Dear Reader,

I am new to producing reading sermons. So, if you have any suggestions as to how I might improve my format or what I include – please email me at cdanielwilson@gmail.com. **I will warn you, that I do not use short sentences**. I will endeavor to work on this over time, but I don’t naturally write that way. However, you can easily break most of my longer sentences into 2 or 3 smaller ones where I have “…” or “–“ or commas. If you do the work on making it into smaller sentences – feel free to email it to me, and I am happy to share your work with others. I do have some of these available which people have sent me. I will eventually make them available as part of the normal manuscripts.

I have left my sermon manuscript formatted the way I normally write and read my sermons. They are colourful and written in conversational English. If you are a grammar nazi – then you will be frustrated with my punctuation and phrasing. However, once you read it out loud, you will normally be able to tell what I meant to say. SERIOUSLY, READ IT OUTLOUD. You will also see that I use a good bit of bold, italics, underlining and different colours to signal what are the most important things to say, and also to make it easier for my eye to pick up my place in the middle of paragraphs. I would recommend that you keep as many of those things as possible to help you keep your place. However, you will probably want to increase the spacing between lines. I highly encourage you to commit as much of the introduction or children’s illustrations to memory as you can, so that these can be delivered to the congregation with maximum eye contact.

**Where possible, I highly recommend that you listen to the sermon as I preached it at either the Nelson website or the website of North Shore.** I recommend that because that will also help hear the places where I added or skipped over material in the manuscript, and the places where I clarified my meaning. I have edited bits and pieces which I thought most important, but I have not sought to include all the additional material that comes to me while in the pulpit. I would practically have to use a transcription service for that. However, I hope and pray that this sermon will be a blessing to you and to your congregation. To God be the Glory!

Blessings in our Lord, Pastor Daniel Wilson

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**My Suggestions for the Order of Service**

Song before the service: #*#51:1,5,6,7*

***Prayer of Preparation – Lord bless, strengthen to serve/worship you!*** Call to Worship: PSALM 104 vs.33-35

RESPOND in Faith: ***Our Help is in the name of the Lord our God, the Creator and Sustainer of all the earth!*** ***May*** Grace, Mercy, Peace and Love ***be yours*** from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

We are the servants of the Lord, and so, Let us praise Him in song - **#104 *“My soul, bless the Lord!” Vs 1,11,12,13***

***We will profess our faith using the Nicene Creed*** *(7) Page Please be seated*

 *Heidelberg Catechism Lord’s Day 49 page*

**Scripture Reading: Philippians 1:18-26**

***Let us Worship the Lord as we sing:#67* “O God to us Show Mercy”**

***Congregational Prayer***

*Let’s cont. to worship as we sing* **Our Song of Prep: #511 “Our Father, clothed with majesty” *Vs 1,2,3,4***

***Sermon Text:* Matthew 6:5-15; Phil 1:21 *Sermon Title: “Make Me Live for Christ!”***

***Let us now sing a* song of Response Dwelling*–*#501 “Take my life, and let it be”**

***May God the Father*** *bless you & keep you,* ***May God the Son*** *turn His face toward you & be gracious to you,* ***May the Holy Spirit*** *lift up his countenance upon you & give you peace!* ***Amen***

 ***Doxology*: #525“Now unto Him”**

# **Evening Sermon: “Make me Live for Christ”**

Text: Matthew 6:5-15 ***Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven***Reading: LD49 *Philippians 1:18-26*

**Introduction: Tonight, we read from** the second half of Philippians 1. We looked at the passage well over a year ago in our Philippians series, and we looked in depth at that idea: “To live is Christ, and to die is gain.” ***SO POWERFUL!***

 And when we come to the Lord’s Prayer, we see the Phrase: “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”  ***That phrase is actually asking God to make you live for Christ!***

So, tonight, we are going to dig in a little deeper into what God’s will ***IS***, and what it means to live for Christ by doing God’s Will– for that is what the angels do in heaven! ***They live, move/breathe for God’s Glory!*** ***And so, should we!***

 (**Review**) **Last time,** we saw that praying ***Your Kingdom Come*** is asking God to conquer us and bring His heavenly kingdom: in our hearts, to the protection & expansion of the church, to the destruction of all His and Our enemies – and all for the purpose of the Final Victory of Redemption! ((*The Redemption of all Creation!* )) ***We ended that sermon recognizing*** that we need to rest in the certainty of God’s final victory!

