

SERMON OUTLINE Colossians 1:9-12

Filled with the Knowledge of God's Will

THE WILLS OF GOD

God's Providential Will (Ephesians 1:11; Romans 8:28; Proverbs 16:33; Isaiah 46:9-10; Daniel 4:35; Colossians 1:17)

1. *It includes everything that God has sovereignly determined to do in His own power.*
2. *It is secret until it happens.*
3. *We are not responsible to know it or make decisions in light of it.*
4. *Most of what God wills is His providential will.*

God's Revealed Will (Exodus 20:3-17; Luke 10:27; Colossians 2:6, 3:2, 3:5, 3:12-13, 3:18-21)

1. *It was given gradually over millenia, but has now been completely revealed to us. We have it in the Bible.*
2. *In the Bible, God has revealed everything we need to know to honor God in any/every situation (1 Timothy 3:16-17).*
3. *It often comes in the form of broader principles that apply to our situation, rather than specific instruction.*
4. *We are responsible to know God's revealed will (Romans 1).*
5. *God has put His Spirit in us to help us know God's will (Matthew 10:19-20; Acts 1:8). And to convict us of our sin (John 18:8-11).*
6. *God has given us pastors and teachers to help us understand and apply His revealed will (Ephesians 4:11-13).*
7. *God has given us other believers to help us live in light of His revealed will (Hebrews 10:24-25).*

GOD'S WILL FOR THE COLOSSIANS

GOD'S WILL FOR US TODAY

Do You Want to Know God's Will?

Are You Willing to Walk the Path God Has Paved for You to Get it?

1. *Read the Bible.*
2. *Pray continually for the Spirit's help.*
3. *Make use of the means of grace God has put in the church.*

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of the sermon is that God has revealed to us everything we need to know to live in a manner worthy of Him. He does so through His Word, with the help of His Spirit and Church. The main takeaway is to be a people of His Word, Spirit, and Church.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Have you ever felt desperate to know God's will for a decision you needed to make?
3. In what situation did you most want to know God's will for your life? What is one area you'd like to know it right now?
4. Had you ever heard of God as having "two wills"? What do you think of the idea? Is it easy to see in the Bible?
5. Is it easy to understand why confusing the two wills of God can lead to difficulty when trying to make a decision?
6. What is your take on the providential will of God? Which of the key features stand out? Is it encouraging or discouraging?
7. What is your take on God's revealed will? Which of the key features stands out? Is it encouraging or discouraging?
8. Can you describe the Colossians situation? How badly do you think they wanted to know what God wanted them to do?
9. Do you want to know God's will for every area of your life? Why/not?
10. Are you willing to walk the path God has paved for you to get it?
11. Which aspect of discerning God's revealed will has proven most difficult for you?
12. Which of the helps God has given to learn and apply His revealed will has been most effective for you?
13. Can you think of a time in which you were confident that you knew and acted on God's will for a bigger decision?
14. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

15. Read straight through the entire book of Colossians.
16. Begin memorizing Colossians 1:15-20.
17. Commit to a reading plan that will take you through the entire Bible, to coming to Berea, and to participating more fully in DG.
18. Prepare well to hear the Word preached next Sunday and help your family/friends to do so as well.
19. Help someone discover God's will for a specific decision they need to make this week.
20. Look up the different passages on God's providential and revealed wills (in the outline above).
21. Read [Gary Friesen's, Decision Making and the Will of God](#)
22. Ask someone to tell you one thing they got from this sermon and one way to pray for them in light of it.
23. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

PRAYER POINTS

24. Adoration. Praise God that He is eternally Trinitarian, creator, sovereign, wise, good, holy, just, and gracious. Praise God that He is ever-present, omniscient, worthy, glorious, loving, and merciful. Praise God for His perfect will.
25. Confess. Confess any ways that you don't want to know His will or are unwilling to do what it takes to find it. Confess any ways that you are walking according to your own wisdom and for your own comfort.
26. Thanksgiving. Thank God for revealing Himself to you. Thank God for helping you see His glory. Thank God for revealing the path of fullness of life in Jesus. Thank God for giving you all the help you need to learn His will for every aspect of your life.
27. Supplication. Ask God to reveal Himself to someone you love who does not yet know Him. Ask God to help you learn His will for some specific situation in your life or in that of someone you love. Ask God to strengthen us to do what we ought.