

Theme: We are called to make decisions based on wisdom, which obeys God's revealed will in Scripture and applies the principles of God's Word to all of life.

I. Intro – The Computer & God's Will

- A. Afraid to miss God's will on classes
- B. How do I know what God wants?
- C. Let computer choose for me – God in control
- D. My will not getting in the way!
- E. Complete abrogation of responsibility & freedom
- F. How do we make decisions in life?
- G. What about in non-commanded areas?

II. A Quick Review on God's Will

- A. The two aspects of God's will (Deut 29:29)
- B. Not 3 levels of personal will – good, pleasing, perfect (Rom 12:2)
- C. No 3rd aspect – God's unrevealed individual will
 - 1. Eph 5:17 – This is God's revealed moral will
 - 2. God's will for me: sanctification (1Th 4:3 ESV)
 - 3. All normally used are secret or revealed moral will
- D. What about things not in Bible – how decide?

III. Biblical Decision Making – The Way of Wisdom

- A. God's will is that we walk in wisdom

- 1. Eph 5:15-18 – wisdom, will, Spirit filled – same
- 2. Col 1:9 – knowledge of will through wisdom

B. Wisdom is closely related to holiness

- 1. Eph 5:15-18 – wisdom, filled with Spirit same
- 2. James 3:13, 17 – wisdom of a good life; character
- 3. Job 28:28 – fear of Lord, shun evil - wisdom
- 4. Pro 2:9-11 – right, just, fair, synonyms

C. Principles of wise decision making

- 1. Where Scripture speaks it must be obeyed
- 2. Scripture govern goals, attitudes, actions
- 3. Makes the most of every opportunity (Eph 5:15-16)
- 4. Seeks counselors (Pro 15:22)
- 5. Considers circumstances – open/closed doors at this time
- 6. If goals, attitudes correct, choose as please
- 7. Wisdom is a path – we grow over time
- 8. Wisdom trusts God to work all for our good

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do we see God's will is wisdom – not “finding perfect will”?
 - 1. This is the clear call of Scripture
 - 2. The “perfect will” does not exist, can't be found
 - 3. Wisdom does exist, and God promises it

- B. Are we growing in wisdom?
 - 1. Am I walking with Christ, the Wisdom of God?
 - 2. Am I soaking in Scripture?
 - 3. Am I spending time with the wise? (Pro 13:20)
- C. Are we growing in holiness – becoming like Christ?
 - 1. This is the heart of God's will
 - 2. This is the heart of wisdom
 - 3. A lack here will lead to terrible decisions
 - 4. We need to be transformed
 - 5. Includes thought, attitude, action
- D. Communion

The Way of Wisdom: Making Decisions in God's Will

Ephesians 5:15-18
January 18, 2009
Communion
Hebrews 13:20-21

²⁹ The **secret things** belong to the LORD our God, but the **things revealed** belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law. Deuteronomy 29:29

² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

³ **For this is the will of God, your sanctification:** that you abstain from sexual immorality; 1 Thessalonians 4:3 (ESV)

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with **the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom** and understanding. Colossians 1:9

¹³ Who is **wise** and understanding among you? Let him show it by his **good life, by deeds done** in the humility that comes from **wisdom**... ¹⁷ But the **wisdom** that comes from heaven is first of all **pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.** James 3:13-17

²⁸ And he said to man, "The fear of the Lord-- that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding." Job 28:28

⁹ Then you will understand what is **right and just and fair-- every good path.**

¹⁰ For **wisdom** will enter your heart, and **knowledge** will be pleasant to your soul. ¹¹ **Discretion** will protect you, and **understanding** will guard you. Proverbs 2:9-11

²² Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. Proverbs 15:22