



The Philosophy of Ministry – Week 3

“The Surrendered Life and God’s Perfect Will”

1. Review booklet by R.A. Torrey, “Why God Used D.L. Moody”

- A. A Fully Surrendered Man (pages 4-6)
- B. A Man of Prayer (pg.6-8)
- C. A Deep and practical student of the Bible (pg.8-13)
- D. A Humble Man (pg.14-16)
- E. His Entire Freedom from the love of money (pg.17-19)
- F. His Consuming passion for the salvation of the lost (pg.19-25)
- G. Endued with power from on high (pg.25-29)

2. Write out Romans 12:1-2

A. Romans 12:1-2 – _____

The Surrendered Life and God’s Perfect Will

- What does Romans 12:2 say we can “prove”; a word that means to test and examine? **What is God’s good and acceptable and perfect will**
- According to Paul we can take God’s Word and validate that we are living in harmony with God and are fulfilling His perfect will for our life.

1. God’s _____ – v. 1a

A. “**I beseech you**” literally means to “to _____ upon, to appeal and even to _____”.

- 1) What is Paul pleading with his fellow believers to do according to verses 1-2? _____
 - 2) Why is it an amazing thing to consider that God is sending Paul to call, plead, and even beg Christians to live the life God is calling them to? _____
 - 3) What was Paul’s prayer in the following verses: _____
- _____

- a) **Ephesians 5:17** — *Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*
- b) **Colossians 1:9** — *For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;*

- 4) Do you believe God desire His will to be accomplished in your life more than you do?
- 5) Do you ever feel that God's will is hard to find? Like it is "hidden", and you have to go try to find it and can easily miss it?
- 6) The problem is not that God's will is hard to **FIND**, but rather God's will is hard to _____.

B. Based on Scripture, is God's call clear to people?

- Name 5 people God clearly called: _____

C. What is something you know God has called you to?

- 1) **God desires you to be** _____.
- a) **1 Timothy 2:4** — *Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*
- b) **2 Peter 3:9 — 9**; *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.*
- 2) God desires you to be _____.
- **1 Thessalonians 4:3** — *For this is the will of God, even your _____, that ye should abstain from fornication:*
- **1 Peter 4:2 — 2**; *That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.*
- **1 John 2:15-17 — 15**; *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16*; *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17*; *And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*
- 3) God desires you to be _____.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:18 — 18**; *In every thing give _____: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*
- 4) God desires you to respond _____ toward authority and people who oppose you.
- **1 Peter 2:13-15 — 13**; *Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; 14*; *Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. 15*; *For so is the*

will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

D. What are 2 key truths Jesus taught about the will of God in the following passages?

- **Matthew 7:21** — *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*
- **Matthew 12:50** — *For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.*

1) _____

2) _____

E. Can I miss God's will for my life and ignore His call? _____

- 1) **Jeremiah 7:13** - *"And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not;" (Jeremiah 35:15; Proverbs 1:24; Matthew 23:37-38, Romans 10:21, Luke 14:15-24)*
- 2) **Jeremiah 35:15** - *"I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me."*
- 3) **Proverbs 1:24** - *Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;*
- 4) **Matthew 23:37-38** - *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.*
- 5) **Romans 10:21** - *But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.*

2. The Believer's _____ - v. 1b

A. Once you hear God's truth calling you to live for Him completely, what compels you toward a totally devoted life to the Lord? What is your "motive" to live for Christ and forsake the world? **Our motive is the "_____ of God".**

B. What are the mercies of God?

1) **The "mercies of God" refer to the "kindness" of God toward us as undeserving and guilty sinners.**

- a) The Bible teaches that we as humans have all sinned and fallen short of God's perfect standard: verse: _____
- b) Our sin leaves us "guilty" before God: verse: _____
- c) The result of our guilt is separation from God eternally in hell: verse: _____

