

“In His Own Way”

I. Introduction.

- A. I had another of “those experiences” while traveling recently.
- B. We were worshiping in Texas, and the congregation was preparing for the Lord’s Supper with the customary song.
1. The selected song was “**The Breaking Of Bread**,” and a phrase in the second verse leaped out at me. Here are the words of that verse:
 2. *Bless Thou the cup, dear Lord,
To us this day,
May we with hearts prepared His Word obey;
We now His death proclaim,
In His own way,
Until He comes again,
We keep this day.*
- Wm. M. Sherwin & Ellis Crum
- C. **A Totally Scriptural Concept.**
1. God always does things **IN HIS OWN WAY**.
 2. I remember the testimony of Jeremiah when he wrote of creation. He said, “*He (God) hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world **by his wisdom**, and hath stretched out the heaven **by his understanding***” (Jer. 51:15).
 3. Man does not acknowledge this creation fact, choosing instead to believe in evolution.
 4. However, man does not change the Truth by his rejection of the scriptures.
- D. Throughout both the Old and New Testaments, we read of “*God’s Will*” and man’s obligation to obey that will.
1. David said, “*Teach me **to do thy will**; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness*” (Psa. 143:10).
 2. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus requires the same of us, saying “*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*” (Matt. 7:21).
 3. Obedience to God’s will has always been required.
- E. **PURPOSE:** To consider some of the requirements of God’s Will which men - even

religious men - reject in one way or another.

F. Since the song concerned the Lord's Supper, let's begin there.

II. The Lord's Supper.

A. **Religious People Refuse God's Will** on the Lord's Supper as a remembrance of Jesus.

B. This rebellion is evidenced in several ways.

C. But, first, let's consider what the Bible tells us about the Lord's Supper.

1. The Lord Himself instituted this memorial feast before He died on the cross. "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom" (Matt. 26:26-29). This is God's Way for remembering Jesus.
2. The Holy Spirit records that Paul placed it in the practice of the early church "*in remembrance*" of Christ. "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: **this do in remembrance of me**. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: **this do ye**, as oft as ye drink it, **in remembrance of me**. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come" (1 Cor. 11:23-26).
3. The first century church assembled on "*the first day of the week*," which is Sunday, to observe this memorial feast (Acts 20:7).

D. Thus, the Lord's Supper is the chosen vehicle for remembering our Lord, and God designed this memorial **"IN HIS OWN WAY."**

E. Man would never have imagined or thought of it.

F. Modern men, however, are not satisfied with God's way so they invent their own remembrances of Jesus. They call them **Easter** and **Christmas**.

G. Furthermore, they are as apt to partake of this feast on Friday as they are on Sunday.

1. Some liberal brethren have adopted this same rebellion.
 2. **5th & Highland Church**, Abilene, TX, hosts of **Herald of Truth**, had a Tuesday evening service on Oct. 5, 1999, which included “*singing, preaching, and communion*” (**THE VOICE**, Underwood Hgts. Church, Florence, AL, Vol. 27, No. 1, by Truman Smith).
- H. These changes involve significant, subtle, and to some people, unperceived changes in God’s will.
- I. Instead of obeying God’s will and remembering Jesus “**IN HIS OWN WAY**,” men have substituted their own will and do this as **they please**.

III. Other Examples Of The Same Kind Of Rebellion Against “His Own Way.”

There are many! God has “**HIS OWN WAY**” regarding many things, and man has changed them in the same way he has corrupted the observance of the Lord’s Supper. Consider:

A. God’s Will About Salvation.

1. God’s Word tells us how men are saved: “***He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned***” (Mk. 16:16). Consider also: Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21.
2. From the vantage point of the Lord, this is the Plan of Salvation “**IN HIS OWN WAY**.”
3. Man says, “*Wait a minute. We think all you have to do to be saved is accept Jesus as your personal Savior.*”
4. “*Just believe; that is enough*” (Jas. 2:24).
5. Whose way do you suppose is the right one? God’s or man’s?

