

Sunday, February 2, 2020—Colossians 1:9 Filled with the Knowledge of His Will, Part 2

Introduction/Review

- Last week we began breaking down Paul’s prayer for the Colossians in verses 9-12. In doing so, we looked at the second half of verse 9 where Paul prays that they “might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.”
- Simply stated, Paul’s prayer is that through wisdom and spiritual understanding the Colossians would be filled to capacity with the knowledge of what God is doing.
- Colossians 4:12—God’s will is not something we are charged with going out and discerning by reading the circumstances of our lives rather it’s something the believer has the capacity to be “filled with the knowledge of” as well as “stand perfect and complete” in based upon a sound understanding of God’s Word rightly divided.
- Ephesians 1:9—God has already made know to us “the mystery of his will.”
- God says that he has revealed his will to mankind. Therefore, God’s will is not something that I charged with discerning by reading the circumstances of my life. Rather, Paul says that God’s will is something that I am to be filled to capacity with the knowledge of.

Popular Teaching on the Will of God

- Everyone wants to know God’s will for their life. As a result, there are all sorts of formulas that have been articulated in order to help believers discern the will of God.
- Popular Idea # 1—teaches that God has a general and specific will for every believer.
 - General—to be a Christian, serve God, not steal, lie, etc.
 - Specific—who to marry, where to work, what car to buy, what neighborhood to live in, which career path one should enter, what church to go to, ect.
- Popular Idea # 2—God has a detailed life plan uniquely designed for every believer revealed through outward circumstance and inward impressions.
- Typical 3-Step Formula:
 - Step 1—read God’s word and pray.
 - Step 2—read the circumstances or the tea leaves of your life, the road signs, the opening and closing of doors and windows.

- Step 3—listen for God’s still small voice, inner voice, or feelings, promptings, hunches, and impressions.
- Result—this process will lead you right to center of God’s will.
- Colossians 1:25—the core problem with this type of thinking is that people who function this way are asking God to speak to them apart from his written word.
- God’s revelation to mankind ceased with the completion of the word of God. To ask God to communicate with you apart from his word is to expect extra-Biblical revelation.
- The only way you know you have received a message from the God of Heaven is through an objective standard outside of yourself.

Circumstances as a Means of Divine Communication

- God has never used circumstances as a means of divine communication.
- Romans 2:17-18—God’s word to Israel told them His will. Even with Israel, the sign people, God did not communicate with them apart from his written word.
- Deuteronomy 11:16-17—when there was no rain and crop failure Israel did not have to sit and wonder what God was trying to tell them, His word already told them in advance what the physical circumstances meant.
- I Kings 8:32-35
- Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28-29
- An event can never communicate a message apart from the written Word of God. The only way you know you have encountered the God of heaven is through an objective standard outside of yourself.
- Deuteronomy 13:1-4—what was Israel to follow the physical sign that they had seen worked in their midst or the word of God?

The Example of Gideon

- Judges 6:1-10—why is Israel in this condition? Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28 they failed to keep the law.
- Judges 6:11-22—the angel of the Lord already worked the sign that Gideon as a member of the nation of Israel required.

- Judges 6:36-40—Gideon is not operating on the basis of faith in these verses, rather he is functioning in unbelief.
- Believers are constantly fleecing the Lord in this fashion.

God's Will is in His Word

- Believers need to stop and realize that God's will is not first focused on us but on God and what he is doing. If you want to do the will of God find out what God is doing. Do that and you will be doing the will of God.
- How do you find out what God is doing? The word of God rightly divided tells us what God is doing. He is forming the church the Body of Christ.
 - Ephesians 1:9—through the revelation of the mystery God has revealed the mystery of his will. There not one single piece of God's will that he has not already make known to mankind.
 - Ephesians 2:13-18—today God is forming the one new man i.e., the body of Christ.
 - Ephesians 3:9—you should go to a church that is endeavoring “to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery.”
 - Ephesians 4:22-32—God's will is for you to practically put off the old man, be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man.
 - Ephesians 5:15-17—once again the will of God is to be understood and acted upon and not sought after.
 - I Thessalonians 4:3-5—God's will is for us to avoid fornication and sexual sin and possess our vessel in sanctification and honor.
 - I Thessalonians 5:16-23—there are plenty of things in these verses to occupy my time and attention without asking God for more revelation.
 - Romans 12:1-2—God's will is for us to not be conformed to the world but be transformed formed by the renewing of our minds.
 - I Corinthians 7:9—God's will is for you to marry a believer.
 - II Corinthians 10:4-5—God's will is for us to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

- II Corinthians 5:20—God’s will is for us to be ambassadors for him.
- Galatians 5:13-15—God’s will is for us to use the liberty we have been given under grace not serve our selves but to serve other people. God’s will is for us to be one-anothering.

Conclusion

- God’s word is complete. Inspiration and revelation have ceased.
- God has never used circumstances to reveal his will. Signs belong to Israel’s program.
- Romans 8:26-27—God the Holy Spirit’s advocacy and intercession on your behalf is in line is in line with the will of God. The job of the Holy Spirit in your life is not to reveal this to you in addition to God word. Rather its to advocate for the truth of God’s revealed will in your life.
- Through the cross we have peace with God and a standing in absolute grace. Therefore, we are free and competent based upon our understanding of the current dispensation of grace and with a renewed mind to make decisions for ourselves. God needs his ambassadors in every community, on every job site, and place of occupation.
- If you will find out what God is doing and do that you will be doing the will of God in the details of your life.
- Colossians 1:10—why does knowing these things about the will of God matter? Because our ability to walk worthy depends on it.