
  - there is a disconnect between the way God's will is done in heaven and the way God's will is done on earth
    - how is God's will done in heaven?
    - how is God's will done on earth?
  - Jesus calls us to pray for God's preceptive will to be done on earth in whatever ways please Him
    - unlike those in heaven who delight to do God's will, fallen creatures believe joy and pleasure are found in pushing God's will away in order to embrace sin
    - "God please straighten out the disconnect between the way Your will is done in heaven and the way it is **not** being done here on earth"
- ❖ Pray it for yourself, for others, for the world at large
  - "God 'straighten me out'"
  - "God, bring pleasure to Yourself through the salvation of those who don't yet know You"
  - "Cause Your will be done in such a way that men and women, boys and girls from every tribe, tongue and

nation will come streaming to You as they embrace Jesus as their Savior"

### Remind Me... Why Pray?

- ❖ Since God acts on and accomplishes His sovereign will regardless of circumstances, outside forces or whether we pray or not, what is the point of praying?
  - can I override the will of God?
  - if I don't pray, will God's will fail to be accomplished?
  - is prayer merely an exercise in me resigning myself to the way things are and trying to align myself with God's will?
- ❖ The Bible is unequivocal about God's absolute sovereignty (Numbers 23:19), but within His sovereignty, God commands us to exercise our responsible wills by bowing before Him and beseeching Him in prayer
  - believe & take action on what God commands you to do
  - not with arrogance OR with a defeatist attitude
- ❖ In God's wise, gracious plan, prayer is essential to the proper working of His will on earth
  - John MacArthur, "To pray, 'Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven' is to rebel against the notion that sin is normal and inevitable and therefore should be tolerated."
  - "I refuse to make a truce with evil or be at home with evil."
  - whenever we pray for righteousness we are praying against wickedness
- ❖ Pray for God's will to be done and Satan's will to be undone