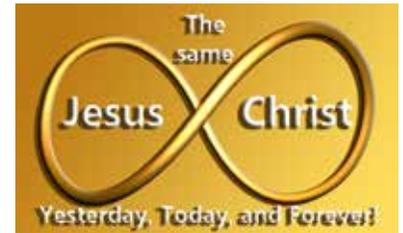


*“Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in One all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him. Ephesians 1:9-10 KJV*



What is “*the mystery of God’s will?*” It was made known in Bethlehem’s manger; no longer a mystery! How often have you heard, “I wish God would reveal to me His will for my life!” It is given in today’s text; “*That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth.*” If it isn’t Christ initiated, Christ performed, Christ glorifying, or Christ centered, it isn’t God’s will. “*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*” The word “Christian” means; Christ-like, from Christ, or Christ emulator. When you say someone is a New Yorker, an Italian, a Russian, or a Mexican, certain things are anticipated and expected. Where you live and who you associate with colors your character and life. If you call yourself a “Christian,” God expects you “*to be conformed to the image of his Son!*” God made man “*in His own image*” in Eden. His intention is unchanged. He wants man to be like Himself! The more you know Christ, the more you will know what God expects; what His will is for you; the more like Him you will be. The faithful saint is “*stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.*” In Hebrews is written, “*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.*” In Titus it says, “*If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself.*” What if someone didn’t believe you when you told them your name? Would that change who you are? It doesn’t matter where you are or what circumstance may surround you. What matters is: Are you faithfully following Truth? Are you “*meditating day and night*” in God’s Word? Are you “*praying without ceasing?*” Are you “*abstaining from ALL APPEARANCE of evil?*” These are vital to being in God’s Will!

Do you dare to call yourself a Christian?  
And follow Christ without hesitation?  
And do you wait with anticipation,  
To greet your LORD with rapt adoration? -CGP

Before the printing press, saints did not have a personal Bible to daily peruse and study. Starting in childhood, ancient Hebrews memorized the Torah. The only written Word in personal possession was small pieces of wrapped inscription bound upon their wrists and foreheads. David proclaimed, “*Thy Word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against Thee! Sin is the transgression (disobedience) of The Law (God’s Word).*” God’s Word does you absolutely no good laying on your coffee table or carried under your arm at Church! It will not keep you from sin until you have committed it to memory and its Words are part of your thought life. Anything not Christ initiated, Christ performed, Christ glorifying, or Christ centered is sin! “*Whatsoever is NOT of faith IS SIN! Faith cometh by...the Word of God.*” We neglect and ignore God’s Word, because it reminds us how unholy we really are rather than forsaking and confessing sin to God, because it’s more convenient and comfortable! So, when will you die? Will you gamble your eternity on the chance you might have one more day, because you’ve had so many so far? How many will die today unexpectedly? When did they plan to die? You may live without Christ, but you better not die without Him!

*“And [Christ] is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the Body, the Church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence.” Colossians 1:17-18 KJV*