

How God Reveals His Will

Understanding the Will of God (Part 2)

Introduction

- Though many modern “Christians” (and non-Christians) are interested in the will of God, many fail to recognize it, because they incorrectly identify the means of revelation.
- Due to the influence of false teachers, there is confusion and misunderstanding regarding how God reveals His will (e.g. inspiration, illumination, impression).
- In this study, we will identify the means of divine revelation, contrasting such with contemporary errors and making pertinent, personal applications.

The Revelation of God

- Though God could have chosen any number of ways to reveal His will, we learn that He has fully, finally, and forever expressed it in the Scriptures.
- The Bible is fully inspired by God, and even the word translated “inspired by God” (Gr “theopneustos”) indicates a divine source and process:
 - “God-breathed” = source – Ps 33:6; Matt 4:4
 - “God-spirited” = process – 1 Cor 2:10-13; 2 Pet 1:19-21

The Revelation of God

- Thus, the result of inspiration is a divine product—the Scripture—that reveals the will of God in an authoritative, sufficient, and understandable way:
 - Scripture – 2 Tim 3:15-16; see 1 Tim 5:18; Deut 25:4; Lk 10:7; 2 Pet 3:15-16
 - authoritative, sufficient, understandable – 2 Tim 3:16-17; Jn 16:13; 1 Cor 2:10-13; Eph 3:1-5
- Since the will of God has been fully revealed, we must not alter the Bible in any way (additions or subtractions) – Gal 1:6-9; Rev 22:18-19; 1 Pet 4:11.

The Errors of False Teachers

- There are many religious people today, even “Christians,” who claim that God reveals His will in a variety of ways not connected to the Scriptures:
 - inspiration (e.g. Catholics, Mormons, Pentecostals, Premillennialists, Christians) – see 1 Kgs 19:12; 1 Cor 13:8-10
 - illumination – see Ezek 18:20; Acts 13:46; 1 Cor 2:14-15
 - impression – see Phil 4:7; Prov 14:12; Matt 7:21-23
- Since God has not indicated that He wishes to express His will through such means, we should be satisfied with the Bible and not attribute more to God – see 1 Pet 4:11.

Summary and Application

- God has specifically chosen to reveal His will to us through the Bible, and we need only look to it in order to find out what is pleasing to Him – 2 Tim 3:16-17.
- It should be our goal, then, to diligently and accurately study the Scriptures and persistently teach the will of God to others – 1 Tim 4:13; 2 Tim 2:15; 4:2-4.
- In our next study, “Knowledge of the Will of God,” we will further examine how God communicates His will in the Bible and the effect it should have on us.