

UNDERSTANDING THE WILL OF GOD

ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

I hope that those of you who were here last week can remember the message as we are going to build off that message. For those of you who were not here, let me give you a recap. Two weeks ago we started with the foundation. That foundation is faith in Jesus Christ and nothing else. Christ plus nothing. Not our works, not our efforts, not anything other than faith in Him. That's how we are saved and if that is not your testimony. If your hope is in anything other than Christ, you need to know today that its misplaced. If you are trusting in your own goodness, if you are trusting in some work that you've done, it wont be enough, you must be born again. You need true salvation, true faith, true repentance. You need to trust in the finished work of Christ! That was two weeks ago.

Now, last week we said, once we are saved, we must quickly come to the realization that our life is no longer our own. When we are born again, the old man dies and a new creation is born, a new man in Christ. And once we realize this new life is given to us, entirely by the grace of God, it should cause us to love God and to consider how this God who saved us wants us to live. The specific question we ask was, WHAT IS GODS WILL!

Don't forget, we talked about the multitudes of nominal Christians. Remember what a nominal Christian is. I read you that definition – "A nominal Christian is a church goer or a religious person whose profession of faith does not go beyond, being identified with a church or denomination. Their version of Christianity, their religion is mostly social and they do not allow it to require much of them in terms of morality or responsibility." That's a really good definition of a nominal Christian.

- The nominal Christian is not really concerned about God's will. They aren't really concerned with how God wants us to live.
- When they think about God, their thoughts are mostly about what they want from God.
- Listen, if that's you. If you profess to be a Christian but your Christian life is mostly just a social thing. And you don't really care what God says or wants or expects of His people. You don't really have a desire to know Gods will or to live for God.
- I beg of you this morning to consider your relationship with God through Christ. Is it real! Consider your life, have you really been born again. Is your life really new? Are you in Christ?
- Is Christ your life? Is Christ, who and what you love the most? Are you serious about your faith?

Now we attempted to dive in a little deeper and explore the will of God. And we saw two types of God's will. We saw God's sovereign will. That is, what He has decreed to come to pass in the counsel of His own will. We saw the scripture say, what He has spoken He will bring to pass. What He has purposed, He will do.

- Some of those decrees are revealed to us in scripture. Like we know that the God has appointed a time in which He will judge the earth in righteousness. We know that it is appointed unto man to die. We know that earth is going to melt with a fervent heat one day. Those are things we know.

And then there are parts of God's sovereign will that remains hidden from us. The secret things belong to the Lord. We know the Lord's coming back but we don't know when. We don't know or see all that God is doing but we understand He is working all things together for good. That is God's sovereign will.

Then there is God's moral will. This is the commandments of God. This is the revealed expectation of God for His people. We are very blessed today because we hold those expectations in our hands every time, we pick up our bibles. It is filled with God's instruction to us His moral will. And if you remember, we said, it's not that we have a lack of understanding, we understand what God wants, the problem is we lack the faith to live it out.

But now this morning we want to dive a little deeper into living out the will of God. There is this overarching principle that we find in the scripture that explains to us what our lives as believers should be about. It is found in 1 Corinthians.

- **1 Corinthians 10:31** – *Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

THIS IS THE BELIEVER'S LIFE! THIS IS THE MISSION OF THEIR LIFE! THIS IS WHAT THEY ARE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT. THIS IS WHERE THEIR HEART IS. THIS IS WHAT CONSUMES THEM. THIS IS THEIR DESIRE!

HIS GLORY! HOW CAN I LIVE FOR HIS GLORY! HOW CAN I DO EVERYTHING FOR HIS GLORY!

How can my home glorify God? How can I glorify God when in my career. How can I glorify God in my role as a husband or wife? How can I glorify God as a parent or grandparent? How can I glorify God in my church? How can I glorify God in my attitude? In my heart? In my hobbies? In my behavior? With my time, with my money, with my possessions?

- In every aspect of our life, we should desire to know how we can live it for the glory of God.

That doesn't concern the nominal Christian but the one whose heart is after God. The one who is overwhelmed by God's love. The one who once was lost but is now found, who once was blind but now sees, the one who has been redeemed, restored, made new, born again. The one who has had their sins forgiven. They have this love for God now and it fuels them. It's their passion, it's their purpose, it's their desire. AND THEY WANT TO GLORIFY HIM! .

I know you know this, you've patiently endured, as we've spent the last 3 or 4 years, laying the solid foundation in our hearts and minds. "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ". We've labored to dig deep and set this foundation in our heart, that you are restored to God only because of Christ, because of who He is and what He accomplished for us. Because He laid down His life for us, even while we were living in our sins and loving them, He died for us. And He was resurrected, for our justification and He has given eternal life to as many who will truly believe, and He has sent to us the Holy Spirit to abide in us.

