

# “Being Thankful for God’s Perfect Will”

Rev. David J. Bauer



God has a perfect will for you and me. He does hear our requests and is in tune with our heart’s desire. But His will is always the best for us. Many times we do not accept His will and beg for our own desires. Sometimes God gives us what we think we really want and it proves to be disastrous. Then our selfish desire causes us to lose God’s perfect will that He wants to share with us. James 1:17 reminds us that “*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variableness, nor shadow of turning.*” There are “good gifts,” and then there are “perfect gifts.” What do we have? Only what we have received from God’s hand?

We see a biblical example of a man who clearly missed God’s “perfect gift” when we review the life of King Hezekiah (2 Kings 20 and 2 Chron. 32:25-31 and Isaiah 36-38).

For most of his lifetime, King Hezekiah had the obedience part down perfectly. He mostly did what would please God, and almost exactly what God commanded him to do. He used his kingdom influence to remove idolatry from his country and he brought true worship into the land, specifically into the Jerusalem temple. He used his kingdom authority to clean up the country and get it pointed toward godliness.

Finally a time of testing came, the entire city of Jerusalem being under siege to the giant Assyrian army numbering 185,000. Hezekiah did not waver from his duties, trusting that his God was able to deliver the city from the surrounding forces as they worked to break the spirit of the people of Jerusalem. Hezekiah took the threatening, mocking letter written by the Assyrian general, and spread the parchment out before the Lord in the temple. He declared before God, “*This is what they are saying about You and your people!*”(see Isaiah 37:14-20) His plea before Almighty God was heard: The angel of the Lord destroyed that great Assyrian army in the middle of the night right outside the gates of the city! The Assyrian leader who mocked the God of Israel was assonated by his own sons just a short time later.

But shortly after the defeat of the Assyrians we learn that King Hezekiah was faced with a different problem, one much more personal. He received a visit from the prophet Isaiah, who instructed him to get his affairs in order, for he had but a short time to live. This pronouncement of imminent death put the king in great distress. He turned his face toward the wall and cried many tears, literally begging God for his life, rationalizing with the Lord that he had after all obeyed God in every specific detail in his life up until now. God noticed his tears and answered his plea through the words of the prophet: The king would be given his desire – He would be given fifteen



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more years to his life. Further, as a visible proof of the promise of added years, the sundial would move backwards ten degrees. And it did exactly that!

But as we review the results of these added fifteen years. They proved to be anything but a blessing (2 Kings 20:12-20). Ambassadors from Babylon visited Hezekiah inquiring about the “*wonder done in the land*” as well as his previous sickness. You can bet the magi of Babylon were watching the skies as the sun shadow went backward on the sundial. They had to be aware also of the defeat of the great Assyrian army. Babylon was fast becoming a world power too and these things would have been of great interest to them.

But instead of praising the God of the universe and testifying of His great power, the king showed them his own great works and treasures of his kingdom. 2 Chronicles 32:25, 31 gives this sad commentary: “*But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him; for his heart was lifted up... in the business of the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent unto him to inquire of the wonder that had been done in the land, God left him to try him, that He might know all that was in his heart.*” Hezekiah clearly failed the test, for he failed to give God the glory or expressed genuine thankfulness, but took glory for himself. Having seen the earthly treasure of Jerusalem, this very Chadian enemy would one day return to take both the treasure and the inhabitants away to Babylon into captivity.

Note also that it was during those added fifteen years that a son was born to Hezekiah, Manasseh (1 Kings 21:1), who would record the longest and wickedest career reign of any Judean king in history.

Oh, to be with the Lord is a far greater treasure for us than a longer life if it is within God’s perfect will and pleasure. A longer lifetime is not always better if the will of God is not at the center.

Be thankful to God for all things He sends our way (good or bad in our eyes). He knows what is best for us in light of His eternal purpose –Romans 8:28.

**And remember: --God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him!**

A doctor can save your life.  
A Lawyer can defend your life.  
A Soldier can give you a peaceful life.  
But only God can give you an  
**EVERLASTING** life.

*“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.”*

-William Arthur Ward

*“It is not that Christianity has been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult, but seldom tried.”*

–“*Orthodoxy*” by G. K. Chesterton



## 3 Layer Pumpkin Dessert

1 box Cake Mix (less 1 cup put aside)

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup Butter, melted

1 Egg

Combine these ingredients and pour into bottom of 8X12 greased cake pan.

