

“How Do I DO the Will of God?”

2. BE FAITHFUL!

Matthew 25:14-30; 2 Tim. 2:2; Psalm 84B and 119A

Our catechism teaches us “the Scriptures primarily teach us what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man” (SC 3). Today we meet Bunyan’s characters Pliable and Faithful as we consider the ‘talents’ our Creator gives us, and how to do his will in loving and serving God and neighbor. Study carefully. Don’t waste time. Don’t rush. Do your vocation consistently. Save your money. Care for those in need. Present yourself well. Be steady. Be humble. For truly, friends, this is the will of God for your life (see 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12)!

1. The ‘___’ is the ‘Kingdom of _____,’ or ‘Kingdom of _____’ (v 14; see Matt. 6:33)
2. The Master does not distribute _____ equally, nor are all _____ equal (v 15)
3. The conduct of three _____ ... and what came after
 - a. Mr. _____ (v 16, 20-21)
 - b. Mr. _____ (v 17, 22-23)
 - c. Mr. Uber-_____, or Mr. Fearful (v 18, 24-25)
4. _____ your ‘Old Person’ to be the (New) Person God created you to be (Rom 6-7; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:9-10)
5. Carry the _____ of _____, enter into the “Joy of your Master” (v 21, 23)

Suggested Applications:

1. Consider the Apostle Paul’s growing up experience in 1 Corinthians 13:9-13. How is God calling you to more intentionally live the Christian life in love? How can you love God in a more principled way (Understanding Biblical Doctrine) and glorify him in your relationships?
2. Obtain *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert* by Rosaria Butterfield and explore the doctrine of repentance (see chapter 2, plus *The Mortification of Sin* in Puritan Paperbacks). Are you living a lifestyle of repentance that “adorns” the Gospel of God (Titus 2:9-14)?

1. Westminster Confession of Faith 13.1-2 – Of Sanctification

They who are effectually called and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them are further sanctified, really and personally, through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection, but His Word and Spirit dwelling in them ... this sanctification is through, in the whole man, yet imperfect in this life, there abiding still some remnants of corruption in every part, whence ariseth a continual and irreconcilable war, the flesh lusting against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh. In this war, although the remaining corruption may for a time much prevail, yet through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the regenerate part doth overcome, and so the saints grow in grace, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2. Westminster Confession of Faith 16.1 – Of Good Works

Good works are only such as God hath commanded in His holy Word, and not such as, without the warrant thereof, are devised by men ... These good works, done in obedience to God's commandments are the fruits and evidences of a true and lively faith: and by them believers manifest their thankfulness, strengthen their assurance, edify their brethren, adorn the profession of the gospel, stop the mouths of the adversaries, and glory God, whose workmanship they are created in Christ Jesus thereunto ...

3. Pilgrim's Progress – Meet Pliable and Faithful

I saw that by this time Pliable had arrived back home again at his house, and his neighbors came to visit ... some called him a fool for endangering himself with Christian. Still others mocked his cowardice saying 'Surely since you began to venture away, I would not have been so weak as to have given out because of a few difficulties.' So Pliable began sneaking around to avoid them ... and so I heard no more of Pliable. (13-14)

Christian and Faithful behaved themselves even more wisely and received the contempt and shame cast upon them with so much meekness and patience that it won to their side several people in Vanity Fair. This put people into an even greater rage, so much that they determined the death of these two men ... They brought Faithful out to do to him according to their law. First they whipped him, then they beat him ... and last of all they burned him to ashes at the stake. Thus Faithful came to his end. Now I saw that behind the multitude there stood a chariot and a team of horses waiting for Faithful, who as soon as his adversaries had taken his life, was taken into it and immediately carried through the clouds with the sound of a trumpet. He was taken by the nearest way to the Celestial gate ... Well, Faithful, thou hast faithfully profest, Unto thy Lord, with Him thou shalt be blest; When faithless one, with all their vain delights, Are crying out under their hellish plights. Sing, Faithful, sing, and let thy Name survive, For tho' they killed thee, thou art yet alive. (chap. 12)