



Building Fund



Digital Bulletin

Capital Campaign Goal = \$450,000  
May - November 2026 Total - \*coming 6/21

## Lessons from the Churches: Ephesus

Ephesians 1:1-3 | The Will of GOD 6.14.26

**Big Idea:** God's will is not as difficult to understand as we often make it. The challenge is learning what it is and then submitting to it. This morning, we will learn Biblical and practical ways to discover GOD's will for our lives.

**Ephesians 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

**Ephesians 2:19-20** Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone

- **The will of GOD** isn't as big a mystery as we often make it; it is revealed within Biblical commands and principles.

**Ephesians 5:16-17** See then that you walk circumspectly, (carefully) not as fools but as wise, <sup>16</sup> redeeming the time, (don't waste your life) because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

**1 Thessalonians 4:3-8** For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel (body) in sanctification and honor, <sup>5</sup> not in passion of lust, (sinful desires) like the Gentiles who do not know God; <sup>6</sup> that no one should take advantage of and defraud (take advantage of) his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. <sup>7</sup> For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. <sup>8</sup> Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

- **Practical** ways to determine the will of GOD that aren't mentioned in Scripture.
- When thinking about what I plan to do or what I am invited to do, ask: does it have the potential to help or harm my most important relationships?
- Because of the fall, my thoughts and **emotions** are not trustworthy.

**"Considerable weight** is to be given to the judgment (counsel) of men and women who live near to God, and in most instances their verdict will not be a mistaken one. Yet this appeal is neither final nor infallible and is only to be estimated in proportion to the intelligence and piety of those consulted." –C.H. Spurgeon 1834-1892

Biblical Distinctions of an Apostle:

1. They must have been witnesses of the resurrected Christ.
2. They were personally called and commissioned by Jesus Christ.
3. They had divine inspiration to write Scripture.

- Divine inspiration for Scripture ceased with the completion of the New Testament.

→ **The Mormon Church:** Let's look at a modern-day example of the use of apostles - the top leaders of the Mormon Church (Church of Latter Day Saints), **which is a cult**. They embrace the Book of Mormon as being divinely inspired.

In 1823, their founder, Joseph Smith, age 24, said the angel Moroni visited him and told him about the golden plates buried near his family farm in Palmyra, New York. He translated the golden plates, claiming divine inspiration - a gift that ended with the New Testament book of Revelation. A passage that should sound an alarm to anyone tied in with the Mormon church is in Galatians 1:

**Galatians 1:6-9** *I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, <sup>7</sup> which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we, **or an angel from heaven**, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.*

**Hebrews 13:17** *Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

→ Use the following outline from Warren Wiersbe in your personal reading and study:

<b>I. Doctrine: Our Riches in Christ</b>	<b>Chapters 1-3</b>
A. Our spiritual possessions in Christ	1:4-14
1. From the Father	1:4-6
2. From the Son	1:7-12
3. From the Spirit	1:13-14
*First Prayer – for enlightenment	1:15-23
B. Our spiritual position in Christ	2:1-22
1. Raised and seated on the throne	2:1-10
2. Reconciled and set into the temple	2:11-22
*Second Prayer – for enablement	3:1-21
(vv. 2-13 are a parenthesis)	

## 6.21.26 - The Saints of GOD - Ephesians 1:1-3

Guests are encouraged to contact Pastor Jerry with any questions or comments: [jpelfrey@gbcmason.org](mailto:jpelfrey@gbcmason.org)



**Interested in membership at Grace?** We will hold membership information classes during the 9:15 Bible Study on the following Sundays: July 26<sup>th</sup>, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, and August 9<sup>th</sup> (August 23<sup>rd</sup> make-up date). If you are interested in learning more about church membership, sign up with the QR Code.