Proving God's Will

Tony Mauck · Romans 12:2

INTRODUCTION

- I'm doing a two-part lesson. But the first part was 364 days ago. On December 31st, 2017.
- We started that lesson by looking at Colossians, the second chapter, and particularly verse 4, where Paul is concerned about influences that would come to bear on the church at Colossae.

1 Not Moved Away From the Hope of the Gospel

Colossians 2:4–7; Colossians 1:23; John 10:27–28

- I say this in order that no one may delude you with persuasive argument. What we believe matters.
- Paul's concern about believers being moved away from the hope of the gospel is a concern of every elder of every preacher who cares about the Lord's will in our time.
- Having been firmly rooted and now being built up in him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, overflowing with gratitude.
- My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
- There is no power anywhere, any place that can affect your relationship with Jesus when you follow his voice.

2 Oaks of Righteousness, the Planting of the Lord

Isaiah 61:1–3; Matthew 15:13

- Isaiah is talking about all the glories of the era of the Messiah and God's intentions for Jerusalem for Zion.
- The oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting.
- If you wanted to paint a picture of something strong, firm, steady, dependable, they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, and understand the purpose of those oaks that he might be glorified.
- When I see the words firmly established, and I see the word stability, and I see the words rooted. I think of the imagery of Isaiah chapter 61 and verse 3.

3 Clothed With Christ: Not an Invitation but a Reminder

Galatians 3:26–27; Ephesians 4:14–15

- So in Christ Jesus, you all are children of God through faith. That is your confidence in unseen things.
- For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
- It's not first and foremost an invitation. It is instead a reminder. It is telling those who are in the church in Galatia, don't you remember why you were baptized?

- It's a reminder to keep themselves clothed with Christ. Again, not be moved away from the hope of the gospel.
- Being clothed with Christ and learning Christ means that we embrace His righteousness.

4 Test and Approve What God's Will Is

Romans 12:2; Romans 12:15; Romans 12:17–21

- Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
- Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is. His good pleasing and perfect will.
- This is more the idea that we put God's word into action in our lives, and we see that God's word is exactly that. That it is good. It is pleasing.
- Never pay back evil for evil. Let me show you a better way. Overcome evil with good.
- God's will is good, it is pleasing, it is perfect, it is the best in every relationship in every walk of life.

5 What Oaks of Righteousness Are Going to Do

Hebrews 13:15–16

- Oaks of righteousness will commit themselves to assembly. Not because they want to put a check mark by the fact that they attended, but they realize that God is deserving of such a decision.
- We contribute to each other's oak stability when we come here.
- Make 2019 a year of commitment to prayer, daily prayer, and Bible study.
- Wouldn't it be better to take a smaller section, a smaller verse, to read it, think about it, meditate. What does this mean? Prove it in our lives.
- Choose a person. Serve one. A week. Communicate. Make sure you talk to them. And then pray for them specifically.

THE CHALLENGE

Three things that we need: an abiding confidence, an abiding hope, an abiding effort. Make that your resolve. Be firmly entrenched in the will of God.

MY NOTES