



The Great Destroyer
Of man is:

The Will of Man

Matthew 23:37

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me.

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Forward

The Will of Man

Matthew 23:37

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that kills the prophets, and stones them which are sent unto thee, how often I would have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

The greatest destroyer of man is the will of man. Man's free will has never saved a soul, or will save a soul, but man's free will has been the ruin of many.

"You would not," is still the solemn accusation of Christ against guilty men.

Jesus also said, "You will not come unto me, that you might have life".

The human will is desperately set against God and is the great devourer and destroyer of thousands of good intentions and emotions which never come to anything permanent because the will is acting in opposition to that which is right and true.



Psalm 122:6

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

Chapter 1

Every wise person builds his or her House

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

The “way that seems right” may offer many options and require few sacrifices. Easy choices, however, should make us take a second look. Is this solution attractive because it allows me to be lazy? Because it doesn’t ask me to change my life-style? Because it requires no moral restraints? The right choice often requires hard work and self-sacrifice. Don’t be enticed by apparent shortcuts that seem right but end in death.

A wise man listens to counsel.

Proverbs 12:15

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel.

When someone annoys or insults you, it is natural to retaliate. But this solves nothing and only encourages trouble. Instead, answer slowly and quietly. Your positive response will achieve positive results. Proverbs 15:1 says, “A gentle answer turns away wrath.”

The outcome of man’s will is death.

Romans 6:21

What fruit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? The outcome of those things is death.

It is impossible to be neutral. Every person has a master—either God or sin. A Christian is not someone who cannot sin, but someone who is no longer a slave to sin. He or she belongs to God.

Proverbs 16:25

There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

The spiritual person relies on the spirit of God to direct them.

“The laborer’s appetite works for him” means that no matter how much difficulty or drudgery we may find in our work, our appetite is an incentive to keep going. Hunger makes us work to satisfy that hunger.

Man’s ideas brings filthiness

Proverbs 30:12

There is a generation that is pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

This phrase refers to prideful and haughty people who look down on others. Proverbs 30:11-14 contain a fourfold description of arrogance.

Chapter 2

The wide gate leads to destruction.

Matthew 7:13-14

Enter in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at:

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

The gate that leads to eternal life (John 10:7-9) is called “narrow.” This does not mean that it is difficult to become a Christian, but that there is only *one* way to live eternally with God and only a few that decide to walk that road. Believing in Jesus is the only way to heaven, because he alone died for our sins and made us right before God. Living his way may not be popular, but it is true and right. Thank God there is one way!

Strive to enter in the strait gate.

Luke 13:24

Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

Finding salvation requires more concentrated effort than most people are willing to put forth. Obviously we cannot save ourselves—there is no way we can work ourselves into God’s favor. The effort we must put out “to enter through the narrow door” is earnestly desiring to know Jesus and diligently striving to follow him whatever the cost. We dare not put off making this decision because the door will not stay open forever

The upright shall be blessed.

Psalm 112:2-3

His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth forever.

Successful children are an example of children who have been taught to be upright. God's success comes through righteousness.

Fear of man brings a snare.

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.

Fear of people can hamper everything you try to do. In extreme forms, it can make you afraid to leave your home. By contrast, fear of God—respect, reverence, and trust—is liberating. Why fear people who can do no eternal harm? Instead, fear God who can turn the harm intended by others into good for those who trust him.

Bring each hard case to the Lord.

Deuteronomy 1:17

'You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small and the great alike You shall not fear man, for the judgment is God's The case that is too hard for you, you shall bring to me, and I will hear it.'

Moses identified some of the inner qualities of good leaders:

- (1) Wisdom,
- (2) Understanding, and
- (3) Respect.

These characteristics differ markedly from the ones that often help elect leaders today: good looks, wealth, popularity, willingness to do anything to get to the top.

The qualities Moses identified should be evident in us as we lead, and we should look for them in those we elect to positions of leadership.

Saul sinned because he feared the people.

1 Samuel 15:24

Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned; I have indeed transgressed the command of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and listened to their voice.

"Being religious" (going to church, serving on a committee, giving to charity) is not enough if we do not act out of devotion and obedience to God.

Rebellion and arrogance are serious sins. They involve far more than being independent and strong-minded. Scripture equates them with divination (witchcraft) and idolatry, sins worthy of death (Exodus 22:18; Leviticus 20:6; Deut. 13:12-15; Deut. 18:10; Micah 5:10-14).

Saul became both rebellious and arrogant, so it is little wonder that God finally rejected him and took away his kingdom. Rebellion against God is perhaps the most serious sin of all because as long as a person rebels, he or she closes the door to forgiveness and restoration with God.

Chapter 3

Be not afraid of man who dies.

Isaiah 51:12

"I, even I, am He who comforts you who are you that you are afraid of man who dies and of the son of man who is made like grass,

God's people feared Babylon, but not God. They had reason to fear Babylon for the harm it wanted to do, but they should also have realized that God's power is much greater than Babylon's. Babylon was interested in making the people captives; God was interested in setting them free. The people had misplaced their fear and their love. Jerusalem should have feared God's power and loved his mercy.

When Jesus was on trial, all the disciples left him.

Matthew 26:56

"But all this has taken place to fulfill the Scriptures of the prophets." Then all the disciples left Him and fled.

All the disciples declared that they would die before disowning Jesus. A few hours later, however, they all scattered. Talk is cheap. It is easy to say we are devoted to Christ, but our claims are meaningful only when they are tested in the crucible of persecution. How strong is your faith? Is it strong enough to stand up under intense trial?

Do not be afraid of those who can kill only the body.

Luke 12:4

"I say to you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do.

As Jesus watched the huge crowds waiting to hear him, he warned his disciples against hypocrisy—trying to appear good when one's heart is far from God. The Pharisees could not keep their attitudes hidden forever. Their selfishness would act like yeast, and soon they would expose themselves for what they really were—power-hungry impostors, not devoted religious leaders. It is easy to be angry at the blatant hypocrisy of the Pharisees, but each of us must resist the temptation to settle for the appearance of respectability when our hearts are far from God.

Fear of opposition or ridicule can weaken our witness for Christ. Often we cling to peace and comfort, even at the cost of our walk with God. Jesus reminds us here that we should fear God, who controls eternal, not merely temporal, consequences. Don't allow fear of a person or group to keep you from standing up for Christ.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

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