

Is It Well With Thee?

Bringing our Brokenness and our Bad Habits to Christ

IS IT WELL WITH YOUR SOUL? (THE WILL - PART 3)

This is part 44 of the Is It Well With Thee Sermon Series

SUMMARY

We live in a world of facades, false fronts, and covered realities. We want to be happy all the time and we want others to think that we are, but underneath the harsh reality is that the bad days, the difficult things, and the high level of stress are all weighing us down. Oftentimes, they leave us feeling discouraged, depressed, and like there is simply no hope, but **THAT ISN'T TRUE AT ALL**. While our enemy wants to use the realities of life against us, God wants us to bring our brokenness and our bad habits to Him so that in the midst of life's very real struggles we can still answer, "It is well."

REVIEW

We are currently considering the third element of our soul – the will.

1) The **DESIGNING** of the will

God gave us *freewill* which means that we have been given the ability and the opportunity to make our own decisions, but we are also responsible for our own actions. We have the freedom to do whatever we want, but we are responsible for, and we will be held accountable for whatever we choose.

We found that our *will* is where our **DESIRES** and **DETERMINATION** reside, and they are **STUBBORN** (which is a good thing when they are directed by truth, but that's a bad thing when they're dictated by anything other than truth).

We found that **DELIGHT** is the soul's **OBJECTIVE** and choosing and refusing is the soul's **OPERATION**.

We found a formula that we need to understand: **DESIRE** produces a **DETERMINATION** which will take us in the **DIRECTION** of what we are **DELIGHTING** in.

We were created to delight in two things (1) the **LORD**, and (2) the **LAW OF THE LORD**. When we do, we experience **WONDERFUL PROVISIONS, TREMENDOUS STRENGTH, AWESOME FRUIT, GREAT POTENTIAL** and **LONGEVITY**.

2) The **DIVERTING** of the will

We found that we are drawn to something that we are convinced, or we have been persuaded will lead to greater delight.

We found that we make the choice as to whether we are going to be led by **TRUST** or by **LUST**. We either choose to trust God and His Word or we choose to trust ourselves – our thoughts, our feelings, our desires.

Our enemy knows that if he can shift our **DELIGHT** then he can shift our **DIRECTION**.

As a child of God, we have a **DUTY** to live our life in a way that pleases God, but we still struggle with a **DESIRE** to do that which pleases me.

And that's really where we pick back up.

MESSAGE

1 Thessalonians 5:14-24 says, *"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."*

If you're in the habit of marking things in the word of God, I want to draw your attention back to verse 23 where the Bible says, *"And the very God of peace sanctify...your whole spirit..."*

For a few moments, I'd like to begin to consider this thought: **IS IT WELL WITH YOUR SOUL? (THE WILL – PART 3)**

Disclaimer - I am not a doctor, and I am not approaching these topics from the standpoint of one. I am simply attempting to help us gain an understanding of what the Bible has to say about our mental, emotional, and physical health.

1) The **DESIGNING** of the will

Everyone has the ability to choose what they believe, say, and do.

2) The **DIVERTING** of the will

We're talking about how sin impacts our will. When we delight in something, our will begins to take us in that direction. What does that mean? That simply means that our will, if allowed, will take us down the path of what we are delighting in. In other words, it will lead me to a different place than I am now where I will be a different person than I am right now.

In my study, I came across a statement from a dermatologist that I thought was fitting to this portion of our study. He (Michael Kalman) said, "Today's deeply tanned beauties are tomorrow's wrinkled prunes." Now, I don't share that to be mean; I share that to emphasize the truth that our **CHOICES** have **CONSEQUENCES**. What we are delighting in today may prove to be a very different story tomorrow.

The truth about sin is that it is **DECEPTIVE**, it is **DESTRUCTIVE**, and it is **DEADLY**. If you have been in church for any length of time, then there is a very high level of probability that you have heard someone make this statement: "Sin will take you further than you want to go, sin will keep you longer than you want to stay, and sin will cost you more than you want to pay." That is a very true statement.

Galatians 6:7-8 says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

I've said it this way: "You reap what you sow, you reap where you sow, and you reap more than you sow."

