

March 9, 2025 Sunday Worship Service

“The Will of the Lord”

Genesis 3:7-9

Scriptures

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

9 But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

Introduction

I have one good friend who is a non-Christian, and when I was in college, I once gave him a Bible as a gift because I wanted him to know about God. As I handed him the Bible, I said, “This contains God’s love. I hope you will read it.” After a while, I asked him, “Are you reading the Bible?” He said, “I started reading it, but I stopped after reading Genesis.” “What? Why?” I asked him. He was happy when I gave him the Bible, and considering his personality, it was inconceivable that he would stop reading because he was bored. He answered me, “Because as I read the Bible, I really have no idea what God is thinking.” I will never forget what he said. Because I have often felt in the same way. Have you ever thought about this? Have you ever wondered this way? Have you ever had the endless question, “Why?” while you are reading the Bible? Moreover, no matter where you look, you cannot find a passage that describes God’s thoughts and will in detail, in an easy-to-understand, straightforward manner. Have you ever had such a thought?

God says that He loves us. That is why He gave us the Bible. We could say that the giving of our Savior, Jesus Christ, is an unwavering testimony of God’s love. But how difficult it is to feel that love in our steps. As a good friend of mine said, even if we only look at Genesis, we cannot help but feel how difficult it is to know God’s will. If His will is to love us, why did He expel us from Paradise?

Why does He punish people? Why do we have endless suffering and sorrow now? I am sure that many people, including myself, have such thoughts. How can we know the will of the Lord? How should we look at the Bible that God has given us? I would like to spend some time with you today to think about these questions.

Text 1: Seeing God's Will with Human Eyes

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

First, let us consider the difficulty of knowing the will of the Lord. In the past, man was a being specially created by God. God, who created the heavens and the earth, did everything with His Word. With the words, "Let there be light. God began His work of creation with the words, "Let there be light." The expression "God said" is a recurring phrase in Genesis 1, but it is the key framework of creation. In other words, creation required no medium, no materials, but only the Word of God. By the Word light was created, by the Word the sky was created, by the Word the sea was created, by the Word the plants were created, by the Word the sun and stars were created, by the Word the creatures were created. But man is different. How was Adam created? He gathered the dust of the ground, formed it, and breathed into its nose the breath of life, and it became a living being. What about Eve, his wife? She was formed from Adam's rib, wasn't she? We can say that man was special from the time of his creation. He was made to live in a paradise where he would not have any inconvenience. They were also given a job that they could call their purpose in life. They were also given the authority to manage the beautiful world God had created. This is the end of Genesis 1 and 2. We can see how much God loved mankind. God's love for man has not changed since the beginning of the world.

But man will know sin, through the desire to be like God, inspired by the serpent. When we think of sin, we tend to think of crime, but the Bible speaks of sin a little differently. The sin of which the Bible speaks means a person's

separation from God. By the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, men knew sin. What did they do after that? First, they made a loincloth of fig leaves. When we hear the word “loincloth,” we think of something like a cloak, but if we interpret the original, it was almost like a belt. In other words, it is something that hides almost nothing. So why did they make such a thing? Because they needed something to separate themselves from God. They, who know sin and have sin in them, can no longer go out before God as they are. They can't stand the state of having nothing separating them from God. They cannot help but avoid themselves. Sin separates them from God. They desire to create a separation from God. Even if it is a very thin and weak one. Furthermore, they hid themselves from God. Hiding from God. Separating themselves from God. This is the behavior of sinful man. Sin turns people away from God.

God's love remains the same. But man has created a separation from God. By sin. Therefore, we cannot seek the Lord's will with human eyes, human thoughts, or human hearts. It is because we are separated and hide ourselves. It is not God who hides the Lord's will. It is man's sin. We who are sinful must not forget our own sins when we seek the Lord's will. It is only natural that it is difficult for sinful people to know the Lord's will.

Text 2: Seeking the Lord's Will

9 But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

So how does God deal with such a sinful people? “Where are you?” It seems to me that everything is summed up in this one word. Why would God call out in this way to someone who has created a separation from Him? An omniscient and omnipotent God would not lose sight of them just because they hid for a little while. Even knowing their whereabouts, God is still speaking to them. “Where are you?” This question is a part of the relationship between God and man. The question is not so much about the result of their knowledge of sin, but rather about their hearts, their condition, and the gap they have created before God. They are people who have fallen away from God. God now asks them, “Where are you?” The question is spoken on the assumption that there will be a response. God still speaks to people now. He will never give us up even if we know of our sins. **Genesis 3:21**

21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

Man became incapable of dwelling in the Garden of God through sin. Through the Fall, man was expelled from Paradise. But God made a garment of skins for such people. It would have protected them far more than the fig-leaf covering. How can we get skins? You have to kill the animal to get it. God shed blood for sinful man. God is loving even when people become sinful. Expulsion from paradise is not a severance from God. God, who hates sin, nevertheless did not give up the connection with people. **Genesis 4:3-4**

3 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord.