- I love **2 Corinthians 1:22** speaking of God it says- *who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.*

- And because we know what He has done for us, He is everything! We love Him, He is our Salvation, our Hope, our Peace, our Joy, our Strength, our Rock, our Shepherd. In Him we find everything we need!

Church that is the truth, the foundation that we need to build our lives upon. If you know all those things. If you know you have been saved from death, if you know you have been adopted into the family of God. If you know you've been made to be a son or a daughter of God. How can your desire be anything less than His glory. LIVING EVERY MOMENT FOR HIS GLORY!

Now what we want to explore this morning is this, what does living for His glory look like practically. How do we live for the glory of God.

TO LIVE FOR THE GLORY OF GOD IS TO LIVE IN WORSHIP

The first thing I want you to know is this, if you want to live for the glory of God, you have to live in worship. I know that sounds a little strange but I believe this is the first truth in living for the glory of God, we must live in worship. Now worship means we display the worth of God. So we live to display the value of God. And often the Greek word for worship is translated to bow down. In other words to put ourselves lower than Him.

So when I say live in worship, what I mean is that we humble ourselves, and we let every aspect of our lives display the worth of God.

- This is what **2 Corinthians 5:14-15** says. Look with me at that verse - *For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live **should live no longer for themselves, but for Him** who died for them and rose again.*

Those that live for God's glory no longer live for themselves. Think about that for just a moment. To glorify God means in every aspect of our lives, we are to put Him above ourselves. His desires above our desires. His will above our will. His truth above our feelings. His wants above our wants. His goals above our own goals. His priorities above our own priorities. This is the essence of worship.

- Now the question we have to ask ourselves is this. Who am I living for?
- When I look at my life, the way I live, the things I do, the priorities I have, the way I use my time, my money, my talents. Is it about me or Him? Is it for myself or for Him?

If you want to live for the glory of God, you must first humble yourself down before Him and surrender your will to His. You have to come to agree with this verse. You have to let go of your own will and say my life is no longer about me, it doesn't matter what I want, what I think, what I feel. Its about Him, His truth, His will.

- Remember when Satan tempted Christ in the wilderness. He took Him up on a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory in a moment of time. And the devil said, all these things I will give to You, if you fall down and worship me.
- What did Jesus say, He said it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only you shall serve.

You see God's worth, His value was so much greater than all the kingdoms of this world and their glory. They didn't even compare to the worth of God. Until we see that truth, we will always try to walk the fence. Trying to follow Christ but keeping one foot in the world.

- For some people that is their entire Christian experience. They want to call themselves Christians, but they also want to live for themselves.
- They want the kingdoms of the world and their glory and they want eternal life with Christ.

If you want to live for the glory of God, you have to let go of this world, stop living for yourself and start living for Him! So hopefully you see to live for the glory of God, we must humble ourselves down and let every aspect of our lives display the worth of God.

TO LIVE FOR THE GLORY OF GOD IS TO LIVE BY FAITH

Next, I want you to see that if we want to live for the glory of God, is to live by faith. We must trust God. Look with me in Romans 4 at the account of Abraham's faith.

- **Romans 4:20-21** - *He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.*
- Now you can see it there in those verses. Abraham trusted God, and that glorified God.
- Even though what God had promised didn't really seem possible. He trusted God's word.

When we learn to trust God, God is glorified in our faith. Now Abraham had this promise from God that He would be the father of many nations. And even though Abraham was old and Sarah's womb was dead, he trusted that God would do what He said He would.

- Look with me church over in 2 Peter chapter 1. I want to show you this. I want us to understand this.
- **1 Peter 1:1-4** - *To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, **by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.***
- Now, look carefully at verse 4. These exceedingly great and precious promises that God has given to us in His word, if we will believe them by faith, if we will trust God, these promises enable us to be partakers of the divine nature by causing us to escape the corruption that is in the world through lust.
- In other words, if we will live by faith in these promises. They will allow us to overcome the lust (the desire) that we have for the things of this world.

Now my goal is not to step on toes today but I do mean to preach the truth to us. There are many professing Christians today who are overcome in lust, in desire, for the things of this world. And the reason they are overcome in lust is because they haven't yet come to trust in God's promises.

- Think about it with me. What was it that gave the apostles the ability to lay down their lives?

- What was it that caused the early church to be willing to sell many of their possessions and give to the poor?