*This* ***3rd*** *request* works in conjunction with *what we saw last week, B/C it* ***explicitly*** *asks God to do what was* ***implied*** *last time!* **The Heidelberg Catechism answers it best… *Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven means:* God: *Help us and all men to reject our own wills and to obey your will without any back talk. YOUR WILL ALONE IS GOOD! Help everyone carry out the work he is called to, as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.***

*We will divide this 3rd request into 3 major parts by asking/answering3 questions:*

1. **What is God’s Will?**
2. **What does it mean to DO God’s will on earth?**
3. **How is God’s will done in Heaven?**

*Our first question:*

# **What is God’s Will? (REPEAT)**

***It is all fine and good to talk about doing God’s will, but if you don’t know what it is… it is probably dangerous to pray for it!*** You just might be praying for God to punish or discipline you!

*As we consider the use of the term “God’s will” in Scripture – there are two common uses/meanings:*

***God’s Declared/Revealed Will*** *(ie the Bible) &* ***God’s Secret Will*** *(whatsoever comes to pass in time/space)*

* 1. *When we speak of* **God’s Declared/Revealed Will***, we are speaking of The Bible (Law/Gospel)*

 This is what God has revealed to us for our salvation and sanctification. It gives us God’s standard of perfection. God’s Revealed Will/ His Law is the straight and narrow path to which He calls every Son/daughter of God. This is the part which we can know without a shadow of a doubt. ***What is God’s declared will for Christians and the church?*** **Right here!** [Bible] ***To believe in & live for Jesus Christ… to put off the old man of sin & put on obedience to Christ, thru faith.*** ***To Live is Christ, to Die is Gain – that is the declared will/outlook for all men (although only Christians will adopt it!)***

When we come to make decisions about life, Christians often ask: ***What is God’s will for my life?*** We can’t ask God to reveal His secret will – He will do that through whatever happens… *No, rather, we can only ask for the principles of His Word to know what God would require of us in that decision!*

***You see, God doesn’t have 2 wills for you.*** There isn’t (as some say) a “***best life now***” version of God’s will, and then a “you screwed it up” version of God’s will! So many teach that there are two such lines, and if you choose the wrong spouse, then you have missed God’s best for you: ***RUBBISH!* God’s best for you is outlined right here in His Word.**

**And as we saw with the Apostle Paul in Philippians 1… He was ready for whatever option God had chosen.** *If God chose to set Paul free and give him a longer life –wonderful! More opportunities to serve Christ. If Paul stayed in Prison – Great! More time with those guards in Rome. If Paul was to be put to death – Fantastic! Paul goes to Heaven!* Paul knew that there was not a plan A/B/C from God’s perspective (just from Paul’s!) Paul was content to wait for God to reveal which was His perfect plan, ***because no matter which way it went – it would work out for his deliverance!***

So, when you are faced with a situation where you don’t know what God’s Will is – as in, you don’t know what God would require of you in that situation. **What should you do?** You can build a 3-legged stool. Not literally – don’t get out the wood working tools just yet. Rather, I am talking about the 3 principles for making decisions: They are: (1) the Principles of God’s Word, (2) The Godly Counsel and Wise advice, and (3) Your own abilities, opportunities and ideas. The seat which holds everything together is Prayer.

**The beauty of a 3 legged stool is that if one leg is missing, then the stool** (*& thereby your decision*) **falls over.**

***Let’s take an example:*** (1) the Bible speaks highly of musical abilities and music in Worship, and (2) let’s say that your church and family want you to become a Gospel singer (and they advise you in that direction), but (3) if you physically don’t have the voice for that – then it won’t work.

