



What is God's Will for Your Life?



Week 8 in Context

Spread God's Glory Across the Globe

- Weeks 1-2: Biblical Perspective on Missions
- Week 3: How Well Do You Know a Missionary?
- Week 4: Communicate God's Story/Your Story
- Week 5: Cross-Cultural Communication
(Building relationships)
- Week 6: - Communicating the Gospel
- Short-term missions
- Week 7: Longer-term missions
- Week 8: What is God's Will For Your Life?

Purpose?
Discover
your role
in missions

- Mobilize
- Pray
- Send
- Welcome
- Go



Week 8 Discussion Questions

In groups of 2-3 discuss the following

1. Discuss a time when you sought God's will for your life.
2. Did you find it?
3. Do you believe you are in God's will now?
4. Can God's will for you change?
5. How do you find God's will?



God's Will *

- What is meant by God's Will?
- There are two Greek words in the NT that are translated into English as “will” when speaking of God's will
 - **Boule** frequently indicates God's providential plan, which is predetermined and inflexible
 - Acts 2.23: “this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan (**boule**) and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.”
 - **Thelema** has several possible meanings. It refers to what is agreeable, desired, intended, chosen, or commanded.
 - 1 Pet. 4.2 “...live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for **the will of God.**”

* From R.C. Sproul's book **Following Christ**, Chapters 10-12



God's Will

Theologians use two terms for God's Will

- **Decretive will of God** – that which God decrees will come to pass according to his supreme sovereignty
- **Preceptive will of God** – that which God desires as found in His precepts, statutes, and commandments

Which of these are you trying to find?

- Deut. 29.29 *“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”*



God's Will

- *R. C. Sproul, "One of the great tragedies of contemporary Christendom is the preoccupation of so many Christians with the secret decretive will of God to the exclusion and neglect of the preceptive will. We want to peek behind the veil, to catch a glimpse of our personal future. We seem more concerned with our horoscope than with our obedience."*
- *R. C. Sproul, "To try to look behind the veil at what God has not been pleased to reveal is to tamper with holy things that are out of bounds."*

What question should we be asking?

- What does God want me to do?
- We should not be paralyzed because we have not discovered God's plan for our lives.



God's Will

- Martin Luther: *“We must keep in view his Word and leave alone his inscrutable will; for it is by his Word and not by his inscrutable will that we must be guided.”*
- R. C. Sproul, *“Christians are permitted, in a sense, to attempt to discern the will of God by means of illumination by the Holy Spirit and by confirmation through circumstances that we are doing the right thing. However, the search for providential guidance must always be subordinate to our study of the revealed will of God.”*
- What about man's free will?
 - R.C. Sproul, *“My freedom is always constrained by the sovereignty of God. I have freedom to do things as I please, but if my freedom conflicts with the decretive will of God, there is no question as to the outcome—God's decree will prevail over my choice.”*



Apply These Principles

- What should be **your** role in missions?
 - **Mobilize, Pray, Send, Welcome, Go**
- Which of these is God's desire for **ALL** Christians?
- IMO we should **ALL** be involved in
 - **Praying** for missionaries and for God's glory to be made known to all people
 - Helping to **send** (e.g. equip, fund, prepare) people to do missions work (both locally and overseas)
 - **Welcoming** missionaries when they return from the missions field (short-term visit back or long-term/permanent)



Apply These Principles

- Who should **mobilize** Christians to go to the missions field?
 - We can all encourage and give godly counsel to others
 - Some can play a more active role (e.g. Doug and Margi)
- Should you/your family **Go** to the missions field? Consider
 - Short-term missions (1-4 weeks)
 - Medium-term missions (5 weeks – 2 years)
 - Long-term / career missions (>2 years)
- We will look at these options more next week – in the mean time, pray about whether you are neglecting what God wants you to do regarding **Mobilizing, Praying for, Sending, and Welcoming** missionaries.



Apply These Principles

- Vocation and God's will (Chapter 12 in R.C. Sproul's book)
 - The idea of vocation is from the Latin word for "calling".
R.C. Sproul uses the term vocation in its original sense:
a **divine call**, a holy summons to fulfill a task or a responsibility that God has laid upon us.
- The problem of discerning one's calling focuses on four questions:
 - What can I do?
 - What do I like to do?
 - What would I like to be able to do?
 - What should I do?



Apply These Principles

- What **can** I do?
 - Realistically assess your abilities, skills, and aptitudes (counselors, aptitude tests, etc. are helpful here)
- What do I **like** to do?
 - What is your inclination?
(Make sure it is in the preceptive will of God)
- What would I **like to be able** to do?
 - Given time and opportunities a person may acquire skills and abilities through education or training



Apply These Principles

- What **should** I do? (The hardest question of all)
 - R.C. Sproul, *“The most practical advice I can give is for you to do what your motivated ability pattern indicates you can do with a high degree of motivation. If what you would like to do can be of service to God, then by all means you should be doing it.”*
- How does this apply to missions?
 - Can your vocation be used to glorify God on the missions field?
 - We are ALL called to glorify God among the people of the world wherever we are (here or overseas).
 - Have you been called to take the Good News to people elsewhere? Do you have a burden for people overseas?



Homework

- Pray about what God wants you to do regarding **Mobilizing, Praying for, Sending, and Welcoming** missionaries.
- And pray about **Going** to share the Good News with others.
- Next week we'll look deeper at this last option.

