

Wisdom and the Will of God

Ephesians 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Wisdom is the ability to make right decisions based upon the will of God.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding.

2. Making decisions contrary to the will of God is foolish. There is a lot of foolishness today. The answer to this is finding God's will for our life and helping others do the same.

DISCUSSION: God reveals His will in and through the Scriptures.

I. God has a specific will for my life.

Psalms 37:23 The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

Psalms 32:8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

A. The best “goal setting workshop” for the Christian is in the Scriptures.

B. Examples

i. David

Psalms 71:5-6 For thou *art* my hope, O Lord GOD: *thou art* my trust from my youth. **6** By thee have I been holden up from the womb: thou art he that took me out of my mother's bowels: my praise *shall be* continually of thee.

ii. Isaiah

Isaiah 49:1 Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.

Isaiah 49:5 And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb *to be* his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.

iii. John the Baptist

Luke 1:76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

iv. Paul

Galatians 1:15-16 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called *me* by his grace, **16** To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

- C. "It doesn't work like that anymore"??? NONSENSE! That is FOOLISH talk! God has a will for your life.

II. True happiness comes from finding and following God's will for my life.

A. Joshua

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

B. David

Psalms 1:1-3 Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. **2** But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. **3** And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

- C. We don't want to "kick against the pricks".

Acts 9:4-6 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? **5** And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: *it is* hard for thee to kick against the pricks. **6** And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

- i. Our response should be same as Paul's "*what wilt thou have me to do?*"

III. The Basics

A. Learn more about Him and His will.

Colossians 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

2 Timothy 3:14-17 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been

assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*; **15** And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **16** All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: **17** That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

B. Grow in Grace

2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.

C. Share our faith

1 Timothy 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

D. Beyond this we need to be open to the Lord's providential leading.

i. Prayer essential

Joshua 9:14-15 And the men took of their victuals, and asked not *counsel* at the mouth of the LORD. **15** And Joshua made peace with them, and made a league with them, to let them live: and the princes of the congregation sware unto them.

Daniel 9:3-4 And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes: **4** And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;

CONCLUSION:

1. There is no question as to whether or not God has a will for your life.

Psalms 32:8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

2. God's will for our life is revealed first and foremost in the scriptures. Secondly, we need to look for His providential leading in our lives. Individually and collectively.