It was faith in the exceedingly great and precious promises. They believed Jesus when He said:

- **John 10:27-28** – *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*
- **John 14:1-3** – *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*
- **John 6:39-40** – *This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

And because they believed those things, this world lost its appeal. They no longer lusted after the temporary things of this world. They could let go of the world because they truly believed in the promises of God. And here is the hard part that we need to hear. The reason we are so easily overcome by desire for the things of this world, is because our faith is so weak. We aren’t trusting in God’s promise of eternal life. We waiver in unbelief, that we have eternal life and that it is better than this.

- Deep down I think there are multitudes of people who profess to be Christians but they aren’t convinced that eternity will be better than what they have now.
- They aren’t even really convinced that they have eternal life.
- So they are hedging their bets. They try to have both salvation and the things of this world.
- They don’t want to go to deep out there with God, it takes them too far away from the world. And they aren’t truly convinced that God is going to come through, and so they don’t want miss out just in case this is all there is.

If you want to live for the glory of God, you have to live in faith. When we trust God, it brings Him glory.

- **Hebrews 11:13-16** - *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.*

So we must be assured, we must embrace and confess that we are also strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Far too many of us have made our homes here instead of declaring plainly that we desire a better, heavenly country.

- **1 John 5:4-5** - *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

TO LIVE FOR THE GLORY OF GOD IS TO LIVE IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD & BEAR MUCH FRUIT

So to live for the glory of God we have to live in worship, no longer for ourselves but we live for Him who died for us. We also must live in faith, letting go of this world, overcoming it because we trust in the precious promises of God. And those two things empower us to do this last thing that we will share with you today.

To live for the glory of God is to live in obedience to His word and bear much fruit.

John 15:5-10 - *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. **By this My Father is glorified**, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.*

But now here is the truth, you will not obey God's word unless you are living in worship, living for Him and living in faith, trusting in Him. Because living His word will totally separate you from those living for the world. You will be peculiar. You will be different. You will be set apart.

- Living out the word of God, will make you look different than others, act different than others, talk different than others, think different than others, live different than others.
- Your attitude will be different than others. Your desires will be different.
- You will have different priorities than the world, different goals, different standards
- You will have a different view of success. You will use your time differently, your money differently. Your possessions differently.
- What interest you will be different, what brings you joy will be different. What you like to listen to will be different. What you watch will be different.
- Living out the word of God, will likely cause many of your friends and family to leave you behind
- They won't want to be around you and they will say its because you are no fun anymore but in reality its because your light exposes their darkness.

All because God is at work in you, sanctifying you. He is making you more like Christ and less like the world. He is using His word to mature you, to grow you in practical holiness.

I want to emphasize something to you. I want you to really hear what I'm preaching right now. We must never forget, as we build upon the foundation of Christ alone for salvation. Yes, we are not saved by works, but the evidence of genuine salvation is a life that bears much fruit and the evidence that we love Christ, is our obedience to His commands.

- I fear that we have gotten too comfortable with grace. So comfortable that we think we can just say I love Jesus, and live like the world, that we can ignore God's word and still be right with God.
- God forbid. Listen to the scripture.

- **2 Corinthians 7:1** - *Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

We don't preach on this enough. If you are a true believer, you are called to holiness. You do not get to live however you want. You are called to obedience. This is for God's glory. This is how you as a believer glorify God, you live for Him, you trust in Him and the world knows it because you obey Him.

- When is the last time you considered this scripture
- **1 John 3:9-10 (ESV)** - *Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.*

Church, are you taking God's word serious? Are you striving to live out His commands? Are you cutting away the things in your life that are not in His moral will for you? Are you doing the things that He says you ought to do?

You can't say you are living for the glory of God, if you know to do good and do it not. You can't say you love Him if you aren't willing to obey Him.

- I believe this is the very reason why we see so little fruit today in the professing Christians.
- Their lives aren't ordered by the scriptures.
- They think because of grace they need not to worry about how they live.
- We have forgotten that Christ frees us to obey. We left the slavery of sin, we are no longer under the law. But you need to know what that means. That means we are no longer under the law's condemnation. We are free from sin's dominion.
- But we become slaves of righteousness.
- **Romans 6:17-18** - *But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

What about your life? Forget about everyone else for a moment. Look at your own life. Are you living for the glory of God by obeying His commands.

If I were to read to you just a few very plain, easy to understand scriptures as a sample. Would you be willing to compare yourself to them.

- **Matthew 5:44** - *But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you*
- **Ephesians 4:32** - *And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you*

- **Philippians 2:14-15** - Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,
- What about this one, love one another as I have loved you.
- Or this one, love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.

Church, lets get serious now. Is your life bringing glory to God?

- Are you living for Him or for you? Be honest before God today.
- Are you standing on His promises? Walking in faith.
- Are you bearing much fruit?
- Are you living in obedience? Not perfectly but giving it all you got.

Are you doing all for the glory of God?