

**THE WILL OF GOD  
SERMON SUBJECT**

J. D. G.

Last Sunday at St. John's United Church, Rev. John M. Smith was in his pulpit, and chose for his morning subject "The will of God and your life." His scripture references were: "Thy Kingdom Come. Thy will be done." Not everyone that sayeth unto Me, "Lord, Lord," shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but he that doeth the will of My Father; "Oh My Father if it be possible let this cup pass from me, nevertheless, not as I will but as Thou wilt."

We are liable to think that the doing of God's will would be easy for Jesus because of His divine nature, but this recorded instance of the conflict between His human desire to shun this terrible seeming humiliation and pain facing Him, and God's will that He must needs suffer, shows that it was not easy, and makes us readily believe that He often had an inner struggle to keep his high purpose of doing His Father's will.

God has a will and purpose for each one of us in our living; what it is we should make it our duty to learn ourselves, others can only tell us about it and what some of its conditions and nature are sure to be. For instance, it is sure to be compatible with the character of God. God's character is holy, so His will for our way of life will be righteous. Love is the essence of God's character, so His will for us will be in love.

God is a God of mercy, so what He wishes us to do will be in the spirit of forgiveness, tolerance and understanding. God is our loving Heavenly Father, so His attitude to our doings will be as a loving father to his children. His will for us, we can be sure, we would never need be ashamed of. God's will for us is in revealed in the life and teachings of Christ. He showed us the nature of God, His will and wish for our highest welfare, His longing for our love in return, and that we keep His Commandments and statutes, fulfilling our highest place in Christian living here, and reaching our high destiny with Him in Heaven hereafter.

How do we think of God's will? Does "Ask and it shall be given you, Seek and ye shall find," mean when we need God, we try to bend His will to ours? Or do we seek to bend our will to His? We do not grasp the rope and try to pull the shore to the boat, but rather pull the boat to the safe, solid shore. The prodigal's plea to his father was: "Give me," just "Give Me" and let me do as I wish. When he had tried that to the full, he came home and said "Father, make me, make me as one of thy hired servants: "I am willingly to do thy will." Another thing we can say about God's will, it is good-will. We should be happy in the doing of it, even though it will bring us into conflict with evil. It is all for the good, can have no part in evil, so in the doing of it, we may suffer, have disappointments, misunderstandings, a challenge and a fight with evil even as Christ had, even to His crucifixion so that He cried out to God: "if it be possible let this cup pass from me, nevertheless, not my will but Thine." It was only because of that spirit, that He conquered and was able to reach His rightful place with His Father. It is only through that same surrender of our will to God's, that we too can reach our true and eternal destiny.

The choir's anthem was "Still, Still with Thee," with Mrs. Bishop taking the solo part.

Mr. A. Tost sang "Praise Be to Thee," as the offertory.

At the evening service Mr. Smith's subject was "Something to talk about" and that something was the Good News of the way to Salvation as told by Jesus to Nicodemus when he came by night to ask Him and as recorded in John 3. The way is still the same, "God so loved that He gave His Son, whosoever believeth, hath Eternal Life." We must know our need; accept the way Jesus told; then we can know we have this great gift; have something which is good news for our neighbour as for ourself, and in which we must grow, if we would show our belief is real. Mrs. C. Buck led in the service of praise.

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