

we may wander from where we should be. The Lord Jesus Himself is our example in this as He tells us in Hebrews 10 (citing the Psalmist) "I delight to do thy will, O, my God." It would almost seem axiomatic that the path taken by the Savior would be the one we would also take. But it takes some real thinking, some personal assessment, and some readiness to be conformed to a higher truth than our own ideas.

II. Discussion: We view the will of God in five areas: the decretal will (as in creation), the determinative will (as in the fact that all die), the declarative will (as with the appointment of Paul and Barnabas to the Lord's service, the desiderative will (the desires of God for our holiness) and the dispensational will (particular instructions for a given time such as those that governed Israel's societal life.) It is with the fourth and fifth of these that we must be occupied although the third is also sometimes featured. Items one and two are the fiat statements of God and we respect them and revere Him but they are not in our province of performance!

A. It is His will that we stay together---Hebrews 10:25, not in the sense that we all must live in the same place but that there will be no forsaking of the fellowship as it exists among us. As the church expanded in the ancient world the fellowship places became more numerous---it had to be that way---but the believers were not to forsake the gatherings...as they had opportunity to be together for spiritual purposes, etc.

B. It is His will that we encourage one another---Hebrews 10:24 and thereby edify one another and build the body. The encouragement is to good works and ways in which we may show greater love in the body. Remembering the words of the Lord Jesus in John 13 as to how the world will know us, we can see the necessity of our observation of this aspect of revelation.

C. It is His will that we maintain a closeness to God ---Hebrews 10: 21-23. We are told about the wonder of this fellowship in 1 John 1 and it is a vital part of our being. We are the Sons of God, what is better than living happily with the rest of the family and especially our Father.

III, Conclusion: Any meeting of believers will be greatly helped if those in fellowship are in attendance, building one another, and demonstrating a life of holiness. If I really want to do something for my meeting, as a born again person, let me start here. I am not saying this is the only thing but it is certainly a great and important thing.