

Sunday, January 23, 2022—Colossians 4:12 Standing Perfect and Complete In All the Will of God

### Colossians 4:12

- **Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.**
- Two weeks ago, before our Annual Meeting we broke down and studying the principal parts of this verse. This morning, before moving on, I want to talk directly about the issue of knowing and doing the will of God.

### Modern Teaching on God's Will

- Everyone wants to know the will of God for their life. As a result, there are all sorts of formulas that have been articulated in order to discern the Will of God.
- One is the notion that God has a general and specific will for each believer.
  - General: to be a Christian, serve God, not steal, lie etc.
  - Specific: who to marry, where to work, which job or career to take, what church to go to, ect.
- God has a detailed life plan uniquely designed for every believer revealed through outward circumstances and inward impressions.
- Typical Three Step Formula:
  - Word of God/Prayer
  - Read the Circumstances of Your life, The Road Signs, Opening and Closing of Doors and Windows
  - List for God's still small voice, inner voice, or inner feelings, promptings, hunches, and impressions.
  - The result will lead you right to the center of God's will
- If you are functioning in this way in your relationship with God you are asking him to do something he already told you that he wouldn't, reveal things to you.
- God' revelation to mankind ceased with the completion of the Word of God to ask God to communication with apart from his Word it except special extra-Biblical revelation.
- Believers need to stop allowing dishonest men to high jack their faith. The only way you know you have received a message from the God of Heaven is through an objective standard outside of yourself.
- Second, God never made circumstances the way communicates with his people in the Word of God.

### **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 to them apart from his written word.
- Deuteronomy 11:16-17—When there was not rain and crop failure Israel did not have sit and wonder what God was trying to tell them, His word already told them in advance what the physical circumstance 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 come in contact with the God of heaven is through an objective standard outside of yourself.
- Deuteronomy 13:1-4

### **The Example of Gideon**

- Judges 6:1-10
  - Why is Israel in this condition? Duet. 28 for a failure to obey the law.
- Judges 6:11-22
  - The angle 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
- Believers are constantly fleecing the Lord in this fashion.

### **God’s Will Is in His Word**

- Believers need 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.

- Ephesians 2:13-18
- Ephesians 5:15-17—once again the will of God is to be understood and acted upon and not sought after.
- Ephesians 4:22-32
- I Thessalonians 4:3-5
- I Thessalonians 5:16-23—there are plenty of things to occupy my time and attention without asking God for more revelation.
- Circumstances are the context or the stage upon which we live our lives. We are to act upon that stage based on God’s written revealed will.
- II Timothy 3:16-17—God’s written word is what prepares and furnishes the believe for the word that God has for them.
- I was teaching this information once and someone asked me if what you are saying is true, how does the Holy Spirit work in your life?
- The same Holy Spirit that was active in inspiration according to II Peter 1:21 indwells and seals believers unto the day of Redemption.
- I Thessalonians 2:13
- Ephesians 4:16-20

### **Closet Calvinism vs. Pauline Thinking**

- The prevalent teaching of God’s will not only advocate for the reading of circumstances, but it is also based heavily in the ideas of Calvinism.
- Ephesians 1:11—everything that happens is the outworking of God’s will.
- Calvinism is basically theological determinism. The idea that everything happens for a reason.
  - *Determinism*—is the belief that all events, including human choice are determined or caused by another.
  - *Indeterminism*—is the belief that all events, including human choices are uncaused.
  - *Self-Determinism*—a person’s moral acts are not caused by another, or uncaused, but are caused by oneself. One’s actions are freely chosen, without compulsion, in a situation in which they could have done otherwise.

### *Time & Chance*

- I Samuel 6:9, II Sam. 1:6, Eccl. 9:11, Luke 10:31

- Story from 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and world trade center
- There are certain events that God has predetermined but they are all recorded in Scripture.
- The events that happen in our lives are the result of our own free choices or the intersection of someone else's. Living in a sin cursed world people get sick and die not because God is taking them home. There is such a thing as being in the right place at the right time or the wrong place at the wrong time. Everything that happens to you is the result of a predetermined life plan that has already been decided.
- Paul did not function like a closet Calvinist. Paul made decision based upon a renewed mind taking into account the objective facts of the word of God.
  - I Corinthians 7:39
  - I Corinthians 16:12
  - Philippians 2:25
  - I Thessalonians 3:1
  - Philemon 15

### **Conclusion**

- We have a completed book. Inspiration has ceased.
- Sings belong to Israel's program.
- God has never used circumstances to reveal his will.
- 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.
- 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.
- God needs his ambassadors in every community and on every job site and place of occupation.
- My prayer for this assembly is that we will stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.