I told you last week that we would go back to consider a particular portion of Scripture and we didn't get the chance to. The portion that we considered was Job 7:15 where Job said "...that my soul chooseth..." Our will is our chooser. It makes the choice to take me in the direction of my delight. But here's the thing, because of sin, my delight isn't always good or right (our delight naturally is toward that which is wrong), but my soul doesn't understand that. All it knows is, "I like, I want, I must get." And it is that mentality that has brought a lot of pain and shame to mankind.

Job 7:13-15 says, "When I say, My bed shall comfort me, my couch shall ease my complaint; Then thou scarest me with dreams, and terrifiest me through visions: So that my soul chooseth strangling, and death rather than my life."

Now, I'm not trying to lift the verses out of context, but how often could that same thing be said about our life. We saw something or someone that we chose to delight in, we moved in that direction with pure determination, and then, when we got there, we found that it/they weren't in our best interest. It/they weren't for our good. As a matter of fact, our life would have been better had we never pursued whatever it is or whoever they are.

Sin always demands more of us, but hidden sin always demands much more from us. When we yield to our sinful delights, three things begin to take place:

(1) We are **HELD CAPTIVE** by whatever "it" is.

Sin will literally take control of your life. If you let it, there is no limit to where sin will take you.

Romans 6:16 says, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

Romans 6:19 says, "I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness."

Sin will take everything that you want away from you, it will put everyone that you love through misery, and it will slowly eat away at your potential. Sin is not a friend, and sin is not a partner; sin is a killer, and you are its prey. All it needs is for you to allow your delight for that which is wrong to grow so that it can latch on and take control.

2 Peter 2:19 says, "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."

(2) We are **HARDENED** by and for whatever "it" is.

Hebrews 3:13 says, "But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

Sin can indeed harden a person's heart. It can get you to the point where you don't care what God thinks about what you're doing, where you don't care what your sin is doing to you, and where you don't care what your sin is doing to those around you. It can be hard to stop a habit, it can be hard to stop a routine, it can be hard to stop a

response, even when they are hurting us, when they temporarily mask other thoughts or pains or when they feel so good.

Hebrews 11:25 says, *"Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."*

Now, I understand that is referring to Moses and Egypt, but it absolutely applies to a person who is dealing with sin. Sometimes the path out seems so hard and so long that it just feels easier to give in.

Have you ever been made aware of an individual that was caught in some sin, some wickedness, something horrible and thought this thought, or perhaps a similar thought: how could that person live with themselves." How could they be that while doing that? And the assumption behind this statement is this: "I couldn't live with myself if those things were true of my life." But the reality is that you could, and many do.

Proverbs 28:13 says, *"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."*

Numbers 32:23 says, *"...be sure your sin will find you out."*

Ever since sin number one, man has tried to hide, to cover, to conceal his wickedness, but the reality is that it doesn't work. Sin is still sin whether people know about it or not or whether it still bothers you or not.

(3) We **HASTEN** the consequences for whatever "it" is.

Proverbs 10:27 says, *"The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened."*

When God was explaining to Abram why his descendants would go to Egypt for 400 years, He said, *"...for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full"* (Genesis 15:16)

In 1 Thessalonians 2:16, the Apostle Paul says that the Gentiles *"...fill up their sins always..."*

For the sake of over-simplification, each one of our lives can be viewed as an empty jar that is consistently being filled up. Each jar is of varying height because our time on this earth is different from those that are around us. Every sin that we commit (and we commit them daily) helps to fill that jar. Some fill their jar quickly and some fill their jar slowly, but we all fill our jar, and then, we stand before the Lord.

Charles Spurgeon said it this way: "Some great offenders, like Pharaoh and Judas, fill up a huge measure of transgression. Some others, cut off in their earlier days, spend a hot and hasty manhood in sin, and go to their doom before they have committed any notorious offenses against mankind in general. The measures differ in size, but still, in

each case, it gets filled sooner or later...My friend, your candle will burn fast enough without your lighting it at both ends. You will ruin yourself fast enough without needing to heap up sin upon sin by becoming a drunkard and a gambler as well as profane and unchaste. O man, why are you so diligent to be your own destroyer?"

Two times Jesus says, "...ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:21, 24).

That's why we are told from the earliest of age to "*Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth*" (Ephesians 6:2-3).

What I want us to understand is that what we do matters because what we do impacts who we become and what we do, and the problem is that sin has caused within my will a great desire for those things that are not right.

Romans 8:5-9 says, "*For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*"