

So these two ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ aspects of God's will are very important, and of course in the second of these salvation must always be emphasized. I have heard sermons in which the speaker simply took for granted the saved condition of his listeners, and said nothing about what the gospel is or how to be saved through the Lord Jesus Christ. I question whether such a talk is a Christian sermon. This is not to say that every sermon must be an evangelistic message; we need many other types of sermons. But there is no reason why the gospel can't be made clear somewhere in the course of the message. Without this first step all else is meaningless. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Tilling and weeding and watering are to no avail unless the seed is planted first.

There is a third element in understanding the will of God for every Christian. [Ephesians 4:11-13 says, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.. ."] What was his purpose in giving these gifts? ["For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ. Till we all come in the unity of the faith ~~XXXX~~ ..."]

III

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