



“God’s Will, Prayer, Sin Unto Death, & Idols” (1 John 5:13-21) 2014

Danny Hodges – NT3585

v.13 I have repeatedly mentioned this verse during our study of I John. There is no better book in the Bible to read or study in order to be sure you are saved than I John.

vv.14-15 These two verses are certainly worthy of an entire message, but I am not at all led to do that. However, I will say a couple of things that I hope will be helpful. We need to be asking God daily for his will to be done on earth as it’s done in heaven. Second, we must desire the will of God for our own personal lives. That can be a bit tricky, because sometimes the will of God is not at all desirable. Jesus prayed, “Father, if there is any other way, let this cup pass from me. Yet not my will, yours be done.” It was that prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane that confirmed Jesus’ willingness to go to the cross. Paul the apostle prayed three times for God to remove the thorn in his flesh, a messenger of Satan, but the Lord communicated to Paul that His will was for the thorn to remain, in order to keep him humble and completely dependent on God.

In discovering the will of God for our lives, there is often a natural struggle between what I want/desire and what God wants/desires (see James 4:3). To truly find God’s will for my life, I must first completely offer myself to God. James 1:6-7 says that a double minded man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord. See Rom.12:1; After offering myself completely to the Lord, I must then daily renew my mind with the Word of God (see Rom.12:2). As I do this daily, there will be times when my will comes into direct conflict with the will of God (see Matthew 16:21-24).

One last verse that is extremely practical regarding God’s will and prayer is Psalm 66:18.

vv.16-17 This is very simply willful sin that causes God to make the decision to end someone’s life here and now. There are clear examples in the Bible of sin unto death. I’ll give you a few examples: Nadab and Abihu (Lev.10:1-2); Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, and those who followed them (Num.16); Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5); I Cor.5:5 (?); I Cor.11:29-30.

vv.18-20 We have seen this idea more than once in our study of I John, so I will not expound on it here. Suffice it to say that one of the clear evidences of being “born of God” is an inability to live an ongoing lifestyle of sin.

v.21 These are the last words John has for his readers in this little epistle. Last words are important, and because these words are from the pen of a great apostle of Jesus Christ, inspired by the Holy Spirit of the living God, we should pay close attention.

Exodus 20: 3 "You must not have any other god but me." (NLT)

What Is An Idol? Any person or thing that contends with God for my time, energy, affection, and money.

When you follow the trail of your time, energy, affection, and money, you find a throne. And whatever or whoever is on that throne is the object of your worship.

Potential Idols:

A PERSON may become an idol in my life

- Matthew 10: 37 "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;
- Luke 14:20...I just got married, so I can't come.
- My idol could be ME! I Sam.15:12...Saul...has set up a monument in his own honor...

A POSSESSION may become an idol in my life

- Col.3: 5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.
- Rich young ruler
- Your house
- Your boat
- Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and Money.

A PASSION may become an idol in my life

- A goal, a dream; success, etc.
- American Idol
- Matthew 16:21 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?

A PLEASURE may become an idol in my life

- Luke 8:14 ...as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches, and pleasures...
- Fishing, golfing, cycling, sports, etc.
- Always have time and money for the pleasure, but not for God.
- Note I Timothy 6:17

Idols Are Revealed By Our Priorities

- * Note: The question to ask in determining whether some-thing or some-one has become an idol, is whether or not my love for God and my priorities regarding the things of God are hindered by this person or thing.
- * Cor.7: 31 those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

Worship is our response, both personal and corporate, to God – for who He is and what he has done, expressed in and by the things we say and the way we live.

Worship is about value. It is our response to what we value most.

Why Is There Such Potential For Idolatry?

1. God created man to worship.
 - We were created by God to worship. And worship is what we will do. Not just the churchgoer/religious person, but all of us; Read from The Air I Breathe (Giglio).
 - Every culture in history has had its gods. And they still do today...
 - God's desire is for man to worship Him.
2. If man does not worship God, he will worship some-thing or some-one other than God (see Rom.1:21-22, 25).

Important Things To Remember In Keeping Myself From Idols:

1. Idols tend to infiltrate our lives over time.
 - Luke 8:14...as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches, and pleasures...
 - See Gen.35:1-4; 31:19; Joshua 24:14-24.
2. Some people attempt to worship the Lord as well as their idols.
 - II Kings 17:32-33, 41
 - Exodus 20:3 You shall have no other gods besides me.

How To Free Myself From An Idol (Idols) In my Life:

1. Sell it, give it away (rich young ruler), or destroy it.
2. End the relationship.
3. Adjust priorities.
4. Stop imitating them and begin imitating godly role models.