

COMMENTARY

April 2024

HarvestChristianMinistriesVT@gmail.com
www.HarvestChristianMinistries.net

802-447-0869

Thy Will Be Done

Greetings from Bennington, Vermont, my brothers and sisters in Christ!

We are in a fight, a fight for souls! There are two places to go when people die, Heaven or hell. Choose now! There is no way around it, it's a fact. Think of the nicest non-Christian you know, like the nice postman that has delivered your mail for the last 15+ years, or the woman at the florist shop that you just met but you hit it off like she's your best friend. If they do not confess and believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior then they will spend eternity in torment!

Usually, I start my communication with you with a pleasantry or a personal story and try to pull it all together with Scripture and encouragement, but the Lord is speaking, and He's speaking differently than I have heard Him in the past. He's calling on the Church (the people) to task, to be and do what The Church was designed for! He's not waiting anymore for His people to get comfortable with their calling or what has been set before them. He wants all the sin to be gone from His children. We don't have to be perfect. Jesus did that very well and is that perfection in human form on our behalf, but He is not going to turn His head while we continue to live in ways that aren't pleasing and a continued partaking in deliberate sin.

We see it all throughout the Bible when God took His blessings away and allowed very difficult things to come so

that the people would return to holiness and get rid of the idols in their lives. America is now in a time like that!

There are times that we fall: sometimes I feel like that's all I do is fall short of His glory! If we have been sinning the same sins over and over and expect His grace and mercy to cover us so that we can continue to feed our flesh, it just won't happen. We either feed the flesh or we feed the Spirit.

God's anger and correction will be evident if we aren't attentive to His will.

The title of this month's commentary, "Thy Will Be Done," is from the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer teaches us to have a response of submission toward our Father in heaven. The roadblock to

submission is pride: each of us must choose to be humble and surrender all idols. How can we, as followers of Jesus, follow Christ if we are always ahead of Him in the decisions we make? The answer is, we can't.

How did Jesus do it, how was He so successful? Well, His entire ministry was about submission. He was on the mission of submission.

Luke tells a gripping tale of Gethsemane: 'Now when He arrived at the place, He said to them, "Pray that you do not come into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. When



The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

The glory of the Gospel is that when the church is absolutely different from the world, she invariably attracts it.

Martyn Lloyd-Jones

I will not believe that thou hast tasted of the honey of the gospel if thou can eat it all to thyself.

Charles Spurgeon

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

By the light of nature we see God as a God above us, by the light of the Law we see Him as a God against us, but by the light of the gospel we see Him as Emmanuel, God with us.

Matthew Henry

Teach, Encourage, and Send Out.

He rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, He found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. "Why are you sleeping?" He asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

(Lu22:40-46)

So after seeing this scripture, can you self-inspect and answer this question that Holy Spirit has asked me, "Why are you sleeping?"

Why are you sleeping, Church? Why are you sleeping, Body of Christ? Why are you sleeping, Aaron?

We must get up (out of our own flesh) and pray in submission just as Jesus told the disciples (and ultimately us) so that we do not fall into temptation of our own will. This is the key to the success - Jesus captured it in that one line, "yet not My will, but Yours be done."

Is there any place in your life that you can think of, where you have not said those words to God? How about those "nice" people you know that are going to hell, do you see them and think that it would be awkward to start talking about Jesus to them?

If so, I have another question, would it be awkward to yell to someone in a burning house and warn them? The answer is simply, no. We would see a need in an emergency and spring into action.

To save a life we would go to great lengths. There is an emergency in front of us every day, meaning billions are on their way to hell and permanent torment. This is what has to be in the forefront of our minds when leaving our house every day. What is the reason I am here? Is it to build a business, a legacy for my children or how about making sure you can retire comfortably at age 65 with a nice nest egg?

Nope, those may be the benefits of obedience to God but they cannot

be the things we spend our time and effort on if the first things are not being put first. First and foremost is that you and I have been purchased at a Great Price. Our freedom has been given so that we would live with eyes of compassion, compassion on those that haven't yet been delivered the truth.

Our motto here at Harvest for the last three years has been, Teach, Encourage, and Send Out.

Teaching means we study the Bible on our own, and we study it corporately - each has a different effect on us, both are needed.

Being part of a body (being in church) encourages and lifts us, so that when we go back into the world we have the training necessary.

Jesus sent out His disciples two by two, and we are no different. I encourage you to align your heart with His for those that need to hear the beautiful words of Christ, "Come to Me all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Offer the "rest" that Jesus gives to those around you, their eternity depends on it. That way we can all say together like Jesus did, "Not my will Lord, but Yours."

Thank you for reading my heart today. You have been taught, you have been encouraged, you are being sent out!

- Aaron

The real test of a saint is not one's willingness to preach the gospel, but one's willingness to do something like washing the disciples' feet - that is, being willing to do those things that seem unimportant in human estimation but count as everything to God.
Oswald Chambers

The gospel to me is simply irresistible.
Blaise Pascal

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean
on your own understanding,
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
and He will make straight your paths.
Proverbs 3:5-6

The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself or less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less.
Tim Keller

Many pastors criticize me for taking the Gospel so seriously. But do they really think that on Judgment Day, Christ will chastise me, saying, 'Leonard, you took Me too seriously'?
Leonard Ravenhill

But what is the use of preaching the Gospel to men whose whole attention is concentrated upon a mad, desperate struggle to keep themselves alive?
William Booth