

jan 6

if the Lord wills

"instead you ought to say, 'if the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.'" but now you boast in your arrogance. all such boasting is evil. therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin." james 4:15-17

the story goes, there was a man riding on his motorcycle and he stopped on the way to speak with a preacher. he said he was on his way to town to sell his cycle, to which the preacher replied: "the Lord willing." the young man rolled his eyes, snickered and took off in a swirl of dust.

later that day the preacher noticed a disheveled man stumbling along, all bruised, bloody and clothes torn. he soon saw it was the same young man and inquired what happened. the man stammered, "after i left you a storm arose and i tried to outrun it while the rain pelted down heavily. my cycle skidded on gravel some distance leaving me scrapped, bleeding and cut. i stumbled to a nearby farmhouse for help and a frightened woman with a shotgun emerged and started shooting at me. i ran through brush and briars trying to escape her and the hail now pounding down. i finally found some shelter under a tree and tried to pull out some of the thorns and buckshot in my behind.

"how horrible" the preacher commented as he asked, "where are you going now?" the young man replied, "i am going home" - and then quickly added, "if it be the

Lord's will."

God does not try to hide His will from anyone trying to seek it. the word says we who believe, "do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." col 1:9 true success in life is finding God's will for our life and then doing it. i know so many people who know they aren't doing things God's way but they doggedly go on about it. they only call out when the hurt is bad enough. as soon as relief comes, they are back to their old ways. true repentance brings about not just a change of will, not just a change of heart, but evidence that is present in one's life.

God is now raising a warning flag in everyone's life. "to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin." james 4:17 doing sin is wrong; not doing right is a sin as well. there are sins of commission and omission.

we are all only a heartbeat away from eternity. can you feel your heart beating in your chest? it has steadily done so from the time you were in your mother's womb. it hasn't missed a beat. and yet one day you will know a last breath; a final breath. i related earlier how i held my mother in my arms as she took her last breath. it's a strange thing to hold something once alive; full of life, full of hopes and dreams. then to know their earthly journey has been completed and a mahogany box in the ground will be this body's final resting place.

from there years pass and memories fade. the eternal dwelling place of the spirit will now be determined. forsaken priorities are the direct result of foolish presumption. trusting in Christ Jesus alone is the essential starting line. then allow His Spirit within you to lead you according to His word.

if the Lord wills! we know that He is, "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." 2 pet 3:9 and yet may will perish. not because the never heard, because He will get the truth to anyone seeking it. not because there was not enough time, because there is an allotted time for each of us. not because we did not know His will, because He has written His will out plainly for all to learn. and to those choosing to receive, He writes it again in our hearts.

so what will be the choice of your free will? i know the choice of mine. i choose to follow my Lord. "not My will, but Yours, be done." luke 22:42