- d) **Man on his own has absolutely no ability** to restore his relationship with God: verse: _____
- e) The only way man could be saved from his hopeless eternal condition before God **is if God chose to be merciful and save the undeserving sinner** from his eternal fate. Paul speaks of the hopeless condition of man in Ephesians 2:1-3; notice how Paul describes man's condition before God:
- **Ephesians 2:1-3, 12** - *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 12; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:*
- f) One man said, "When man sinned, they wronged God worse than Hitler wronged the Jews and worse than any person could wrong anyone else". Is that true? If so, why?
- g) **In the face of our great and eternal offense against God, and when man was hopeless how did God respond according to Ephesians 2:4-7?**
- i. **Ephesians 2:4-7** - *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (Titus 3:4-5)*
 - ii. We who were enemies are now children of God, instead of God's wrath we have His love, our Judge has now become our Father, and instead of eternal death in hell we have eternal life in heaven, that is what is meant by the "*mercies of God.*"
- 2) **Once you understand the "mercies of God", is there anything that God could ask of you that would not be reasonable?**
- a) That is why Paul said giving your life completely to Christ "**is your _____ service**". (Romans 12:1)
 - b) **Psalm 116:12** - *What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?*

3. _____ **Your Life - Romans 12:1b**

- A. "**Presenting your bodies**" is a technical term for presenting an offering to the priest.

1) The word used here commonly denotes the action of bringing and presenting an animal or other sacrifice before an altar. **It implies that the action was a free and _____ offering. How does this apply to your life?**

2) Example of those living in God's will.

a) The apostle Paul

i. Acts 9:1-6

ii. What was Paul's mission?

iii. What caused Paul to live in total opposition to the will of God? _____

iv. What one truth totally transformed Paul's life? _____

v. What was the first thing Paul said after he trusted in Christ? _____

i. **Romans 1:10** - *Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.*

ii. **Romans 15:22** — *For which cause also I have been much hindered from coming to you.*

iii. **Acts 18:21** — *But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.*

iv. **1 Corinthians 4:19** — *But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.*

b) Jesus Christ

i. **John 4:34** — *Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.*

ii. **John 5:30** — *I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.*

iii. **John 6:15** — *When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.*

iv. **John 14:31** — *But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.*

B. When in your life did you fully surrender your life as “available” to God without any reservation?

C. What could be the consequence of such a decision?

D. What could be the consequence if you do not make that decision?

4. A _____ Surrender - v. 1c - “A living sacrifice”

- A.** In the Jewish culture what did the word “sacrifice” mean to them?
- B. How much of the animal was used for the sacrifice?** Did they use just part of the animal? _____
- C.** Paul is telling us to present our _____ life as a total and complete offering to be used to glorify God.
- 1) For this to happen it is a heart issue that involves dying to ourselves and our fleshly desires and submitting to God and trusting Him with all of our lives.
 - 2) This involves giving the steering wheel of your life over to God, when this happens you go from being the driver to being the passenger and God begins to take you exactly where He wants you to go.
- D. What keeps people from making this kind of a commitment?**
- Sadly, most people cannot do this because it is too scary for them to trust anyone but themselves to make decisions for their life.
- E. Will the believer ever know God’s perfect will without a fully surrendered life?**
- F.** How do the following verses apply to this truth?
- 1) **Luke 9:23** – *“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”*
 - 2) **I Corinthians 15:31** *“I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.”* How often we give “part” of our lives to God, but not “all” of our lives to God.
 - 3) George Mueller, who was so mightily used by God in the 19th century – who pastored a large Church and started 117 schools which educated over 120,000 young people and orphans; he has become known as one of the greatest men of prayer in history; was once asked the secret of his victorious Christian life: *“There came a day when George Mueller died, utterly died! No longer did his own desires, preferences, and tastes come first. He knew that from then on Christ must be all in all.”*³
 - 4) When James Calvert went out as a missionary to the cannibals of the Fiji Islands, the captain of the ship sought to turn him back. “You will lose your life and the lives of those with you if you go among such savages,” he cried. Calvert only replied, “We died before we came here.”
- G.** In what areas have you surrendered your life to God?
- H.** In what areas do you still need to surrender?

- 5. A _____ Surrender – v. 1c - “holy, acceptable unto God”**
- A.** When a Jew brought an offering for the Lord it had to be without “blemish” (or without any imperfections and deformities) or it would not be “acceptable”

to offer to God, and the priest would refuse it. The faithful Jew never brought his leftover sickly lamb, he never would do that. Rather he brought the best animal he had he offered to God. Why did God call them to give Him their best?

