

TRUTH B-P CHURCH
Adult Sunday School

THE SEVENFOLD WILL OF GOD

LESSON SIX: THE PUNITIVE/ CHASTITIVE WILL

I. INTRODUCTION

Sinful men, who rebelled against God by their unbelief, immediately fall under the punitive will of God. However, there is a distinction when it comes to born again believers who sin against God. Instead of being subjected to the punitive will, Rev Timothy Tow coined another term the “chastitive” will of God to be applied for disobedient believers.

The manner in which God deals with unbelievers and believers is not the same. God deals with unbelievers as His enemies while He deals with believers as His beloved children. The punitive will for unbelievers ultimate ends with their eternal destruction and condemnation in the lake of fire. The chastitive will of God is when God applied the rod of discipline liken to a “sugar-cane” upon His wayward children in order to restore them back to Himself.

II. UNDERSTANDING THE PUNITIVE WILL OF GOD

The punitive will is seen clearly in how God dealt with Balaam who was a Gentile prophet. His case was placed under God’s punitive will since it was quite evident that Balaam was not a true believer of the God of Israel. Otherwise, God’s chastitive will would have been exercised upon him.

A. The description of Balaam according to Scripture.

1. 2 Peter 2:15-16, “Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man’s voice forbad the madness of the prophet.”
2. Jude 1:11, “Woe unto them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.”
3. Revelation 2:14, “But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.”

B. As recorded in Numbers 22 to 25, and with the description of Balaam’s life in the New Testament scriptures, the conclusion was that he was a false prophet. A false prophet is an unbeliever.

1. Balaam has no regard for God because of his love for the wages of unrighteousness.
2. Balaam actively joined hand with God’s enemies to stumble His people to fall into sin.

C. Balaam was invited twice by the king of Moab to curse the children of Israel.

1. He showed hospitality and kindness towards Moab’s messengers when they brought their king’s invitation. He accommodated them and hoped to give them a positive reply.

2. Though God has indicated His clear, firm negative reply to Balaam, he refused to give up. In the end, he decided to go. Though it may seem God permitted him to go, from the expression of His anger, it is quite evident that Balaam came under the punitive will of God.
 3. God has already made known His will to Balaam not to go and curse Israel. Since Balaam did not give up, God told him that "... If the men come to call thee, rise up and go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do" (Numbers 22:20). However, the Bible records that the next morning, Balaam on his own accord, rose up and went with the men of Moab on a donkey. But the men of Moab did not come and call him. Why did Balaam do this? There is only one answer. He wanted the rewards offered by the king of Moab.
 4. Balaam clearly rebelled against God. Therefore, God's anger was kindled against him (see verse 22). In the end, God let him go, but to go and die!
- D. It is one thing to know God's will. It is another to obey His will. Balaam knew God's will since He has verbally told him, and yet he was hoping that He will change His mind. In the end, he even decided to disregard God's will and go ahead.
- E. Balaam's story did not end here. According to Numbers 31:8, together with the five kings of Midian, he was killed by the children of Israel in the end. This is God's punitive will.

III. UNDERSTANDING THE CHASTITIVE WILL OF GOD

Balaam was under God's punitive will because Mammon was his god. He was not a true believer. He was a false prophet. True believers are warned not of God's punitive will but His chastitive will. When they go against God's will, God will deal with them as His children, and not enemies. Hebrews 12:6-7 captures this relationship excellently. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?"

The word "chasteneth" means to discipline. It carries the idea of being instructed through discipline. The motivation behind the discipline is love as of a father for his child to mend his waywardness and return to him in repentance. That's why the rod of discipline is "sweet" as of a "sugar-cane." It was never meant to destroy but to restore.

God may use afflictions, trials, and difficult circumstances to chastise His disobedient children. The process of the discipline may be painful but every believer who goes through the discipline must respond in the right manner: to gladly receive the discipline, repent and seek God's forgiveness. When David sinned against God through adultery and murder, he was chastised and came under severe discipline. He did not respond in bitterness or resentment. He repented and sought God's forgiveness sincerely and humbly.

IV. SUMMARY

Unbelievers come under God's punitive will while believers when they sin, they come under God's chastitive will. But whether punitive or chastitive, it is important for us to take heed of God's warning. Do not defend or hide our sin. Come clean before God and seek His forgiveness. Repent and live a holy life according to His Word with the help of the His Holy Spirit. May God help us. Amen.