

THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD

A STUDY ON WHAT GOD WANTS FOR YOU

*"In every thing give thanks:
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:18

1. The Big Journey

- a. It is now accepted that believers must be on a constant journey to discover God's will
- b. Where do we look for direction? Within and without.
 - i. Heart's desires – Ps 21:2, 37:4 (but also Ps 10:3, Jer 17:9)
 - ii. Circumstances – Judges 6:36-40, Josh 1:8, (but also Job 1:10-12, 31:35-36)
- c. Trusting God with the outcome (because we don't know or can't control)
 - i. God directing steps (Fate?) - Prov 3:5-6 (but
 - ii. 'wonderful plan for your life' – Jer 29:11, Rom 8:28 (but Mt 16:21, Act 9:16)
- d. Taking blind steps toward your own ends is not faith and not God's will.

2. You Can Know God's Will

- a. The motive to seek God's will seems to be to live, but for whom? 2 Cor 5:15, Phi 2:21
- b. God's will is his purpose, not yours = what he is doing, not how God helps you to do
 - i. The Bible is His words and it states the "will of God concerning you" clearly.
 - ii. Understanding the Bible is key to understanding the will of God.
- c. Not understanding God's will shows lack of faith or wisdom - Eph 5:17, Rom 10:17
- d. Most believers are believing lies about the will of God. (2 Cor 4:4?)
 - i. 1) It is stated outside the Bible, 2) you can do it w/o knowing it, 3) it cannot be grasped, 4) it is a mystery, 5) it is for us to be happy, 6) it is unique to me
- e. The mystery of his will has already been made known - Eph 1:9

3. This is the Will of God Concerning You

- a. That all men be saved – 1 Tim 2:4
- b. That all men would come unto the knowledge of the truth – 1 Tim 2:4
- c. That all men would see what is the fellowship of the mystery – Eph 3:9
- d. Your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication – 1 Thess 4:3
- e. In every thing give thanks – 1 Thess 5:18

4. Understanding His Will

- a. All men saved, is why he withholds judgment during disp. of grace – 1 Tim 2:4
 - i. Why there must be faithful workmen to do this work – 1 Cor 1:21, 2Tim 4:5
- b. 'Know the truth' about God, about you, about his purpose, about his apostle.
- c. 'fellowship of the mystery' which concerns Christ in you – Col 1:27, Eph 3:11
- d. 'Sanctification' - fornication is rebellion, to be in discord with who you are – Eph 2:10, 1 Cor 3:16 (cf. 1 Cor 4:1-2, 5:1, 6:11,20)
- e. 'give thanks' – for peace Col 3:15, for prayer Col 4:2, for stability Col 2:7, for joy 1Th 3:9, for truth 1 Tim 4:3-4, for purity Eph 5:4, for being filled with the Spirit Eph 5:20