

God Will Have All Men To Be Saved

By Pastor Arthur L. Watkins

1 Timothy 2:4-6 says: ***God will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.***

The word "will" in this verse means to determine, make a positive choice, to wish or desire. The word for will in this verse is translated desire in 1:7. It's God desire, will, wish, and choice that all men and women to be saved including you. ***2 Peter 3:9 says: 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.***

This verse tells us one reason the Lord has delayed his coming is because he is longsuffering. Because God is longsuffering with sinners he has delayed his coming to give them a chance to be saved because once he comes his longsuffering with sinners will end. (See 2 Thess.1:7-10)

Ezekiel 33:11 says: As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways.

It gives God no pleasure for men to perish. Man is the creation of God and God receives no pleasure if one of his creatures perishes in hell. What gives him pleasure is for them to turn to him and be saved from their wicked ways.

These verses and many others make it clear that God will have all men and women to be saved, but how do we know this is true? When God makes a claim like this, he always backs it up with proof. And the proof is overwhelming that he will have all men, including you, to be saved. But, what is the proof? What is the evidence to prove that God will have all men to be saved?

(1) The Death of Christ

1 Timothy 2:5-6 says: ***For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.***

This verse says that Christ gave himself a ransom for all men. The word ransom literally means a price paid for the redemption of captives. For example; in war when prisoners are taken captive by the enemy the money demanded for their release is called a ransom. It is the means by which they are set free. So anything that releases someone from a state of punishment or suffering or sin is called a ransom.

We need a ransom because we are by nature captives to sin. We are sold under sin. We are under the condemnation of sin. We are under the curse of sin. And unless we find a ransom to deliver us we will perish in hell. But we have found a ransom. Paul declares Christ gave himself a ransom for all men. That is, he died in the place of sinners and God was willing to accept the pains of his death on the cross in the place of the everlasting suffering that all sinners deserve in hell.

In the same context where God says he will have all men to be saved, he gives us the proof by telling us Christ gave himself a ransom for all men. Think about this: why would Christ suffer, bleed and die as a ransom for all men, if it was not the will of God for all men to be saved? Why would God allow his Son to suffer and die such a horrible death, if it was not his will for all men to be saved?

The death of Christ is the visible and irrefutable proof that God will have all men to be saved. When you take a serious look at the cross work of Christ you can see the proof that God will have all men to be saved. Isaiah 53 says that on the cross Jesus Christ; ***Was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities...The Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all... His soul was made an offering for sin... He poured out his soul unto death and he was numbered with the transgressors and he bare the sin of many.***

Every sin committed by every person who has or will ever live, was paid for by the death of Christ because God will have all men to be saved. Making that personal, God foreknew every sin you would ever commit from the cradle to the grave, and when Christ suffered and bled and died on the cross he was dying for your sins. Christ died for the sins of the world, that's history; Christ died for your sins, now that's personal. When I look at the cross I see the visible proof that God will have all men to be saved.

(2) The Grace of God

Titus 2:11 says; ***For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.***

The word "*appeared*" means; to become visible, or manifest. When did the grace of God that bringeth salvation become visible and manifest to all men? When did it appear to all men? There are two major manifestations of the grace of God and they are proof that God will have all men to be saved.

(a) The crucifixion of Christ

2 Timothy 1:9-10 says: ***God hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:***

The grace of God by which we are saved in verse 9 was made manifest at the appearing of Jesus Christ. His appearing in this verse was his first coming when he abolished death by his death and resurrection from the dead.

When we look at the cross of Christ we can see the grace of God. The death of Christ was the supreme manifestation of the grace of God. Why? Because of who he died for. Christ died for the ungodly. He died for wicked sinners. He died for every vile person who ever lived on the face of this earth. He died for every filthy sin that has ever been committed by wicked men and women. He died for people who hated him, cursed him, reviled him, mocked him, and crucified him.

Christ didn't die for friends, he died for his enemies. That's pure unselfish grace and its proof that God will have all men to be saved. If a man saved his wife from drowning we would call that love. But, if a man saved the man who murdered his wife from drowning we would call that grace. Christ died to save those who crucified him, that's grace.

(b) The salvation of Paul

1 Timothy 1:12-16 says: And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

When you consider who Paul was when God saved him you will see the exceeding and abundant grace of God. In fact, it was so exceedingly abundant that he made Paul's salvation the pattern of salvation for all those after him.

In the crucifixion of Christ we see God offering a sacrifice for sinners. In the salvation of Paul we see God saving the chief of sinners as proof that all men were included in his sacrifice.

God saved Paul to show the world that the crucifixion of Christ was for all men, even the worst of men. In Paul's salvation we see the grace of God in action. God picked the worst of the worst to save to magnify his grace.

The crucifixion of Christ and the salvation of Paul are the visible manifestations of the grace of God. And they are proof that God will have all men to be saved and that all men can be saved. If God saved a man like Paul he can save any man and it's his will for all men to be saved.

(3) The Love of God

Ephesians 2:4-5 says: 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.

If God loved us when we were dead in sins that means that God loved us when we were lost. Therefore God loves lost people.