4 And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering,

The first worship of mankind is described. Worship is done through the relationship between God and man. The Bible indicates that the relationship between man and God began in Genesis 1. However, man's worship of God began in chapter 4. The record of Adam and Eve, created by God, living in paradise in blessing is in chapter 2, and the record of their banishment due to sin is in chapter 3. We do not know how much time passed between chapters 2 and 3, since it is not specified, but when man was with God in paradise, he did not offer worship. No, there was no need for it. In other words, the origin of worship is man's sin and separation from God. It is precisely sinful man who needs to worship. Sin drives people away from God. The purpose of sin is to keep people away from God by any means possible. It is because of that sin in man that he needed to come into God's presence for worship. Why was there no need for man to worship God when he was in paradise? It is only because he was always with God. Worship began with sinful man remembering God and coming into His presence.

If a person is allowed to go out to worship, it means that God has invited that person to come to the place of worship. We cannot even come into God's presence without God's protection and guidance. God hates sin. Even so, God

has invited sinful people to come before Him. He tells us to come before Him. God still desires to meet people.

This is where the Lord's will is expressed. Men have sin. Nevertheless, the Lord's will is still poured out on people. His love, guidance, and protection never leave us.

Text 3: Seek Thy will.

When we think of this, one contradiction seems to arise here. It is difficult for sinful man to know God's will. But God still loves us and will never leave us. So, why is it that we have the trouble of not knowing His will in our life of faith?

I believe there are two basic premises that we must not forget in our life of faith and in reading the Bible. God has a plan for every step we take, and God ceaselessly wants to bless us. There is no such thing as coincidence in all of our steps of faith. Absolutely nothing. Everything happens according to God's plan. God's plan for each and every one of the characters in the Bible. Abraham, the ancestor of our faith, had a plan of blessing. For Joseph, who was sold by his brothers, God had a plan to save the world from famine. To the suffering Israelites, there was the plan of deliverance from slavery. To Job, who cries out in unimaginable suffering, there is the plan of restoration. To the people longing for salvation, the plan is to send the Savior, Jesus Christ. To the apostles, God has a plan for them as preachers of the Word of God through the Great Commission. God has a plan for every person's life. And the same is true for those of us living today. God always has a plan for us, as a believer in Him.

Then, what is that plan for? It is nothing other than to give me grace. **Matthew 7:7-11**

7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

9 “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?”

10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?”

11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

God’s will to bless us continues even after we have been corrupted by sin and driven out of Paradise. Our Savior testifies that God, who sent Himself to earth, is the giver of good things, and that He who does not spare even His only begotten Son cannot fail to bless us. From the beginning of human history until now, and in the future as well, God loves people and wants to give them blessings.

With this basic premise in mind, let us consider the Lord’s will. Is there no way for us sinful people to know the Lord’s will? Is this gap irreversible? We may be tempted to give up, by saying “That’s why we don’t understand the Word of God.” But how can it be that God, who has a plan for each of us and wants to give us grace, does not show us His will? **Matthew 7:7**

7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Whenever I see this verse, I always think of the game of treasure hunting. In treasure hunting games, various treasures are hidden. The goal of the game is to find the treasure, and of course, sometimes the hidden treasure is in an easy-to-find place, and sometimes it takes a lot of effort to find it. And often the treasure found in a hard-to-find place will be better than the treasure that was easy to find. Those who seek and search will have more and richer treasures.

The Lord says, “Ask, and it shall be given you.” Conversely, if you do not seek, you will not be given. If you don’t knock, you won’t be opened. God wants to give blessings, but it is those who seek and knock on the door of the Lord’s will

who will be able to receive the blessings in their entirety. To those who seek and knock, God will surely give the Lord's will,

Conclusion

Let me read from **John 15:14-15**.

14 You are my friends if you do what I command.

15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

“If you do what I command you, you are my friends.” What is it that Jesus commands? Where is what Jesus heard from the Father? The Word. It is the Word. The way we know His will is through the Word that is given to us. If we continue to have sin in our hearts, if we continue to carry God's separation in our hearts, we will never know the Lord's will. But if we have the Word of God dwelling in our hearts, we can walk as seekers of the Lord's will.

Have you ever been hurt by the Word? Of course you have. With our sinful nature that seeks to separate us from God, it would be strange if the Word did not hurt us. Have you ever been condemned by the Word? Would you like to celebrate? For the Lord stands at the door of our hearts and knocks with His Word. May we walk as those who realize the Word and know the Lord's will. This is evidence that the Lord is reaching out to us, wanting to bless us.

Everyone wants to be blessed. We all want to live happily. We may wish that our troubles, our pains, our sufferings would disappear. We would hope that God's will would be shown to us. It is the Word. We need the Word to realize the Lord's will and to remember that we have received unbelievable blessings. I strongly hope that we will become familiar with the Word and know the Lord's will.