**Or you might have a gift which is illegitimate.** For example, you might be really good at stealing things – but since God’s Word prohibits stealing, and All wise advisors would recommend you not becoming a thief – your decision would fall over. ***You see,*** Your abilities and desires need to be vetted or tested by God’s Word and Godly Advice, and you soak all of it with abundant prayer asking God for His wisdom/leading… and then you make your decision and sit on it – trusting God to provide – and He will provide what is best!

*But BE WARNED!* God Himself warns against disobeying **His Word**. ***As Proverbs says: The way of the transgressor/rebellious is hard***. So, yes, when you disobey God, or you fail to trust God, it does LOOK like you “missed” God’s best for you… **BUT THIS IS WHERE GOD’s Secret will is SO Amazing!**

* 1. *Because* **God’s Secret Will** *is God’s providential plan of whatsoever comes to pass…*

When the Bible isn’t talking about the Will of God being the revelation of the Bible – it uses the term in the sense of God’s Providence – What He brings about in time and space… You see: Every Sin, Every Struggle, Every disaster, Every Failure, Every Star in the Universe and every speck of dust is controlled by God’s Sovereign, Providential Will. So, whether you see a speck of dust floating through a ray of sunlight, or a star at night, you can KNOW that each has a predetermined flight plan ordained by GOD! **And God has GUARANTEED!!** *Not suggested or implied* **– GOD HAS GUARANTEED, that ALL things** ***will work together for the good of those who love Him and have been called according to His purpose!***

***ALL THINGS:*** *Even your mistakes/Sin can’t mess up God’s Plan!!!*

*That leads us to ask, if God’s Secret Will is His providential plan… and God’s Revealed Will is His Word:* ***What Does it Mean* TO DO *GOD’S WILL on Earth? SECOND Point…***

# **What does it mean to DO God’s will on Earth?**

***What are we asking for? Are we asking God to do His Providential Plan? Perhaps in a way, but more precisely: We are asking Him to change* US *so that we DO what He has called us to do… both* ACTIVELY and PASSIVELY**

It is important to **PAUSE here** to remind you that **we are talking about Christians speaking to their Heavenly Father…** We are discussing the HOUSE rules, the Will of the Father, here – NOT THE WAY of Salvation or the Way of earning Heaven credit or any such thing. This is God’s Will for the Christian to do on earth. ***Saved only by faith in Christ***

* 1. ***We* actively *do God’s Will when we Know* and DO *what God has revealed in His Word***

**If you don’t know God’s Word, then you probably aren’t doing God’s Will…**

You can learn God’s Will from studying God’s Word. When you read, memorize, and meditate/pray on Scripture, and you read good Biblical books and listen to good preaching – **that is when you learn God’s Will for your life.** Not that the Bible tells you **go here and do this** (at this time etc), but through the study of the Bible you learn how to think God’s thoughts after Him. That gives you biblical eyes through which to view your life and to make decisions in a way that honors God! ***IT is through the Word that you learn to make Christ the foundation for all you do in life!***

 Now, Just knowing – isn’t enough. We don’t pray for God’s will to **be known** on earth as in Heaven… ***but that God’s will would be done!*** *And you* *actively* do the will of God when you tell the truth to your wife/co-worker. *You actively do* the will of God when you hold your tongue instead of swearing when something bad happens ( like a hammer on the thumb or foolish driver nearly runs you off the road)… ***Children****, you do the will of God* when you obey your parents, and honor them by the way you speak to them (attitudes and emotions). *The List is endless!* *Essentially, it all boils down to this:* **When you faithfully obey God’s commands with the right attitude by the Spirit’s grace, *THEN* you are actively doing the will of God.**

  *However, I believe we probably find the Passive aspect of doing God’s will twice as hard…For…*

* 1. **We *Passively* do God’s Will, *when we patiently/humbly submit to God’s Secret Will/Providence***

The catechism touches on this briefly in the first few statements: the idea that we need God’s help ***to reject our own wills and to obey God’s will without any backtalk. God’s will alone is good***. In one sense, the catechism is saying that we need help rejecting our desires to steal, kill and covet in favor of God’s will for us to obey and serve Him. *But when we reject our will in favor of God’s – then we are* ***in fact*** *acknowledging* **that God ALONE** *knows what is best.* And if we recognize that God ALONE knows best **then that means we** *will trust Him* **not only** *by doing what He commands* but ALSO by not worrying about what will happen!

