

Theme: God's will refers to both His secret plan to work everything in conformity with His purposes, and His revealed commands for how we are to live.

I. Intro – Led By Spirit, Will of God

- A. Key questions many want answered
- B. What is God's will for me?
- C. How do I discover God's will for me?
- D. What does it mean to be led by the Spirit?
- E. How can I be led by the Spirit?
- F. Lot of questions, books – and confusion
- G. We will look at how Scripture uses these phrases

II. The Two Aspects of God's Will

- A. Text describes 2 aspects of God's work in world
 - 1. God's secret will and work (v29a)
 - 2. God revealed will and work (v29b)
- B. We will take a look at each aspect in Scripture

III. God's Secret and Sovereign Will

- A. God's secret and sovereign will in Deut 29:29
 - 1. This will is secret – we can not know it
 - 2. This describes outworking of God's plan
 - 3. Includes Israel's future – even exile!

B. God's secret and sovereign will in Scripture

- 1. Dan 4:35 – does as He pleases; world history
- 2. Pro 16:33 – lot cast; God decides
- 3. Eph 1:11 – plan; everything; conformity
- 4. Acts 4:27-28 – God decided beforehand
- 5. Rom 11:33-36 – doxology; inscrutable will
- 6. God has become one of us!!!
 - a. Main clause – action (poured out/humbled)
 - b. Final elaboration – human likeness, cross

C. A working definition

IV. God's Revealed Moral Will

- A. God's revealed will in Deut 29:29
 - 1. This will is revealed – we can know it
 - 2. Revealed will is Torah – Scripture (29c)
 - 3. Revealed will is God's moral law
- B. God's revealed moral will in Scripture
 - 1. Deut 5:17-19 – 6th-8th commandments
 - 2. Mark 1:15 – Repent and believe Gospel
 - 3. 1 Thess 5:16-18 – God's moral will for us
- C. God's revealed will – a working definition

- D. Two aspects of God's will – table
- E. The call – to follow God's revealed will! (Dt 29:29)

V. Applying the Word – Understanding God's Will

- A. Do we see the reality of God's secret will?
 - 1. Spoken of often in Scripture
 - 2. This is God's Sovereign rule
 - 3. Do I see I can not divine this will?
 - 4. Does this give me faith? God's will accomplished
 - 5. Does this give me comfort? God rules!
 - 6. Does this give me hope – all things for good?
- B. Do we see the reality of God's revealed will?
 - 1. Usual meaning of God's will in Scripture
 - 2. This is where our focus must lay
 - 3. Do I spend time in Word to know God's will?
 - 4. Am I growing in obedience to God's will?
- C. Communion – Christ's obedience & death in my place
 - 1. My problem – not wrong job, car – lying, theft
 - 2. Problem – not wrong shoes, house – lust, greed
 - 3. Christ died to forgive my disobedience
 - 4. Confession and thanksgiving for Christ

The Two Aspects of God's Will

Deuteronomy 29:29

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Communion

Hebrews 13:20-21

³⁵ All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. **He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth.** No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?" Daniel 4:35

³³ The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.
Proverbs 16:33

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined **according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,** Ephesians 1:11

²⁷ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ **They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.** Acts 4:27-28

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! **How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!** ³⁴ "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵ "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" ³⁶ **For from him and through him and to him are all things.** To him be the glory forever! Amen.
Romans 11:33-36

God's secret will refers to His plan to work out everything in the universe in conformity to His own purposes. This will governs everything that happens, is certain to be fulfilled, and brings God glory, but it can not be searched out or known by human beings.

¹⁷ You shall not murder. ¹⁸ You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁹ You shall not steal. Deuteronomy 5:17-19

¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. **Repent and believe the good news!**" Mark 1:15

¹⁶ Be joyful always; ¹⁷ pray continually; ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

God's revealed will refers to His known commands for how we must conduct our lives. It is published perfectly in Scripture, includes both the moral law and the Gospel, and can be known by humans. We may choose to obey or disobey this will, but the penalty for violation of God's revealed will is death.