

Theme: God's will for my life is not an obscure set of choices that I must divine using various methods, but His revealed plan and commands as found in the Scripture.

I. Intro – Trying to Not Miss God's Will

- A. My angst over finding a major, career, **wife**
- B. About 3,000,000 chances to miss her!
- C. I wanted God's perfect will – not good or pleasing
- D. This produced real angst and fear
- E. What is God's will for my individual life?
- F. A good will, pleasing will, and perfect will?

II. God's Individual Will for My Life?

- A. Way I heard these text's interpreted
 - 1. Rom 12:1-2 – know God's will for me; 3 wills
 - 2. Eph 5:15-21 – know God's will for me; guidance
- B. The real meaning of Romans 12:2
 - 1. Context – God's mercies! (v1; chap 1-11)
 - 2. Call – offer bodies sacrifices (v1) – 3 adj.
 - 3. Our true, spiritual, reasonable worship (v1)
 - 4. Outcome – transformed, not conformed (v2)
 - 5. Process – renewing of mind (v2)
 - 6. Purpose – test and approve God's will (v2)

7. Apposition or 3 adjectives – NOT 3 wills

C. The real meaning of Ephesians 5:17

- 1. Note parallel structure – μη, αλλα – 3x
- 2. Same basic idea – bad vs good
- 3. Not unwise/foolish/drunk but wise/etc.
- 4. Knowing God's will – not living in evil
- 5. Eph 5:8-11 – good vs evil deeds; please God
- 6. Eph 5:19-6:9 – describes God's will in action

III. God's Will for My Life According to Scripture

- A. A quick look at a few verses
 - 1. 1 Thess 4:1-3 – please God; sanctification; etc
 - 2. 1 Thess 5:16-18 – joy, prayer, thanks
 - 3. 1 Pet 2:15 – silence fools by doing good
 - 4. 1 Pet 4:1-2 – live for God, not sin/evil desires
 - 5. 1 Jn 2:15-17 – opposite of desires, lusts, pride
 - 6. 1 Cor 7:27-28 – married or single – both ok!
- B. Summary – God's will not obscure choices - revealed
 - 1. God's will not a minefield of potential wrong decisions
 - 2. His will is clearly revealed – in Scripture
 - 3. We must then make wise choices – next week

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do we have a biblical understanding of God's will?
 - 1. Do we see Scripture reveals God's will for us?
 - 2. Do we see there are not good will, pleasing etc.?
 - 3. Do we see God's will is for us to know Him?
 - 4. Do we see God's will is for our sanctification?
- B. Do we see responsibility & freedom in making choices?
 - 1. Do we see God's will gives us great responsibility?
 - 2. Do we see we must make real choices?
 - 3. Do we see the freedom this gives us?
 - 4. Are we free from fear – God not trying to trap us!

What is God's Will for My Life?

Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 5:15-21

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?????

Numbers 6

¹ Finally, brothers, **we instructed you how to live in order to please God**, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. ² For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. ³ **It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;** 1 Thessalonians 4:1-3

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

¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. 1 Peter 2:15

¹ Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is **done with sin.** ² As a result, **he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.** 1 Peter 4:1-2

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything in the world-- the **cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--** comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ **The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.** 1 John 2:15-17

²⁷ **Are you unmarried? Do not look for a wife.** ²⁸ **But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned.** But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this. 1 Corinthians 7:27-28