 How many times have you found out what God required of you in a certain situation, only to say – **NO WAY!**

 *What!* I have to confess that sin to my wife? You have got to be kidding, that won’t help me!

*Excuse me?!* You expect me to pay restitution for what I stole… Not on your life… That costs TOO Much!

… None of us naturally like to deal with sin in a Biblical manner. We would much rather shove it under the carpet!

 Your will and mine naturally fights against DOING what God requires… But the reason that is so strong in our lives is because we don’t TRUST GOD’s Providential Plan.

***When you are honest***, ***the debate is rarely about WHAT specifically God wants to you do*** … **It is almost ALWAYS about whether God’s way is going “to work”** – We think we know better than God, and on the surface it appears that God’s way is going to cause more problems. ***And that is often the case!*** And yet, as I just reminded you a few minutes ago, God has GUARANTEED that ALL things will work together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose! THAT means you CAN and MUST trust Him. If He has declared in His Word that telling the truth and confessing sin is what we should do – Then He has determined EXACTLY how that will work together for our good and His Glory! ***And so as unlikely as it seems at first glance – Doing God’s will on earth, in this life – is not only possible, IT IS BEST! IN FACT… TO DO God’s WILL consistently and completely is to LIVE For Christ!***

*There is one final consideration – We have defined God’s Will, and have seen what it means to do God’s will, but what does this phrase mean “As it is in heaven” ?!* ***And so we turn to our Third question*** *:*

# **How is God’s Will done in Heaven? (REPEAT)**

***In heaven***, God’s will is done immediately without question, back-talk or grumbling. The only angels to ever back talk or resist the will of God in heaven, didn’t stay there. The Devil and the fallen-angels (whom we know of as demons) were cast out for their rebellion.

**And so, we know that in Heaven, God’s will is done swiftly and immediately, without pause/wavering or thought.** In most armies, they train and re-train to make the soldier’s first response to a command to be instant obedience. *In heaven, the angels are much like a superiorly trained army – first time obedience isn’t the goal, it is the standard.*  **God’s will is done entirely without cutting corners or doing anything by halves.** If we do God’s will as it is done in Heaven, then we won’t say: I will serve God Alone, until the championship series of my favorite sport!... Or, I will reverence God’s day of rest and worship **until** I have something more important to do!

**In Heaven, The Angels don’t question God or complain about the difficulty of the task – they obey fully from their hearts with attitude and emotion in check!** If we were to do that here on earth – it would be life-changing, even world-changing…. That was true of the Apostle Paul! He went through all manner of suffering, and some of that suffering didn’t make sense until much later (Consider the trials of shipwreck, snakes etc on the way to Rome – but God was opening doors to witness to the Praetorian Guard!). Well, after years of this, Paul and the other apostles learned to obey even when it didn’t make sense to them!

You too, can increasingly do your Father’s will here on earth as it is in heaven! You are enabled to do this as you humble yourself before the Mighty Hand of God! As you recognize that God’s Will is not just a good option, but that HIS will ALONE is good – your will, my will, your buddies’ will are all naturally wicked and dangerous! **We can’t be trusted*, but God can.***

**And so we pray** – God, May your will be done! Make me do your Will! Lead me to value Christ above all other things, so that I might approve what is excellent and bear fruit to your glory!

*The beautiful thing about your salvation*, *is that as surely as you have put your faith in Christ*, ***then you KNOW that you WILL experience the good and perfect plan of God!***

 ***Read Romans 8 sometime this week***. Look for the words “we know” – you will find them twice. We know that all creations is groaning under the curse for sin. And we know that God will work all things together for the good of His people!

 **GOD is working in and through even the worst of your failures to bring about HIS glory and your eternal gain (so that even death is an upgrade!).**

**Pray this prayer…**

**Do God’s Will,**

**And Remember that God has His plan for your life sorted!**

 **AMEN**.