



“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053

God’s Desire for YOU!

Chuck Northrop

What is your greatest desire in life? What do you desire most? According to one study, happiness is the number one desire for most people followed by wealth, freedom, peace, and joy. Within Scriptures, desire is most often used of man’s desire, sometimes for good but oftentimes for bad. More than likely, most honest individuals can identify with this. Sadly it is also true, most people get so caught up with their own desires, they lose sight of what others desire for them.

Have you ever considered what God’s desire is for you? Since God is the Creator and since He loves all men (John 3:16), then each person ought to consider what God desires. Instead of looking at self, please consider God’s desire for you. Since a person reaps what he sows (Galatians 6:7), then he or she can benefit by striving to fulfill God’s desire in his or her life.

God’s Desire Is Clearly Proclaimed. There are a number of passages which reveals His desire for you and for all men. Consider these:

In 1 Timothy 2:2-4, Paul declared, “For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” God wants you to be saved! Because of this inspired declaration, it is against God’s

will to predestine any person to be lost. If a person is lost, it is because he or she made the decision not to follow God’s instructions found within His word.

Peter also stated God’s desired will. 2 Peter 3:9 says, “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” In light of the fact that all men have sinned (Romans 3:23), God’s love is amazing. Even while we sin, God is longsuffering. He still wants men to repent and turn back to Him.

One of the most well-known verses of the Bible is John 3:16, but consider the verse following: “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” God’s purpose in sending Jesus into this world was not for damnation but for salvation. His intent was deliverance. He delights in “the death of His saints” (Psalm 116:15). He does not delight in the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 18:32).

Jesus said, “And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world” (John 12:47). There are two comings of Jesus. One is past, and the other is future. The first coming of Jesus was His incarnation, and His purpose in becoming a Man and dying on the cross was “to save the world.” His second coming is for judgment. In the next verse Jesus said, “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). The time to fulfill God’s desire for you is the present. He delivered His word to mankind in order for men to prepare themselves for judgment to come.

To the church in Thessalonica, Paul exhorted, “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:9). All men have an appointment with death (Hebrews 9:27). No person has an appointment with God’s wrath. Sadly, many will face the wrath of God because they did not prepare themselves properly. It simply does not need to be this way because God wants all men to obtain salvation through Jesus.

God’s Desire Was and Is Presented. Not only did God proclaim and declare His desire, He presented and demonstrated it. He presented His desire in the past, and He continues to do so in the present.

God presented His desire by providing His Son. How does a person perceive love? Is it not by actions and deeds? “Hereby perceive we the love *of God*, because he laid down his life for us” (1 John 3:16).

God’s desire is also seen by the provision of His word. His word is the tender message of salvation from a loving God. The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation for all men (Romans 1:16). It is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path (Psalm 119:105).

God presented you with the opportunity to gain His salvation. Paul wrote, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). God not only declared His desire, He declared His way of salvation.

God provides you with a choice. It is the choice between serving self or serving God. Each person’s choice will determine his or her eternal destiny of life or of death (John 5:28-29). Clearly the wise choose life, but sadly most choose death (Matthew 7:13-14).

God presented His desire by providing you the present opportunity. Opportunities come and go. Many opportunities are probably inconsequential and make little difference. However the opportunity of salvation has eternal consequences. Therefore, each person ought to be “wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:15).

God’s Desire Is Truly Personal. There are many things which happen in life because of who a person knows or because of relationships. Some people think they are going to be saved because of family ties, race, or nationality. Instead, each person will stand before God in judgment “that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10). Jesus “shall reward every man according to his works” (Matthew 16:27).

For this reason, God desires each person to have a personal faith. This is not the faith of your parents or grandparents. They may have had a deep faith, but their faith will not save anyone else. A personal faith is like that of Abraham who was “not weak in faith” and “staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith...” (Romans 4:19-20).

A true personal faith will lead to personal compliance to the will of God. This was the faith of Abraham, and this ought to be the faith of all men. It is the faith God desires of men. This is the faith which brings “peace with God,” will provide access into grace, and cause rejoicing in hope (Romans 5:1-2). As the writer of Hebrews exhorted, “Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised)” (Hebrews 10:23).

Within the Scriptures, God’s desire is crystal clear. He desires your salvation! He has done all that is necessary on His part for you to be saved. What is your desire? Do you desire what God desires for you?

Interesting Quote from the forefathers of the United States:
“Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of your liberties; write it precepts in your hearts, and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this Book are we indebted for all the progress made in true civilization, and to this must we look as our guide in the future. ‘Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people.’” – Ulysses S. Grant, eighteenth President of the United States (Page 195; S.A. Northrop)

Observations and Concerns

October 26, 2022

Welcome Visitors! Thank you for coming our way!

“For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD *endureth* for ever. Praise ye the LORD. ” (Psalm 117:2).

Expression of Gratitude: For the hope and support faithful brethren provide by teaching and preaching the truth in love and holding fast to sound doctrine.

Good News! We rejoice with the angels of heaven that **Brianna Nelson** put on Christ in baptism this past Sunday evening. Please remember to welcome her into the family of our Savior and our God.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Bill Dilks** continues to undergo treatments for cancer.
- ▶ **LeAnna Shafer** is also undergoing treatments for cancer. She is the wife of John Shafer, evangelist in Kearney, Nebraska, and friends of several members here.
- ▶ **Vance & Darla Smith** continue to go through various struggles.

There will be no **Sonshiners** this coming Sunday evening, October 30.

November Anniversaries: 8 – **Doyle & Dicie Jackson**; 18 – **Doug & Dana Campbell**;
Birthdays: 2 – **Kathy Orr**; 8 – **Tia Swearingen**; 11 – **Nelda Hudson**; 17 – **Chuck Northrop**; 17 – **Chelley Nelson**.

“Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it” (Luke 11:28).

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
		Wednesday, Oct. 26	Sunday, Oct. 30 AM
			Sunday, Oct. 30 PM
	Announcements	Chuck Northrop	Chuck Northrop
	Song Leader	Doyle Jackson	Doyle Jackson
	Prayer	Russ Earl	Chuck Northrop
	Lord's Supper (speaker)		Paul Praschnik
	Lord's Supper		Chris Nelson
	Lesson	Chris Nelson	Russ Earl
	Prayer / Door Attendant	Ross Swearingen	Ross Swearingen
			Paul Praschnik