

A Christian Call to Separation & Submission

Acts 18:18-22

PART TWO

Introduction

I. The Christian Call to Separation from the World (v18)

II. The Christian Call to Submission to God's Will (v21)

v19 - v20

Discerning our times biblically

Luke 12:54-56

Matthew 24:12-14

"Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather." Matthew 24:28

God is lifting His restraining influences in our time

2 Thessalonians 2:3.

2 Thessalonians 2:6-7

1 John 4:3

"Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming." Matthew 24:42

"Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." Matthew 24:44

2 Peter 3:11

Ephesians 5:15-17

II. The Christian Call to Submission to God's Will

v21

"I will...if God wills": The Confluence of the Two-Fold Will of God

Deuteronomy 29:29

Every person has a will.

The will determines what we do. *Value* and *desire* influence and shape the will.

Adam had free will pre-fall.

Post-fall, the will of all human beings is in bondage to sin and to Satan.

Now in Christ we who belong to Him are once again *posse non peccare* – *able not to sin*.

The question is, are we exercising that freedom that we've been given in Christ, freedom *not* to sin? Freedom to obey?

Colossians 1:24-27

God chose servants like Paul to reveal His will to us “that we may do all the words of this law.” Deut. 29:29

Staying on the Right Track

Making the choice to obey *fulfills* the revealed will of God.

Ephesians 1:7-11

Two Rivers Converge Into One

“*I will...if God wills*” brings the directive will of God in line with the decretive will of God

We are called by God to submit to both the *directive* (Scripture) and the *decretive* (ordained) will of God.

Following our own will when it does not converge with both wills of God leads only into a ‘Dead Sea.’

“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!” (Psalm 143:10).

This verse speaks to both wills of God.

We pray for help from God our Father to do as He directs and accept what He determines.

Acts 21:12-14

Pray to God for either a favorable outcome, or for the will to endure otherwise.

Romans 1:9-13

Romans 15:30-32

1 Corinthians 4:18-19

“*I will...if the Lord wills*”

“this we will do if God permits.” Hebrews 6:3

James 4:15

Like a River Glorious

Peace will only come when we surrender our self-willed nature, subdue our rebel, will and submit to *both* wills of God saying, “*I will...if God wills.*”

Closing Doxology

Romans 16:25-27