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THE WILL OF GOD FOR OUR LIVES

By Robert Juneau

1 John 4: 7: **Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.** The will of God for our lives today is thought to be what God wants us to do but it is more important to know what God wants us to be. The word "born," the Greek word *gennaō* in this passage, means "generated." We can only be something that is pleasing to God if we become something that God has generated.

I struggled for much of my Christian life over finding God's will. I had been told by trusted Christian leaders that it was my obligation to pursue "the will of God for my life." To me, that meant that I needed to continually seek God's will for every decision and every move I made. I was told that God would open doors and close doors giving me direction, confirming God's will for me as an individual. When I came to Biblical truth concerning this subject, I found that my struggle had vanished. I was free from my captors after being a hostage to this doctrine for so many years. So what is the key that opened the prison door and allowed me to walk into the Light and fresh air of the freedom we have in Christ? It lies in the understanding of dispensational theology, rightly dividing the Word of Truth, and understanding the present purpose of God in this dispensation of Grace. With this understanding we are equipped to understand Biblical topics including how to find the will of God for our lives.

What is it God wants me to do as I walk this earth? What school should I go to, what job should I take, what car should I buy, which church should I go to, which woman or man should I date, what food should I eat, which friends should I have? These are the decisions we could feel the need to give over to God when we misunderstand what God is doing today. While I find it admirable that we want God to be a part of every decision and every move we make, and it demonstrates a willingness to submit to God's will for our us, we must honestly

ask ourselves, "Where does the expectation come from that this kind of guidance from God is available to us?" Has God promised that He will reveal to us His desires concerning every detail of our lives?

Romans 10: 1-3: **Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness (record) that *they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God*** (emphasis mine throughout). While this verse concerns righteousness, it shows men having a zeal for God that was not according to knowledge. True submission to God must be based on the knowledge of God's truth found in the Word of God.

The fact that a specific, personal will for our lives is not available to us from Scripture should settle the matter and stop us from trying to find God's approval for every minutia of our existence, but instead it has caused men to think that it must be discovered elsewhere. The history of Christian thought is replete with attempts to find God's will, and is connected with much of the non-Biblical doctrine that prevails in the religion of Christianity. Men today claim extra-Biblical revelation from God in practices such as Christian mysticism, papal bulls, speaking in tongues, word of knowledge, contemplative prayer, and the claims of so-called prophets. Searching for the will of God concerning a specific detail of our individual lives is not unlike searching for any other kind of revelation from God outside of Scripture, and results in accepting men's ideas in place of God's ideas. When we look for God's will outside of the Word of God, we are searching for our own will, having convinced ourselves that it is indeed God's will. We open ourselves up to superstition when we choose to direct our lives through the notion of coincidences, serendipity, and so-called open and closed doors.

If we cannot find God's will for the specific details of our individual lives inside of God's Word and we cannot find God's specific will outside of God's Word, where are we to find it? Does God leave us to wander aimlessly? Doesn't God give us what we need to live out the walk He has called us to walk? How does God give us the answers, the leading, and the direction we need when we come to the forks of life's roads?

The solution to this quandary is not a very popular one in Christendom because it does not appeal to the emotional side of man but to the intellectual.

What we need is not the specific will of God for every decision we make. What we need is the knowledge and wisdom of God; this is where we find the direction we seek from God. Sometimes we fail at executing this but when we possess the knowledge and wisdom of God, we are in possession of everything we need to make better decisions in our lives. As the choices we make are more and more in line with the knowledge and wisdom of God, we will more and more be able to please God with our walks and produce the fruit of the Spirit spoken of in Galatians 5:22: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

It has always been God's will for mankind to possess the knowledge of God and in the eons to come, this will not change. Seeking out the knowledge of the Lord is the most important undertaking men can pursue.

I Corinthians 15:34: Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame. Paul was ashamed of some in the Corinthian ekklesia who did not possess the knowledge of God.

Isaiah. 11:9: They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. The goal of the future kingdom of God is that the earth be *full* of the knowledge of God.

What means has God provided for us to gain knowledge of Him? God has always revealed Himself through the visible creation (Romans 1 :20) but this is a limited knowledge. God has revealed much, much more of Himself. The history of God dealing with Israel in the Old Testament shows that this knowledge came through prophets and the leadership (*qahal*) of Judaism. During the Gospel and Acts periods, the knowledge of God continued to flow by supernatural means through prophets, apostles, and the church (*ekklesia*) of God, all of this manifestly validated by signs and wonders.

Today, however, the only place we can go to hear from God is to the Word of God. **Jeremiah 9:23-24: Thus says the LORD: Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight, says the LORD.** Understanding and knowing God is the only thing God wants us to "glory" or boast in.

Luke 11:52: **Woe to you lawyers! *For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered.*** These lawyers were part of the ruling class in Israel and they had failed in the sight of God. Jesus rebuked them because they had not only failed to gain the knowledge of God for themselves, but also hindered others who were attempting to gain it for themselves.

Ephesians 1:17:...**that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you *the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.*** Paul's prayer for us is that God would give to us His wisdom and knowledge.

Ephesians 4:13:...**till we all come to the unity of the faith *and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.*** One day our knowledge of Christ will result in perfect maturity resulting in His fullness.

Colossians 3:10:...**and have put on the new man who is *renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.*** We only become a new man in Christ when we are renewed in knowledge.

1 Timothy 2:4:...**who (God) desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.** There is much knowledge of the truth to be gained after we come to first come to the Lord.

Romans 12:2: **And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the *renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*** This verse ties the renewing of the mind (knowledge of God) to the perfect will of God. The renewing of our minds can only be accomplished by studying God's Word. Then we can prove (demonstrate) that acceptable and perfect will of God. Do you want to walk in the will of God? Gain knowledge of God.

Colossians 1:9-10. **For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may *be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.*** This passage ties the knowledge and wisdom of God with the will of God. These are then tied to the walk that is worthy of the Lord.

As we study the Word of God, we must differentiate between how it was that God "dispensed" His knowledge and His will to mankind in the past and

how he does so today. This is why it is so important to understand the dispensational character of Scripture and God's purposes today in the dispensation of grace.

What is the will of God for my life? What is the will of God for your life? It is the same for all of us, to be born (generated) of God and know Him! Today, God wants to generate in us the knowledge and wisdom of Himself and this must come through His Word. As we learn more and more about God through His Word, we press toward the goal of possessing the knowledge of God, moving us closer to having the wisdom of God that provides us with the direction we need to make good decisions in our walk with the Lord. While we may never perfect this today, this is the good and perfect will of God and of that Romans 12 manifested in our lives. (*New King James Version used throughout.*)

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