B. God’s Will Is That Baptism Is By Immersion.

1. Hear Paul’s testimony, giving by inspiration of the Holy Spirit: “*Know ye not, that so many of us as were **baptized** into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore **we are buried with him by baptism** into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life*” (Rom. 6:3-4).
2. Also, Col. 2:12: “***Buried with him in baptism**, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*”
 - a. Define the word.
 - b. “I don’t see how baptism works?”
 - c. It is an “*operation of God*.” That’s why and how it works!
3. Immersion, or a “*burial*,” of the candidate for baptism is baptism “**IN HIS**

OWN WAY.”

4. Man does not wish to have it so, thus he substitutes **his own will** and sprinkles the baptism candidate.
5. The Pope was recently shown pouring a small container of water over the head of a baby, calling it baptism.
6. Whose way do you suppose is the right one? God’s or man’s?

C. And, What about baptizing babies?

1. What is God’s will respecting the candidate for baptism.
 - a. Must be a believer (Mk. 16:16).
 - b. Must repent (Acts 2:38).
 - c. Must confess Christ (Acts 8:36-37; Rom. 10:10).
2. A baby can do none of these things.
3. Do you think that matters to modern religious people? **No at all.**
4. **Baptism “IN HIS OWN WAY” is virtually unheard of today.**

D. God’s Will About Music In The Church.

1. God has also told us about the music He wants used in the worship of the Church.
2. That music must to be offered **“IN HIS OWN WAY.”**
3. Paul says, *“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing and making melody in your heart** to the Lord”* (Eph. 5:19).
4. Col. 3:16: *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing** with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”*
5. I believe *psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs* are **music**, aren’t they?
6. **God’s Will** for our worship is that we **sing, and make melody** in our hearts.
7. **Man’s Way** is use a piano, organ, or orchestra.
8. Objections from men:
 - a. “They used instruments in the O.T.”
 - (1) Recognizes the need for authority.
 - (2) That authority is not found in the N.T.
 - b. Do you suppose God just forgot, and left out the instrument in His N.T. instructions?
 - c. Do we need to correct His oversight or mistake?
9. Whose way do you suppose is the right one? God’s or man’s?

E. God’s Will about Giving; about Money.

1. He has legislated; this is also to be done **“IN HIS OWN WAY.”**
2. Here are the rules:

- a. Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7: *“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”*
- b. Christians are to contribute.
- c. **On “the first day of the week,”** not on any other day.
- d. Church does not operate businesses.
- e. Must give cheerfully, not grudgingly or out of necessity.
3. And, if you don’t believe that giving **“IN HIS OWN WAY”** is important, **remember Ananias and Sapphira** in Acts 5.

F. **God’s Will about the church serving food.**

1. 1 Cor. 11:22, 34: *“What? **have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not...And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.**”*
2. Men soundly reject this teaching.
3. A caller on our radio program, **Bible Talk**, recently said, “We convert more people with our dinners than we do with our preaching.”
4. I wonder why Jesus said “Go...preach” instead of “Go serve dinners?”
5. *“I can’t see why it is wrong to serve meals in the fellowship hall.”*
6. Incidentally, where does **God’s Will**, the Word, make provision for a “fellowship hall?”

G. **God’s Will about the New Testament.**

1. **The Gospel.** (Mk. 16:15; Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 4:2). Men teach their creeds, catechism classes, or their own fanciful stories and experiences.
2. **That it is Inspired.** (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Eph. 3:3-5; 2 Pet. 1:3; Jude 3).
3. Men seem to think it carries no more authority that the **Akron Beacon Journal** or **Time Magazine**.
4. **God’s Will** and teaching is meaningless to some people.
5. This attitude toward the Bible is manifested in man’s rebellion against practically everything it teaches.

IV. Conclusion.

- A. Obviously, we could cite example after example of man’s rejection of **God’s will and way** in religion...
- B. And we could chronicle man’s presumptuous changes and corruptions of **“HIS OWN WAY.”**
- C. But enough has been said. We get the point.

D. The question is: Now that we know **God's Will**, will we ever start doing things '**IN HIS OWN WAY?**'

- Outline by: *Lewis Willis*