

Three Essentials to Doing God's Will

Matt 7:21; 1 John 2:17

Introduction:

- A. Cannot overly emphasized the importance of doing God's will.
 - 1. Part of the "Lord's Prayer" (Matt. 6:10)
 - 2. Essential to going to heaven (Matt. 7:21)
- B. There are three essentials to doing God's will.

Discussion:

I. Accurate Information

- A. All we know of God's will is what has been revealed. (cf. Deut. 29:29).
 - 1. Only the Spirit can reveal the mind of God (1 Cor. 2:9-13)
 - 2. The Spirit revealed the mind and will of God to certain chosen ones.
 - a. Old Testament prophets (2 Pet. 1:20-21)
 - b. New Testament apostles and prophets (1 Cor. 2:13;14:37)
 - c. The chosen one wrote it for us (Eph. 3:3-5)
- B. All we know of God's will is now written in the Scriptures.
 - 1. Gives us the spiritual information we need to believe, teach and practice (2 Tim. 3:16, 17)
 - 2. Contains the "the faith" once for all delivered (Jude 3)
 - 3. It is not to be added to or taken from (Rev. 22:18-19; 1 Cor 4:6)
- C. Hence, we must study the scriptures for accurate information on God's will (cf. Acts 17:11)

II. Accurate Interpretation

- A. It is too simplistic to say, "Bible does not need interpreting, but believed."
 - 1. Some passages require explanation (interpretation) (cf. Acts 17:2-3)
 - 2. Some things hard to understand without explanation (Matt. 9:16-17)
- B. Nor is "everyone entitled to his own interpretation" – expounded correctly (2 Tim. 2:15 Strong's)
 - 1. A given passage has only one right interpretation.
 - 2. If there is a difference – someone or all have misinterpreted.
- C. Accurate interpretation involves:
 - 1. Attention to the wording (cf. John 21:22-23)
 - 2. Determining what the writer meant, not what we can make it mean (cf. "course"; "court")
 - 3. Word definitions ("prevent"; "striker"; "lasciviousness.")
 - 4. Contextual information (cf. Matt. 5:43-45)
 - 5. Historical background (cf. Matt. 9:16-17)
 - 6. All the Bible says on a subject – is John 3:16 the entire plan of salvation?

III. Accurate Application

- A. The ability to apply the information to the situation (cf. Heb. 5:14)
 - 1. Satan tempted Jesus misapplication of good scriptures (Matt. 4:6-7)
 - 2. Miracles and Spiritual gifts do not apply to all Christians.
- B. Most things are so clearly revealed and so absolute in nature leaving no choice but to apply.
 - 1. The gospel plan of salvation.
 - 2. The nature and structure of the church.
 - 3. The New Testament worship.
- C. A few things may not be as "cut and dried" as others – what is the accurate application.
 - 1. Usually there is an option that is right and leaves little room for doubt.
 - 2. Areas where one with no doubt can accommodate the doubts of others (Rom 14; 1 Cor 8)

Conclusion:

- A. Once we have accurate information, must accurately interpret the data, must then rightly apply it.

B. Let us strive and pray for wisdom to “handle aright the word of truth” to do God’s will.