

Pentecost 5
1 Timothy 2:1-10
June 27, 2010

Thy Will be done...

Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." These verses in 1 Timothy help us know what that means. In teaching us to pray for God's will to be done, Jesus, our Lord and Savior, teaches us how

Christians Pray that What They Want Be What God Wants.

God's will is what God wants. As followers of Jesus, we don't want anything opposed to what God wants. When we pray this, we pray that what we want matches what God wants, and we pray that what sin wants and what satan wants wants not be done.

With "Hallowed be Thy Name," we ask God to keep us trusting and loving His Word. Of course, that's God's will. With "Thy kingdom come," we are praying that God would move us to proclaim God's Word faithfully among ourselves and in the whole world so that Jesus can be our king and be the King of more and more hearts and lives. That's God's will, too.

So, in a way, "Thy will be done" summarizes the whole prayer to this point.

What is God's will? What does God want? That's rather important to know since we are ever praying for it to be done. As sinners we do not know what God's will is.

So God tells us! God wants us to request, to pray, to intercede and to give thanks. Actually, each of these is a kind of praying. It is God's will for us to come to Him with every need. Of course, God knows what we need and wants nothing more than to give us what we need. But Jesus wants us to ask for it to teach us that really only God can give us our needs. God often uses many people and things to provide us our needs, but it only works because of God. Every good and perfect thing we have and need is a gift only God can give.

So, we devoutly fold our hands and speak with our Father in heaven about everything and we do so confidently because, in Jesus, we are God's true children and He is our dear Father.

Since every day is filled with blessings from our Father, our Brother Jesus, and the Spirit, we certainly have much to be thankful for. So, we say 'thank you' to Him.

And God wants us to pray for everyone. That's a lot of people. We wouldn't have time to pray for each of those 6.5 billion people. But we can pray for all the Christians that God, through His Word, would keep them strong against sin and satan, ever increasing their trust in their Savior (Jesus). And we will want to pray that the promises of the forgiveness, rebirth and new creation with new living for Jesus' sake by the Gospel would come to those who do not now believe. Naturally, we want to pray for those individuals we do know personally. We can be very specific for those we do know.

Paul adds, for the men especially, that they should do their praying without anger or disputing, fighting, arguing. Instead of praying for and with one another, the sin in us wants us to argue and fight. Such arguing and fighting helps no one and hurts everyone. Such arguing and fighting show sin in action. Pray to overcome this!

And for women who rely on Jesus as their Savior, it is God's will also that their actions reflect that faith. Put positively, God wants them to show modesty, decency, and propriety. This will surely be accomplished if they wear good deeds. Modesty puts self in the back and does not push self forward of others. Decency is concerned that I don't do anything that might easily tempt someone else to sin. Propriety is about appropriateness for the occasion. Negatively, Godly women don't have as their big goal in life to display their beauty or wealth as much as possible.

All of this is God's will for the way His people live, what they do, why they do it. Why they do it! That has to do with God's will, with what God wants, too.

Really all of this has to do with worship. But why worship? Why is it God's will that we concern ourselves with praying, praying for everyone, certainly also for Kings, Presidents, Prime Ministers, legislators, judges, and all kinds of leaders? Why live godly and reverently? Why avoid arguing and fighting? Why even think about matters of dress and how we will make a godly presentation of ourselves???

Why? Because it is God's will, because God “wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

Of course, that's what God wants. God worked very hard to save all people. All people need to be saved. Sin has spoiled us all. Sin kills. Satan wants to use sin and death to his advantage. He hates us. Hell is the place of eternal death, the final, awful, endless consequence of our sin.

So Jesus came. He is the one God – with Father and Holy Spirit. Jesus is the one Mediator between God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and people (all sinners). Jesus is the Man. As the God/Man, Jesus could and did give Himself in obedient living and innocent death as the ransom price for all people to free them from those kidnappers sin, death, satan, and hell. Jesus is the ransom for all people, all of them.

And that's why God had appointed Paul a herald, apostle and teacher of the one, true faith to the Gentiles, all the world's unbelievers.

And that's why He wants us to pray and to live godly and reverent lives, and why He wants His people to consider even how they present themselves – modestly, decently and with propriety. It's so that what we do and how we live might draw people toward Jesus Christ, the one true God in the flesh, Mediator for sinners to bring us to God, united to God by forgiveness for eternal life. It's so that we might draw people toward God's Word.

God's Word is the truth. Only the truth can bring God's salvation to people. God's Word is Truth, God's saving truth. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. God's truth alone works faith in Jesus.

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If our lives don't tug people toward Jesus and His Word, God's will is not being done through our lives and something needs to change. Let's pray for such change. Pray, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." If we are tugging people toward Jesus and His Word, we pray "Thy will be done" in order to keep doing so and to do so more. Pray for God's saving will to be done. Amen.