

# “WILL-WORSHIP”

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In Colossians 2:23, Paul lets us know that there is such a thing as “will-worship.” Macknight defines will-worship to be “a worship of human invention, consequently performed from one’s own will” (390).

There is an approach to Bible study that allows the will of man to interject its views into the Bible rather than get out of the Bible only what God put in it. This concept of Bible study begins with the premise: “If it is not expressly forbidden, it may be done.” This allows for any person to do anything that he so desires. Such a rule condones, supports, encourages, and propagates will-worship. It makes the Word of God stand at the whimsical judgment bar of man’s desires.

In Cain this disposition is easily seen. Cain worshipped—but it was will-worship. Cain wanted to worship God as it suited Cain, not as God desired. So the Scripture records that the Lord “**had not respect**” for Cain’s offering (Gen. 4:5).

The whole denominational world exists because of will-worship. The motto of all the sectarian denominational human churches is: “You go to your church and I’ll go to mine; and we’ll all get to heaven together.”

The present Independent Christian Church began and continues to exist because of will-worship. They will to have their mechanical instruments in worship and further blaspheme God by saying that there is no authority for the kind of music with which God would be worshipped. Mechanical instrumental music is their idol—their golden calf and from it they will not be parted. “**Ephraim is joined to idols: Let him alone**” (Hos. 4:17).

Many examples of will-worship exist. The aforementioned one is one of the more well-known cases. But, what are men to do to keep from will-worship? The answer to avoiding will-worship is to recognize the prerequisites our Lord gave concerning the learning and doing of His word. In Luke 8, in “The Parable of the Sower” (possibly better designated as “The Parable of the Soils”), Jesus does not teach that one must have many academic degrees to understand the truth. He plainly states that “**an honest and good heart**” is necessary to learning and doing the truth (8:15). In “The Sermon on the Mount,” Jesus promised that those who hungered and thirsted “**after righteousness**” would “**be filled**” (Mat. 5:6). Jesus also taught that one must study with the full intent to “do his will.” Then and then only “**he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself**” (John 7:17).

The principle of putting first things first in Matthew 6:33 is another requisite to avoiding will-worship. The sum of these verses is seen in the “**honest and good heart**” that “**hungers and thirsts after righteousness,**” desiring to do God’s will and in all things to put God first in every thought, word, and action. When this is done, there is the constant looking “**into the perfect law of liberty**” that allows for each Christian to examine himself to see whether he is in the faith (2 Cor. 13:5). Our Lord sets out this attitude as fundamental to avoiding will-worship.

If we allow “idols in our hearts,” we are certain in time to depart from the truth. There must be the desire in all of us that whether we understand the why of every commandment or not, that we will divest ourselves of all things that hinder us from unreservedly serving God in obedience to His commandments.

**But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ (Phi. 3:7-8).~**

#### **WORK CITED**

Macknight, James. *Macknight on the Epistles*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, n.d.