**The Will of God**

***37****All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.****38****For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.****39****And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.****40****For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”* (John 6:37-40, ESV)

 It is God’s will that we see the Son and believe in Him.

 Greetings to you dear brothers and sisters as we talk today about God’s general and overall will for us. It is true that we often search for answers and solutions for the questions and issues that come up daily. We look for God’s will in decisions regarding these things. However, if we look more closely at our lives, we notice that there are primary decisions with eternal consequences, which are connected to God’s will. In saying that, God has a clear will – and that is to believe in His Son, after having “seen” Him. (Let’s talk more in detail about this.)

 To believe in Jesus and to live in light of that belief – that is God’s main will for each one of us. If we follow the course of the sixth chapter, the crowd was following Jesus – but why? We could say that Jesus’ words and deeds, as well His style of ministry was different than any other Rabbi or scribe. He did not only work miracles that reminded the people of Elijah and Elisha’s days, but rather, Jesus also took the people beyond the literal understanding of the Law of Moses, opening up truths related to personal spiritual lifestyle (in God). For example, if we read just a few verses before, He said, “Go work for the food that remains in eternal life.” And, when the crowd wanted more evidence that He was that food, He taught them that He was the very Bread of Life they were looking for – not the manna that their ancestors ate in the desert and then still died. Jesus was trying to bring them from a ceremony-worshipping, dead religious belief to having a living relationship with God.

The people had made the Old Testament Law of Moses into an idol, and its teachers into God’s very voice. Jesus was putting all of that aside and saying, “I AM the bread of life. Eternal life happens through me. It is God’s will that no one is lost that is given to me.”

Today we have that trust in Jesus. God’s will is that the believer in Jesus is not lost. Furthermore, whoever comes to Jesus will not only not-be-lost but will also rise again on that last Judgment Day.

One of the most attractive forces in this world is the joy of salvation in the Lord Jesus. When someone is joyful in all circumstances because the Lord rules over their life, we see a difference in their behavior than someone who lacks that belief. He who truly believes is not afraid of any circumstances, not even when death comes knocking at the door. On the other hand, the one who does not believe and chooses to remain in a constant rejection of Christ remains outside the will of God, because he or she “saw” but did not believe.

Today we are called to be in the will of God and to reveal that same will to others. When we read the words of Christ, they verify for us that God has a definite will. They establish that: there is a “getting lost” for humans without Jesus Christ; that with Jesus, there is no “loss”; that it is God’s will that we believe in Jesus and no one else; that there is eternal life; that there is a resurrection within that eternal life that leads to ultimate salvation; that there is also an eternal perdition, or “loss”.

Yes, the Lord God has destined the ones that are saved, but this is a mystery: because even the predestined still must “see” Jesus, and then they have to “come to” Him. What good is it for us if the plan of God is salvation, but we do not join up with that program? Yes, Jesus will not reject any that will come to Him, no matter what state they’re in or what weaknesses they have. All those sinners will be saved on that day according to God’s will described above. However, woe to the one that “sees” Jesus and rejects Him – because it is Jesus that is going to raise us up to eternal life on that Last Day of Judgement.

So, dear church of Christ: we don’t know who the predestined ones are – we only know that if they do not see, hear, or believe in Jesus, that the resurrection that Jesus will perform on that last day - that salvation unto eternal life – does not exist for them.

Therefore, let us both live within God’s simple yet powerful will, and then call others to join us in that will.

God will is very simple: the one who sees Jesus, hears Jesus, needs to believe in Jesus. The rest, Jesus will take care of…

The Lord Bless You All. Amen.