John 3:16 says: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:7-8 says: For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

From these verses, we can plainly see that God loves the world and the world of John 3:16 is defined as ungodly sinners in Romans 5. God loves ungodly sinners and because he loves them he wants to save them and change them. The fact that God loves lost people is proof that he will have all men to be saved. How could he love all men and not want all men to be saved? If God so loved the world, then God will have the world to be saved. If God loves all sinners, then God will have all sinners to be saved.

(4) The Gospel of Christ

In Mark 16:15 Jesus said; ***Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.***

According to the great commission the gospel is to be preached to every creature in all the world. Why? Because God will have every creature in all the world to be saved. The fact that God sends men to preach the gospel to every creature in all the world tells us that God will have every creature in all the world to be saved.

In the gospel God shows us why we need to be saved. We need to be saved because we are lost guilty sinners. We are guilty because we have broken every one of God's laws and commandments. We are guilty of every sin the law of God condemns. The penalty of breaking the law of God is death, the second death of being cast into the lake of fire.

In the gospel he also shows us how we can be saved and what he has done to save us. He sent his Son to die for our sins. By dying for our sins he paid the penalty for them and when God raised him from the dead he declared that he was satisfied with the payment Christ made to save us.

Now that the penalty has been paid in full, God sends men into all the world to preach the gospel to every creature that Christ died for. Every time the gospel is preached God calls and invites sinners to be saved. And the fact that the gospel is to be preached in all the world to every creature shows us that God invites all men to be saved. If it is not the will of God for all men in all the world to be saved why does he send men into all the world to preach the gospel to every creature? Sinners must hear and believe the gospel to be saved. The fact God sends men into all the world to preach the gospel shows us his will is to save all men.

(5) The Conviction Of The Spirit

John 16:8-11 says: And when he (The Spirit) is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

The ministry of the Spirit in this age is to reprove the world of sin, righteousness and judgment to come. His ministry is like that of a prosecuting attorney whose job is to prove the guilt of the accused. His ministry is essential to the salvation of sinners because God will not save anyone until they are first reprovved and convicted by the Spirit of God. God saves lost people and the job of the Spirit is to convict and convince sinners that they are lost so that God can save them.

The fact that God sent the Spirit to reprove or convict ***the world of sin*** shows us again that it is his will for all men to be saved. Why would God reprove and convict the world of sin if he did not want all men to be saved? ***If he did not want all men to be saved he would leave them alone.*** No one gets saved until they are first convicted and convinced of sin and the fact that the Spirit convicts and reprovves the world of sin shows us again that God will have all men to be saved.

In view of what God has done to save all men, if they refuse to get saved it's not because God has hindered them or that God has predestinated them to be lost. God has done everything he can do to save all men and the proof is overwhelming that he wants to save you. The cross of Christ, the grace of God, the love of God, the gospel of

Christ and the conviction of the Spirit is the irrefutable proof that God will have all men, including you, to be saved.

These are barriers that God has set up to stop you from going to hell. If you die lost, you will have to trample over every one of them. If you die lost you will have to say no thanks to the love of God, the grace of God, and the cross of Christ. You will have to resist the Spirit of God and reject the offer of salvation made to you in the gospel of Christ.

There is something else: **The prayers of the saints**. Many people who are saved today had people who prayed for them to be saved. Why? Because they loved them and God put it in their heart to pray for them to be saved. Christians pray for their sons and daughters to be saved because they love them. They pray for their husband or wife and brothers and sisters to be saved because they love them. God puts that desire in the hearts of his people when he saves them. And many people who choose to be lost walk over the prayers of their own family.

In conclusion, it's one thing to know the will of God; it's something else to do it. I want to ask you a personal question and be honest with your answer. ***If you knew that God wanted you to do something would you do it?***

You have just seen that it is the will of God for you to be saved. God does not want you to perish in hell. Read John 3:16 again. If you are not saved that means you have not done what God wants you to do. God's will is to save you, but if you are still lost that means you are resisting the will of God which places you in a state of rebellion.

The only way for you to be saved from God's wrath is to repent and believe the Gospel. To repent means that you turn away from whatever it is in your life that is preventing you from being saved. Whatever it is, it is not worth going to hell for. (My wife had to turn from false religion to be saved)

To believe the Gospel means that you put all of your faith and trust in Christ's death for your sins. Remember, you have broken all of God's laws and some one must pay the penalty. You have a choice as to who pays; you can pay for them yourself, but it will take you an eternity in hell to do so. Or, you can believe that Christ paid for them by his death on the cross. Which will it be? Dear friend, why not bow your head and ask the Lord to save you from sin and hell. As you pray, put all of your faith and trust in him alone to save you. If you will repent, believe and call, God has promised to save you, for He said; ***whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.***

If you are already a Christian read the opening verse again. 1 Timothy 2:4 clearly says it is God's will for all men to be saved. If that is true, then it should be your will also. 1 Timothy 2:4 is all the **commission** a Christian needs to win souls. It is all the **reason** you will ever need to win souls. It is the best **motive** to win souls. If it is God's will to save all men, then it ought to be our will to win all men and pay any price to do it. Christian friend what are you now doing to win souls? Get started today.