

ROMANS 12:2 PROVING THE WILL OF GOD

The aim of Romans 12:1-2 is that all of life would become “spiritual worship.

The aim of all human life in God’s eyes is that Christ would be made to look as valuable as he is. Worship means using our minds and hearts and bodies to express the worth of God and all he is for us in Jesus. John Piper

Verse 2 is Paul’s answer to how we turn all of life into worship. We must be transformed. *We* must be transformed. Not just our external behavior, but the way we feel and think—our minds.

Verse 2: “Be transformed *by the renewal of your mind.*”

The mind is to be saturated with and controlled by the Word of God. This mind is not consumed with the things of the world but on the things of God. This mind makes our lives a living and holy sacrifice.

We are not to be conformed to the pattern of this world.

We are to be transformed in the mind to be able to properly assess everything and to accept only what conforms to the will of God. We are to be continually transformed.

A transformed mind produces a transformed will, by which we desire with the help of the Holy Spirit to lay aside our own plans and follow God’s plans, no matter the cost.

We are to prove by our lives that the will of God really is good, acceptable, and perfect.

1. THREE MEANINGS OF WILL

Knowing the first two can help us to understand one of the most perplexing things in all the Bible. God is sovereign over all things yet He is not pleased with everything that goes on. God does not approve of all what He ordains. That is a tough statement to understand. It is saying He forbids things He brings about.

“God wills some events in one sense that he does not will in another sense.” John Piper

A. THE SOVEREIGN WILL OF GOD

1. God’s Decrees

He is in control of all things that come to pass. He is sovereign.

Matthew 26:39 / Acts 4:27-28 Jesus made a request but He wanted the Father to do what was best. The will of God was that Jesus die. That was the decree of God. This even included the sin of man. All those men sinned in crucifying Christ.

Isa 53:10 God willed what He hated.

Eph 1:11 God works all things after the counsel of His will.

God's will will always come to pass. Dan 4:35

B. GOD'S COMMANDS

This is the will of command. This will of command can be broken

This is the will of God that we fail to obey.

His sovereign will always comes to pass whether we believe in it or not. His commands that He wills can be disobeyed.

We need to know these two wills because the sovereignty of God gives us comfort when there is tragedy. We need the assurance that He is in control when everything around us is out of control. We also know that God does not delight in sin or pain in and of themselves. He is strong, and yet empathises with us.

C. SPECIFIC WILL FOR INDIVIDUALS

This is what most people think when the will of God is mentioned. God does have a will for us but it is usually hidden but He does reveal it to us in certain situations. Sometimes we become consumed with discovering God's will for my life, that we are scared if we miss it, somehow we would be doomed outside God's will. We have decisions to make but we have the light of scripture and wisdom God has given. We don't have to be wrapped up with the will of God on our mind and if we are fulfilling the specifics. He has given us His Word and His Spirit. That is basically what we need. The Holy Spirit is praying for us.

D. ROMANS 12:1-2 WILL

This would be God's will of command and not the specific will for individuals. The context shows that offering our bodies to God as living sacrifices, refusing to be conformed to the world, and instead being transformed from within by renewing our minds. This is what we are to pursue and to find good, pleasing, and perfect. When we do this, we will find that we are doing God's will for our specific lives.

2. THE MEANING OF PROVE

A. PURPOSE / RESULT PHRASE

When a believer's mind is transformed, his thinking, reasoning, and spiritual understanding are able to assess things and do what conforms to God's will.

B. (DOKIMAZO) To put to the test for the purpose of approving, and finding that the thing tested meets the specifications laid down, to put one's approval on it

C. EVERY INTELLIGENT BEING CREATED TO PROVE

1. Angels
2. Man before the fall
3. Jesus Christ
4. Christians

3. THE NATURE OF GOD'S WILL

- A. GOOD (AGATHON) That which, being good in its character or constitution, is beneficial in its effect
We are still so much a part of the world that some of God's ways seem unappealing. We still think like the world.

Robert Haldane—"The will of God here is distinguished as good, because, however much the mind may be opposed to it and how much soever we may think that it curtails our pleasures and mars our enjoyments, obedience to God conduces to our happiness."

It is only as we do God's will that we begin to know in its fullness and learn how good it really is. It is known by actual experience. We must learn this for ourselves.

1. Saved Rom 8:29-30
2. Sanctified 1 Thess 4:3
3. Saying Thanks 1 Thess 5:18
4. Suffering 1 Pet 3:17, 1 Pet 4:1-2
5. 10 Commandments Exodus 20
6. Love one another John 15:12
7. Pray 1 Thess 5:17
8. Rejoice 1 Thess 5:16

B. ACCEPTABLE

1. Well pleasing (Euareston)
2. Pleasing to whom?

C. PERFECT

1. Complete, mature, not lacking (Telios)
Brought to its end
It ends with proving the way of God to be the best way and the will of God to be perfect.

Summary of the meaning of the passage: The product of a transformed mind is a life that does the things God has declared to be righteous, fitting, and complete.

John 7:17