

# Knowledge of the Will of God

Understanding the Will of God (Part 3)

# Introduction

- While recognizing that the will of God is revealed in the Bible is important, such is meaningless if we do not arrive at an accurate, personal knowledge of it – Eph 5:17.
- There are terrible consequences associated with ignorance of the will of God, ranging from confusion to condemnation – 2 Pet 3:16; Heb 6:4-6; Hos 4:6.
- In this study, we will note hindrances to knowledge (and how to avoid them), the divine means of communication, and the results of being filled with knowledge of His will.

# Hindrances to Knowledge

- If we want to authentically know of the will of God, it is essential that we guard against certain hindrances to knowledge:
  - “Legalism” or “Ritualism” – Matt 15:3-9; 23:23
  - Ecumenism – Eph 4:1-6; 2 Jn 9-11; 1 Cor 1:10
  - Emotionalism (e.g. Pentecostals, Mormons, Christians) – Rom 10:2; Jn 4:23-24
- Whatever the hindrance, we must forsake any ideology that prevents us from knowing the will of God, evaluating ourselves with the Word – 2 Cor 13:5; 1 Thess 5:21-22.

# Means of Communication

- God expresses His will using the same methods of communication that we use every day. (Even Jesus Himself affirmed the following concepts, see Jn 8:28.)
  - tell (direct command or statement) – Jn 12:49-50
  - show (approved example) – Jn 5:19
  - imply (necessary inference) – Jn 5:30
  - silence – Jn 5:30; see 1 Cor 4:6; Heb 7:11-14

# Means of Communication

- These principles of communication can be illustrated by examining the will of God concerning the Lord's Supper:
  - tell (observance, purpose, elements) – Matt 26:26-29; 1 Cor 11:23-26
  - show (participants, location, day) – 1 Cor 11:17-22; Acts 20:7
  - imply (frequency) – Acts 20:7; see 1 Cor 16:1-2; Exod 20:8-11
  - silence (elements, location, day)

# Means of Communication

- We, therefore, gain knowledge of the will of God by simply recognizing His communication, interpreting it correctly, and acting accordingly – see 2 Tim 2:15.

# Results of Knowledge

- God wants us to be filled with knowledge of His will, implying that it has permeated every aspect of our thinking and behavior – Col 1:9-10.
- The word “knowledge” (Gr “epignosis”) connotes “precise understanding, personal involvement, and experiential recognition” through the Bible – see Col 1:9; Eph 5:18.
- Furthermore, even the associated concepts, “wisdom” and “understanding,” imply the application of knowledge. (wisdom = principle, understanding = application)

# Results of Knowledge

- When we are filled with the knowledge of the will of God, our character and conduct will become consistent with that of Christ Himself – Col 1:10; see Rom 8:28-29.
- This pleases and “profits” God and enriches and empowers us – Col 1:10-11.
- In summary, if we will remove the things that hinder us from knowing the will of God and will receive His word, we will truly know the will of God and be changed by it.