

Thanksgiving Sunday 2010

Question 1: Share with your group what your Thanksgiving Day plans are for this year.

Question: How would you paraphrase the Big Idea from Bill's sermon this Sunday?

Sermon Big Idea: It is not God's will to give thanks FOR all things, but rather, to give thanks IN all things.

Question 2: Look up the following passages and see if you can determine what 5 actions are ALWAYS God's will for his people.

A: 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 1 Peter 4:19

B: 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Philippians 4:4-6

C: 1 Peter 2:13-15

D: Romans 12:2

E: John 6:29, John 6:40

Answer

Sanctification

1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the **will of God**, your sanctification; *that is*, that you ^aabstain from sexual immorality;

1 Peter 4:19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good

If sanctification is a God's will, then anything God uses to bring that about is part of the Lord's will as well. That includes suffering as well.

Thanksgiving

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In everything give thanks; for this is **God's will** for you in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-6 God's will for you to be sanctified. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything be thankful.

Submission to Authority

1 Peter 2:13-15 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent ¹by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the **will of God** that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

Transformation

Romans 12:2 ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may ^{2d}prove what **the will of God** is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

To Believe in Jesus Christ and have eternal life

John 6:29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

John 6:40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Question 3: What the difference does it make in our theology of pain and problems to give thanks IN all things and not FOR all things?

Answer: We no longer have to make excuses or explanations for why God brings evil things into our life, or how He could be so calloused as to let pain happen. Instead, we can draw from the comfort of God that he too is grieved by the loss we experience. It changes the way we think and pray and allows us to find the peace of God in the midst of our suffering. "God does all things well in accordance with His will."

Question 4: What illustration from Scripture did Bill use to argue that human nature will never be satisfied, no matter what they have in life?

Answer: The Israelites in the wilderness who were completely protected and provided for by God and yet they grumbled and complained about not having the things they had in Egypt. They actually longed and complained to God that they were better off in Egypt as slaves than they are as free men and women in the desert.

Question 5: Share one thing that you are thankful FOR this week and one thing that you are thankful IN THE MIDST OF this week?

Answer: Close with this time of sharing and then turn these things into prayer of thanksgiving.