**Second Dimension – Christianity Experienced**

**Segment II – *“Enjoying the Privileges”* Progressive Bible Concepts - #23 “Decision Making and the Will of God”**

**Discussion Questions:**

* What major decision are you wrestling with currently?
* What are the check points by which you attempt to make good decisions?
* How do we know when our decisions are within the will of God?

**Knowing the Will of God
Core Passages**

* “*For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the k\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of His will in all spiritual w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord…”* Colossians 1:9, 10*.”*
* *“Therefore be careful how you walk, not as u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ men but as w\_\_\_\_\_\_, 16making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 17So then do not be f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ what the will of the Lord is.”* Ephesians 5:15-17*.*

**God’s Will Biblical Words**

* **Thelema** – that which is w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Boulema** - a deliberate d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, that which is p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**God’s Will Exists on 3 Levels**

1. **God’s S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Will** - God’s sovereign plan for the affairs of men
2. **God’s R\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Will** - God’s commands in the Bible that teaches us how to believe and live
3. **God’s I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Will** - God’s detailed life plan that is uniquely designed for each person

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**God’s Secret Sovereign Will
Biblical Basis**

* *“The s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ things belong to the Lord our God…” Deut 29:29a*
* *“He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the k\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of His will…” Eph 1:5*
* *“He made known to us the m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him…” Eph 1:9*
* *“…according to His purpose who works all things after the c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of His own will…” Eph 1:11*

**God’s Secret Sovereign Will – Eph1:11
*“…according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His own will…”***

1. A detailed p\_\_\_\_\_\_ for all events in the universe.
2. It is h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – the believer cannot find and know it.
3. Believers are not expected to f\_\_\_\_\_\_ it as part of the Christian life.
4. Believers cannot miss it because it always comes to p\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ both good and evil.
6. Can only be discovered a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it happens.
7. I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ideal Plan: Though it includes evil acts and foolish decisions, it will ultimately lead to God’s glory.

**God’s Revealed Moral Will
Biblical Basis**

* *“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ belong to us…that we may observe all the words of this law.”* - Deut 29:29
* *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the w\_\_\_\_\_\_ of My Father who is in heaven will enter*.” Matt 7:21
* *“For you have need of endurance, so that when you have d\_\_\_\_\_\_ the will of God, you may receive what was promised.”* Hebrews 10:36
* *“And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”* I John 2:17

**God’s Revealed Moral Will - Deut 29:29
*“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ belong to us…that we may observe all the words of this law.”***

1. A body of general c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for life.
2. Believers are expected to f\_\_\_\_\_\_ and d\_\_ it.
3. Believers can m\_\_\_\_\_\_ it by failure to discover or obey it.
4. It was r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to apostles and prophets and can be found completely in the Bible.
5. It was r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit through supernatural revelation.
6. Its directives are g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for all believers (“Marry only a believer”).

**God’s Individual Will Biblical Basis**

* *“For David, after he had s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the will of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers…”* Acts 13:36
* *“So it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ o\_\_\_\_\_\_ perish.”* Matt 18:14
* *“Epaphras, who is one of your number, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and fully a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in a\_\_\_\_ the will of God.”* Col 4:12
* *“This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to His will, He hears us.”* I John 5:14

**God’s Individual Will – Acts 13:36
*“For David, after he had served the will of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers…”***

1. A d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ plan for all decisions in a believer’s life.
2. Believers are expected to f\_\_\_\_\_\_ and do it.
3. Believers can miss it by f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to discover or obey it.
4. It is being revealed to the hearts of believers and c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ be found at all in the Bible.
5. It is revealed by the Holy Spirit through inward impressions using many m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. Its directives are s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for a particular believer (“Marry Jane next month in Portland”).

**Jesus Example**
**Following God’s Will**

* *“For I have come down from heaven, n\_\_\_\_ to do M\_\_o\_\_\_ will, but the will of Him Who sent me.” John 6:38*
* *“I can do n\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on my own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” John 5:30*
* *“My f\_\_\_\_\_\_ is to do the will of Him who sent me, to a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ His work.” John 4:34*
* *“My Father, if it is possible, let this cup p\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_\_ me; but not my will but thine be done.” Matt 26:39*

**Jesus Teaching**
**Seeking God’s Will**

* *“Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as it is in h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…” Matt 6:9-10*
* *“If anyone is w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.” John 7:17*

**Traditional Verse Wisdom Approach**

* The Traditional approach revolves around first d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and then doing God’s individual.
* The Wisdom approach centers around first d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through a set of wise guidelines the individual will of God and then being within it.

**Traditional Approach**

* P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: For each of our decisions God has a perfect plan or will.
* P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Our goal is to discover God’s individual will and make decisions in accordance with it.
* P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: We interpret the inner impressions and outward signs through which the Holy Spirit communicates His leading.
* P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: The confirmation that we have correctly discerned the individual will of God comes from an inner sense of peace and outward (successful) results of the decision.

**Wisdom Approach**

* Where God c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we must obey.
* Where there is no command, God gives us f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (and responsibility) to choose.
* Where there is no command, God gives us w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to choose.
* When we have chosen what is m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and w\_\_\_\_\_\_, we must trust the sovereign God to work all the details together for good.

**Concept 22**

* **Seeking and doing the will of God in decision-making involves staying within a path of wisdom rather than discovering a specific, predetermined plan.**

**Next Week: Concept 24**

* “Decision Making Grid”