

Bible e-Study on the book of Acts (20: 18-35)

The will of God!

“I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.” Acts 20:21

Acts 20:18-35

NUGGET – There are three verses in this section of Acts 20 that help us with ‘The will of God.’ The first is the nugget verse above. *I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.* Next is verse 24 *However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.* And then verse 27 *For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.*

In these verses there’s a sort of math, vs 21 plus vs 24 equals vs 27. St. Paul it seems, tells us that repentance and faith in Jesus Christ along with the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace is, for him, the will of God. and if you break those elements of the equation down to their root parts we may see in this math problem, the root of God's will for us also.

In vs 21 St. Paul leaves out no one who needs to know that repentance and faith are in Jesus Christ. When he says he has declared to both Jews and Greeks, he is saying he has shown no partiality. And we would do well to follow that example. There is no one in our own worlds or spheres of influence that does not need to know that basic truth.

And in vs 24 he says that his life, at its core, has been given to the task of testifying to the ‘good news of God's grace’. That grace is what comes through Jesus Christ alone. By Jesus’ death and resurrection – the good news for the world – God's grace has been lavishly poured out to the world. And Paul’s life has been spent in declaring that good news.

So from these verse St. Paul draws things together by saying that this is the whole will of God that he has proclaimed. It is the sum that he seeks to make clear to those he is saying goodbye to. He warns them of those who will try and turn them and the believers away from the will of God, but they are to resist that. They are to oppose those who oppose the grace of God.

Take note in vs 24 that he implies that he has not hidden anything from them by saying that he has declared the ‘whole will of God’ to them. In doing this he also gives us the formula for having a clear conscience – to do the same thing. To not withhold anything of God has He revealed by His grace in the good news of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the content and full complete expression of the will of God. that is what we have, like Paul, to declare to all whom we know.

APPLICATION -

1. How often do we want to see God's will as more than what St. Paul has declared it to be – the witnessing to the good new of God's grace to the world? Do we think that we have grown beyond the need for declaring that message as what God would have us do? ?

PRAY – Lord God you have made Your divine will known in the life, work, death and resurrection, of your son, Jesus Christ. May we be faithful in declaring the whole truth of Your will by Your grace. In Jesus name, Amen.