1 can Pumpkin mix

2  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp Pumpkin Pie Spice (if Pumpkin Mix has no seasoning in it)

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup Brown Sugar

2 Beaten Eggs

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup Milk

Mix these ingredients well and pour in pan over the 1<sup>st</sup> layer.

Topping:

1 cup Cake Mix

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup Sugar

1 tsp. Cinnamon

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup Butter

Combine and sprinkle over top.

Bake at 350 degrees for 40-50 minutes.



If you spill something on your clothes while eating out, ask the waiter for a small glass of club soda; Dip a napkin into the soda and rub away the spot.

Remember: Some stains must be soaked in COLD water first in order for them to not become “set.” Some of these stains are blood, fruit, egg and ink. After they have been soaked in cold water for a while they can be washed with liquid detergent or have stain-removing agents applied to them.

For a stubborn lock, dip the key in machine oil or graphite and put it in and out of the keyhole and turn it several times.

When placing cut flowers in a vase, use warm water (but not hot) instead of cold water from the tap. The flowers will adapt better to the warm water.

Before moving from one house to another, tape easy to remove labels or post-it notes on each piece of furniture and each box telling which rooms they go into. This helps movers know where to put them.

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## ***Bible Related Ministries Newsletter***

***Rev. David J. Bauer, Director***



# 2023

*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything  
with thanksgiving let your requests be made  
known unto God” –Philippians 4:6.*

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### ***Rev. David J. Bauer's Director's Itinerary***



Nov. 5 9:30 a.m. Devon Church, Chicago, IL  
Nov. 10, 11, 12 La Grange Bible Church,  
La Grange, IL Missions Conference  
Dec. 3 10:00 a.m. Emmanuel Bible Church,  
Berwyn, IL English Service  
12:00 noon Emmanuel Bible Church  
Berwyn, IL Spanish Service

We have BRM team members ready to supply pulpits as needed; Give BRM a call for a good preacher! 708-579-3800/3801

#### **The Lighter Side – Just Don't Do It**

A little girl was staying with her grandmother. Grandma encouraged her granddaughter to invite the neighbor girl over to play. When her new friend said she needed to use the bathroom, the little girl led her to the one her grandparents used.

She pointed to the bathroom scale in the corner and cautioned the neighbor girl, “Whatever you do, don't step on that thing!”

“Why not?” asked her friend.

“I don't know,” replied the girl, “But all I can tell you is that whenever my grandma gets on it, she starts screaming like mad!”

#### **The Company Picnic**

The wife of a business executive challenged her husband at the company picnic about how many times he went back for more food.

“Doesn't it embarrass you that people have seen you go up to the buffet table five times?”

“Not a bit,” the husband replied. “I just tell them I'm filling up a plate for you!”

### **BRM Field Report #11**

We have been busy with churches everywhere, our phones are ringing with questions and messages a-plenty!

After a two year search for a pastor, Harvard Bible Church in Harvard, Illinois has entered into an agreement with their new pastor, Dan Mandiego, his wife, Michiko and three teenage children. The Mandiego family hails from Wausau, Wisconsin, and will be moving to Harvard. BRM attended and participated in a special Installation Service on the afternoon of October 22. The board and search committee worked hard with counsel from BRM to make this happen. Congratulations, prayers and may the grace of God be abundant on this new pastoral family in the leading of this church.

A church in Indiana had yet another pastoral candidate excuse himself from candidacy after a vote was taken by the congregation. This has happened twice to this church this year. If a candidate is hesitant concerning his calling to a particular area, it would be practical that he withdraws before the congregation votes on him. After they vote in favor toward calling him, for him to not take the job is very discouraging to the people.

We find ourselves at BRM being in a strong advisory capacity in getting budget increases and housing allowance reimbursement for pastors in the field. Fewer pastors are living in parsonages these days. A house is a good investment for a pastoral family. Also having a home in the community demonstrates to the church the commitment of the pastor and his family. We ask pastors to allow BRM to work with their boards and congregation to explain and budget housing allowances.

October was “Pastor Appreciation Month.” Is your church figuring a “Cost of Living” allowance for your pastor? I remember working as pastor without a raise for first 9 years! Sadly, had I not asked, I believe the church would not have thought to give us a raise! A word to the wise...

Sincerely,

Rev. David J. Bauer Psalm 1:1-3

See pics of many events on BRM Facebook!