Clips from Psalms

Psalms 107:32-34
Israel's Rebelliousness and God's Deliverance

"Let the people exalt God also in the assembly, and praise him in the seat of the elders. He turns rivers into a wilderness, and water springs into a thirsty ground; a fruitful land into a salt desert, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein."

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Floral Heights Church of Christ
1814 Buchanan, Wichita Falls, Texas 76309

Schedule of Services
Sunday Worship:
9:30 AM Bible Study
10:30 AM Worship
6:00 PM Worship

Wednesday:
7:30 PM Bible Study

Preacher
John Robertson

Postage

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In This Issue:
Jonah (2) .................. 1-2
Local News .................. 2
The Book of Psalms - Back Cover

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Jonah's Legendary Stubbornness
Part 2
Jonah Chapters 3 and 4

God gives his prophet a second chance and reiterates his command to go to Nineveh and preach. Jonah complies with God's will and preaches to the great and wicked city. The people of Nineveh repent due to Jonah's preaching and God repents from his purpose of destroying them. While God is pleased with Nineveh Jonah is extremely angry. The prophet of God has no desire to see the great city of sixty thousand plus people saved. Jonah would rather die than see the Gentiles saved (see Jonah 4:3, 9).

There is an obvious contrast being considered between the mariners, the people of Nineveh, and Jonah. Both the mariners and people of Nineveh have a desire to live where as Jonah seeks death (Jonah 1:14 and 3:9). There was a battle taking place in the mind of Jonah. The prophet of God knew the Lord's will concerning Nineveh; however, his personal desire to see something different happen won over his mind.

Jonah had previously concluded from his affliction at the hands of God that "they that regard lying vanities forsake their own mercy" (Jonah 2:8). Apparently there was a lying worthless doctrine circulating that taught that God and his people should want nothing good for the Gentiles. Nothing could be further from the truth from God's perspective. The Lord had early on taught...
through Abraham that he intended for all nations to be blessed with mercy and forgiveness (see Genesis 12:1-4). Why then does Jonah want nothing good to happen to the people of Nineveh when God wants to save them?

What causes a man to reject the will of God? The answer to this question is the grand lesson of the book of Jonah. Jonah said that he would rather die than to live and see God have mercy on Nineveh. Interestingly, the prophet Hosea and Jesus had somewhat to say about such an attitude. Hosea said that the wicked people of Israel would rather die than turn and follow God's commandments. The people would "say to the mountains, Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us" (see Hosea 10:8). Jesus quoted from Hosea when carrying his cross to Calvary. Women came weeping to him as he suffered immensely under the whip of the Romans and weight of the cross. Jesus tells them not to weep because the time comes when he will say "30 to the mountains, Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us. 31 For if they do these things in the green tree, what shall be done in the dry?" (Luke 23:30-31).

The Lord's point is that as God chastises men for wickedness they would rather go to their grave in death than to turn to his divine will (see also the Apostle John's use of these words at Revelation 16:9). Jonah, at his present state of mind, was numbered with the hard hearted of the ages.

What causes a man to reject the will of God? The answer to this question is the book of Jonah. People reject God's will when their personal will is more to be desired. God's will is rejected because people place higher value on their personal opinions, convictions, and preconceived religious ideas. Jonah, like many today, do what pleases them rather than what pleases God (see Amos 4:4-5). The book of Jonah ends as God dealt with his prophet with great patience. The Lord reasons with Jonah about his decisions to die rather than accept the divine will for Nineveh. We are not told if Jonah opened his eyes to his error yet the decision of all men to do so lays before us all (Colossians 3:17).