

## — Guest Editorial —

### THE WILL OF GOD

by Dr. George E. Failing

Though the Thessalonian church was truly regenerate and earnestly missionary, Paul was praying that God might permit him to return to this church to the end that he might "perfect that which was lacking in their faith." Then he reveals the "lacking thing" in 4:3 and 5:23 of this book Paul's prayers and exhortations were specific, **your sanctification.** In this passage two things are revealed about sanctification.

Sanctification is not merely a doctrine: It is a manner of life, a way of living. Paul here calls it a "walk."

The Old Testament contains a couple of interesting references to this walk. In Genesis 32:31, after Jacob had wrestled with God and obtained the blessing, it says, "He limped upon his thigh." God's blessing will transform your walk by transforming you; it will mark you as the Lord's.

Then in Isaiah 3: 16 there is another reference, this one regarding the "walk" of godless women. They go out on walks to be seen, and to see with wanton eyes. How do they walk? "Mincing as they go," drawing attention by the shuffling of the feet. But sanctification will take the very desire for this kind of walk out of your heart.

a. Walk before men in a becoming manner. The Authorized Version of verse 12 reads simply "honestly." It means that but more. Doubtless it could mean "in a manner not causing needless offence to sinners." There is an offence to the preaching of the Cross, but let us not make our presentation add to it. Walk also in a manner calculated to win sinners. This is not to be accomplished through a procedure of compromise, but through earnest, loving solicitude and pains-taking, well-guided effort. Perhaps even this suggestion might be included here: walk in a manner becoming to your own personality. Do not affect another's speech or religious manner.

b. Walk to please God. Sanctification, like regeneration, is more than a social scheme of things. It is a heavenly walk, a walk with the purest motives. Otherwise God could not approve of it at all. To walk in this manner will issue in discovering and eliminating mistakes of conduct. You will learn things of conduct. You will learn things as you walk with God's eye upon you. Oh, that we might remember that personal piety and personal purity go hand-in-hand. A person therefore cannot please God and disregard his personal conduct towards others.

## II

This kind of a sanctified life is the will of God. Paul does not say that God is willing for us to live a holy life. Neither does he say that God would love us and appreciate it if we would allow Him to sanctify us. Most emphatically he declares: "This is the will of God." Reference is made to the same thought in Romans 12:1, 2—Present yourselves . . . be transformed . . . prove what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.

God will cease to shed light on the pathway of those who refuse to walk in His will. This may be the reason that they would not follow God in sanctification. It may be the reason why many are not on the mission field, or not in the ministry, or not in victory. They have ceased to walk in God's walk. God does not permit us to select what part of His will we shall obey and what we shall not give heed to. "He that rejecteth, rejecteth not man, but God, who also hath given unto us His Holy Spirit" to

accomplish this work in us. Do not reject God, or the sanctifying power of His Spirit.

Does this look rigorous and exclusive? It is the best and most satisfying thing you can ever do. "Our wills are ours to make them thine." Nothing is quite so sweet as the joy of surrender to one whom you love and unreservedly trust. Once done, future experience will show it the wisest and most joyous choice you ever made.

### HOW TO CONVERT NOBODY

The great Evangelist Charles G. Finney must have known many demagogic pulpiteers in his day. One day when his soul was burdened with the ineffectiveness of current preaching, he sat down and wrote this ironic classic which applies to our day with remarkable aptness:

1. Let your supreme motive be popularity rather than salvation.
2. Study to please your congregation and to make a reputation rather than to please God.
3. Take up popular, passing, and sensational themes to draw the crowd, and avoid essential doctrines of salvation.
4. Denounce sin in the abstract, but pass lightly over sins that prevail in your congregation.
5. If asked, "Is it wrong to dance, play cards, or attend the theatre?" answer very pleasantly, "Oh, that is a matter for private judgment. It is not for me to say you shall or shall not."
6. Preach on the loveliness of virtue and the glory of heaven, but not on the sinfulness of sin and the terrors of hell.
7. Reprove the sins of the absent, but make those who are present pleased with themselves, so that they will enjoy the sermon and not go away with their feelings hurt.
8. Make the impression on worldly church members that God is too good to send any one to hell, even if there is a hell.
9. Preach the universal Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man so as to show that no second birth is really needed.
10. Do not rebuke the worldliness of the church but fall in with the amusement policy. Instead of meeting for prayer, let the people "sit down to eat and drink and rise up to play."

—United Evangelical Action

### TOMORROW

He was going to be all that mortal should be—Tomorrow!  
No one should be kinder nor braver than he—Tomorrow!  
A friend who was troubled and weary he knew,  
Who'd be glad of a lift and who needed it, too,  
On him he would call and see what he could do—Tomorrow!  
Each morning he stacked up the letters he'd write

—Tomorrow!

And thought of the folks he'd fill with delight—Tomorrow!  
It was too bad, indeed, he was busy today,  
And hadn't a minute to stop on the way;

More time he'd have to give others, he'd say—Tomorrow!  
The greatest of workers this man would have been  
—Tomorrow;

The world would have known him had he ever seen,  
Tomorrow!

But the fact is he died and he faded from view,  
And all that he left here when living was through  
Was a mountain of things he intended to do—Tomorrow!

—Anonymous

The King's Highway