

Scripture: Romans 12

Singing: 373:2, 3, 4, 9 -- 383 – 201:1, 5, 6, 7 – 451:2, 4,

THE 3RD PETITION

I. What will of God is in view? II. What do we ask?

I. WHAT WILL OF GOD IS IN VIEW?

A. God's will is twofold:

1. His will of decree – counsel (secret): Dan. 4:35; Eph. 1:5; Ps. 33:6, 11
a. examples of what is included in His *hidden decree*

b. Scripture defines it as *God's Good Pleasure*

c. Though 'hidden in detail' still matter for worship: Ps. 135:5-6

2. His will of command (revealed): 2 Tim. 3:16; 1 Thes. 4:3
a. no excuse for not knowing the details of His will

b. God's saints are more blameworthy for ignorance: Rom. 12:2

B. The 3rd petition relates mostly to God's revealed will

1. It includes a *prayer of submission* to God's hidden decree
a. submission is a grace given

b. prayer in submission is exemplified in Jesus' prayer (Luke 22:42)

II. WHAT DO WE ASK?

A. We ask for an *obedient spirit*

1. If you are saved, what does that make you?

2. A Christian is a person *under orders* of 'thus saith the Lord'

a. personal insights, opinions and (generational) traditions do never cancel His Divine will (orders)

B. We ask for grace to do His will according to our station & calling in life

1. All life and living within God's revealed will is 'sacred'

a. don't divide your life into two departments

b. all lawful callings is 'God at work through you'

c. we are to His will in all daily activity including our spiritual acts

C. We ask for cheerful obedience to any of God's revealed commandments

1. Our first example are the *angels in heaven*: Ps. 123:2; 103:20-21

a. they are *ministering servants*: Zech. 12:1; Heb 13:14; Matt. 18:20

b. their *sovereign* king decides who does what

c. their example is to be our model

2. Yet our greatest example in heaven is the ***King Himself***

a. Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus (Phil. 2:5ff)

b. eye Him in every task or calling your face and *learn of Him Who is 'meek and lowly of heart'*

Reflection: Heaven's happiness is *I have no will but Thine only*

Sayings on the Will of God

Jesus taught us that we are to be obsessed with living according to the will of God. (H. W. Cragg)

Perfect conformity to the will of God is the sole and complete liberty.
(J.H. Merle D'Aubigne)

God's will is not something we consider. We need to obey it fully.

Once the will of God drew forth my sigh; not is it my song. (F.R. Havergal)

When our will is won to God, all is won. (T. Brooks)

God looks more at our willing heart than at our works. (W. Secker)