B. The Example of the Israelites in the days of Malachi (Malachi 1).

- 1) God begins this short 4-chapter book by professing His love for the people of Israel:
 - **Malachi 1:1-2 — 1;** *The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. 2; I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob,*
- 2) Though God loved and was faithful to Israel, they responded with a sinful ingratitude and what they offered to God reflected how they felt about Him.
 - a) What does God's offering for you say about your value in God's eyes?
 - i. **Romans 8:32 —** *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? (I Peter 1:18-19)*
 - ii. On the other hand, what does your offering to God say about His value in your eyes?
- 3) **How does God respond to the Israelites in the following passage?**
 - a) **Their wrong** _____
 - **Malachi 1:6-8 — 6** *A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name? 7 Ye offer polluted bread (defiled bread) upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible. 8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.*
 - Not only did they offer God their leftovers; but look at what they say about serving God and giving offerings to God in verse 13:
 - b) **Their wrong** _____
 - i. **Malachi 1:13a -** *Ye said also, Behold, **what a weariness is it!** and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts;*
 - ii. What was wrong with their attitude toward service to God?
 - c) **How does God feel about doing right actions or saying right words but not having the right heart and motive?**
 - i. **Ezekiel 33:31 —** *And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.*

- ii. **Isaiah 29:13** — *Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:*
- iii. **Matthew 15:8** — *This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*

d) How can we be guilty of this in our lives?

C. How does this apply to you as a believer?

D. Many may ask, “Why doesn’t God use me?”

- 1) The answer can often simply be that there is sin that needs to be repented of. No one is perfect but we should strive to live holy and love and honor God with every area of our lives! (Matthew 5:48; I Peter 1:15-16; Genesis 17:1).
 - a) **Matthew 5:48** — *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*
 - b) **1 Peter 1:15–16** — *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*
 - c) **Genesis 17:1** — *And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.*
- 2) Do you have known sin in your life you know you need to stop doing? Is that sin worth missing the will of God for?

E. The phrase in Romans 12:1 – “Acceptable unto God” gives us the notion that there are also _____ offerings that could be given to God.

- 1) Just because we offer God, something doesn’t mean it is acceptable.
- 2) God said the “acceptable” life is a _____ life. We must come to God and turn away from the sins of this world.

F. Present your life because it is _____ to do so – v. 1d - “which is your reasonable service”

- 1) Why is it reasonable for God to ask anything He wants to of your life? *Because of the “mercies of God”, or all that God has done for us.*
- 2) **What would be unreasonable on your part?** To say “no” to anything God asks of you.
 - **I Corinthians 6:19-20** — *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”*
- 3) It is not unreasonable for God to ask us to give our lives completely to Him because Jesus gave His life completely for us.

G. Romans 12:2 tells us some keys of how to present a fully surrendered holy life to God:

- 1) **By not patterning your life after the _____ - v. 2 “And be not conformed to this world”** (Literally means, “stop conforming yourself to the world.)
 - a) **“Conform”** speaks of patterning and fashioning your life after.
 - **1 Peter 1:14** - *As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:*
 - b) Were there worldly patterns that changed in your life after you got saved?
- 2) **Allow God to transform you by renewing your _____ - v. 2b – “but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind” - v. 2**
 - a) **“Renewing”** speaks of a complete change and renovation for the better.
 - b) Where does Paul say this renovation needs to start? In our _____
 - i. **Repentance** means “to change one’s mind and purpose”.
 - ii. Transformation always starts in the mind and heart of a person.
 - iii. You can temporarily change some outward actions, but without a true _____ change, outward change will not last.

H. What will happen when you hear God’s call, are motivated by His mercy, and you present your total life as available to God by living holy, not conforming to this world, but allowing God’s Word to transform you from the inside out?

- 1) **Romans 12:2 - You can know what God’s good, acceptable, and perfect will is for your life!**
- 2) Always remember, if you follow God’s “**known**” will for your life, He will direct you into His “**specific**” and perfect will for your life.
- 3) On the other hand, never expect God to show you His “specific” and perfect will and plans for your life if your life is out of His “known” will.
- 4) Remember it is not hard to “know” God’s will, but it is hard to “follow” God’s will.

I. A Question to Consider: Why doesn’t God reveal His plan for me now?

- 1) It would overwhelm you before you got started.
- 2) You may not be equipped to handle it yet.
 - **John 16:12** — *I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.*
- 3) You may not be the type of person God wants you to be yet.
- 4) God will reveal what you can handle when you can handle it.

Week 4 Assignments:

- Read chapter 3 - Pursuit of God – “Removing the Veil” and write a 2-paragraph response:
 - Paragraph one: Summarize what this chapter was about.
 - Paragraph two: How you can apply these truths to your life.