

## I.XIV WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE? Romans 12:3-8 - Shepherd School

### I. OPENING RAYER: All.

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### III. SERMON:

WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE? Romans 12:3-8.

**INTRO: Q.** What is the will of God for my life? How would you answer that question? I think when most people ask or answer that question they want nitty gritty specifics concerning the secret will of God, which we are explicitly not given. That question can be answered, though, because God Himself answers it through Paul in Romans 12:3-8. This is the big picture concerning what God's will is for your life.

**CONTEXT.** Romans 12:1-8. Read.

**DOCTRINE.** God's will for your life is that you would be humble, sober, content, different, united, and useful for His glory and His peoples' good.

### I. The will of God for your life is that you would *HUMBLE yourself* (Romans 12:3a)

**Romans 12:3a** "For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think,"

- This is humility contrasted with pride.
- **CALVIN:** "he forbids every one to assume more than what his capacity and calling will allow; and at the same time he exhorts us to think and meditate on those things which may render us sober-minded and modest."
- Every time you are tempted to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, look at the splintered wood of Golgotha soaked with the God Man's blood and remember that is how unworthy you are in and of yourself!

### II. The will of God for your life is that you would think with

## ***SOBER thinking (Romans 12:3b)***

**Romans 12:3b** "but to think with sober judgment,"

Let this truth **WARN** those who think more highly of themselves than they ought to think—you are like a drunk man, stumbling around spouting nonsense while you vomit arrogance. Self-exaltation is pride trying to steal godly ambition's shoes.

Let this truth also **WARN** Christians who think more lowly of themselves than they ought to think—your self-deprecation is a dishonor to God the Father who elected you, a dishonor to God the Son who redeemed you, and a dishonor to God the Holy Spirit who quickened and gifted you. Self-deprecation is pride trying to steal humility's cloak.

## **III. The will of God for your life is that you would be *CONTENT* (Romans 12:3c)**

**Romans 12:3c** "each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned."

- **CALVIN:** "The society of the godly cannot exist, except when each one is content with his own measure. . ."

### **Use this truth for examination:**

- Q1.** Are you content with the portion of faith and giftedness that the Lord has assigned to you?
- Q2.** Are you content to be united to Christ and given the gifts you have?
- Q3.** Are you using the measure the Lord has assigned to you or busy wishing He would have given you someone else portion?

## **IV. The will of God for your life is that you would be *DIFFERENT* (Romans 12:4)**

**Romans 12:4** "For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,"

- **CALVIN:** "The society of the godly cannot exist, except when each one is content with his own measure, and imparts to others the gifts which he has received, and allows himself by turns to be assisted by the gifts of others."

### **Use this truth for joy and comfort:**

God has united you to His Son, the head, and made you a part of Christ's body so that you would be unique and both benefit and be benefitted by the others in the body.

**What a joy it should be to you that you get to benefit others** which Christ has died to redeem, in the specific functions God has given to you!

**What a comfort that God has given you other members in the body, gifted differently than you,** who will labor diligently to use their graces to benefit you!

## **V. The will of God for your life is that you would be UNITED (Romans 12:5)**

**Romans 12:5** "so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."

## **VI. The will of God for your life is that you would be USEFUL (Romans 12:6-8)**

**Romans 12:6-8** "6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."

- **CALVIN:** "I admit, then that the society of the godly cannot exist, except when each one is content with his own measure, and imparts to others the gifts which he has received, and allows himself by turns to be assisted by the gifts of others."

*If you would be useful, and not waste your life, you need to know what the graces are that the Holy Spirit has given to you, and you need to use them for the good of the body to the glory of God.*

**By the way,** you need also to teach your wives and your children these sacred truths of Scripture so that they can be useful for the body to God's glory! So listen with both ears—one ear so you can be instructed the other so that you can instruct those which are in your charge according to God's providence.

Let me point out these seven particulars that Paul lists, and turn each one of them into Exhortations.

**Exhortation I. If you are graced with *Prophecy*, prophesy according to the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Romans 12:6b).**

**Romans 12:6b** "if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;" (there is a definite article here—could be "the faith.")

**Exhortation II. If you are graced with *Service*, serve others according to what God says they need in His Word (Romans 12:7a).**

**Romans 12:7a** "if service, in our serving;"

- This includes every sort of practical help given to others in the name of Jesus.

Exhortation III. **If you are graced with *Teaching*, teach according to the teaching and the testimony of Holy Scripture (Romans 12:7b).**

**Romans 12:7b** "the one who teaches, in his teaching;"

Exhortation IV. **If you are graced with *Exhortation*, exhort the saints run from sin to faith in and obedience to Jesus in all of life (Romans 12:8a).**

**Romans 12:8a** "the one who exhorts, in his exhortation;"

Exhortation V. **If you are graced with *Contribution*, generously give of your finances like Christ gave of His blood (Romans 12:8b).**

**Romans 12:8b** "the one who contributes, in generosity;"

Exhortation VI. **If you are graced with *Leadership*, zealously march forward for Christ's glory and make sure others know how to follow (Romans 12:8c).**

**Romans 12:8c** "the one who leads, with zeal;"

Exhortation VII. **If you are graced with *Acts of mercy*, tenderly assist the afflicted and help the hurting like your Good Shepherd has done to you (Romans 12:8d).**

**Romans 12:8d** "the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."

**Q.** What gift or gifts of grace has the Holy Spirit given you? **A.** Use it for the glory of God among the church!

***Do you know how you received your gifts? Only by the blood of Jesus!***

*Because of your sin, men, you deserve to be given the penalty of perdition; but because of Christ's willing death in your place, He has bought you gifts of grace to be used for His glory! **How dare you or I waste them!***

**DOCTRINE.** God's will for your life is that you would be humble, sober, content, different, united, and useful for His glory and His peoples' good.

## **CONCLUSION.**

**I. You need to know which gift or gifts God has given you so that you can serve Him and others in the church in the ways the Holy Spirit has uniquely gifted you to.**

*\*others can help you identify them*

- *Do not labor to use gifts that you have not been given.*
  - *Additionally, do not withhold the gifts from the church that the Spirit has given you for their good and God's praise.*

***II. Though you must not labor among the saints in ways you are not gifted in, you must labor in all of these ways in your home, trusting the Spirit to equip you in your domestical duties that you fulfill toward your wife and your children.***

- *Go back through these with me, and see that you must do all of these things in the home.*

***May God give us the grace needed to properly use our graces for His glory.***

# Romans 12:3-8

"[3] For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not

to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. [4] For as

in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same

function, [5] so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually

members one of another. [6] Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to

us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; [7] if service, in our

serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; [8] the one who exhorts, in his

exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal;

the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."

## III. SONG: