Sermon Outlines

I Wills Of The Saviour

Introduction

The scriptures have a number of individuals who said, "I will". It is an expression which intimates ones intention. However, that intention may not always be able to or have the ability to carry it out.

- a) In the prophetical picture of Satan's arrogance he said, "For thou hast said in thine heart, <u>I will</u> ascend into heaven, <u>I will</u> exalt my throne above the stars of God: <u>I will</u> sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: <u>I will</u> ascend above the heights of the clouds; <u>I will</u> be like the most High" (Isa. 14:13, 14).
- b) In the beautiful parable of the prodigal son he said, "I will," and it was an I will of both ability and determination. He said, "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee" (Lk. 15:18). However, while that was His objective, there was no assurance that he would get to his father.

When Paul wrote to the Corinthians the Holy Spirit caused him to write, "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us" (2 Cor. 1:20) for He knew that God was the God of truth, and no promise could be curtailed by man or demon for the Lord said, "But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26). Therefore, whither the Lord was referring to sinful man coming to Him for salvation or comfort, the "I wills" of the Lord are unshakeable.

Some of the Lord's promises are:

- a) Conversion
 - i) The promise of a willing and ready reception referring to ones conversion:
 - 1. The Lord said, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (Jn. 6:37).
- b) Cleansing
 - i) The promise of a willing and ready ability to heal the damaged body:
 - 1. Concerning the Lord it is recorded, "And He (Jesus) put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him." (Lk. 5:13). The Lord had the power to cleanse instantly, to touch the untouchable and not be defiled.
- c) Confession
 - i) The promise of a willing and ready confession before the Father:
 - 1. The Lord said, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 10:32).
- d) Change
 - i) The promise of a willing and ready ability to change the individual and make them useable to God:
 - 1. The Lord said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). Paul caught the truth of the Lord's words when he wrote, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men" (2 Cor. 5:11). Gospel meetings must never be a never ending series of illustrations or repeating Biblical phrases. A preacher or teacher must not only sow good seed, but bring it to a conclusion by, so to speak, making the congregation come to a decision, either to accept the truth of that which is being spoken or reject it. Not doing such is like throwing the nets out but not pulling them in, or the farmer throwing the seed, but not reaping the harvest.
- e) Comfort
 - i) The promise of a willing and ready ability to comfort in the darkest of hours:
 - 1. Before going to the cross and then ascending back to Heaven the Lord told His own, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you" (Jn. 14:18). I am aware of one clause in the scriptures which, when spoken forward or backward, it's truth is the same. It is, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5, KJV). Thee forsake, nor thee leave

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ever will I. Before His ascension the Lord said, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world (age) (Matt. 28:20).

f) Confirmation

- i) The promise of unlimited ability:
 - 1. Concerning the dead the Lord said, "I will raise him up at the last day" (Jn. 6:40), and "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (Jn. 5:28, 29).

g) Conclusion

- i) The promise of loves uniting:
 - 1. "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me; for thou lovedest me before the foundation of the world" (Jn. 17:24).

May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.

John 16:13

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