

ACTS

THE IMPACT OF REDEMPTION



ACTS 16:6-10

And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying,



ACTS 16:6-10 (cont.)

“Come over to Macedonia and help us.” And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.



DISCERNING GOD'S WILL

ACTS 16:6-10



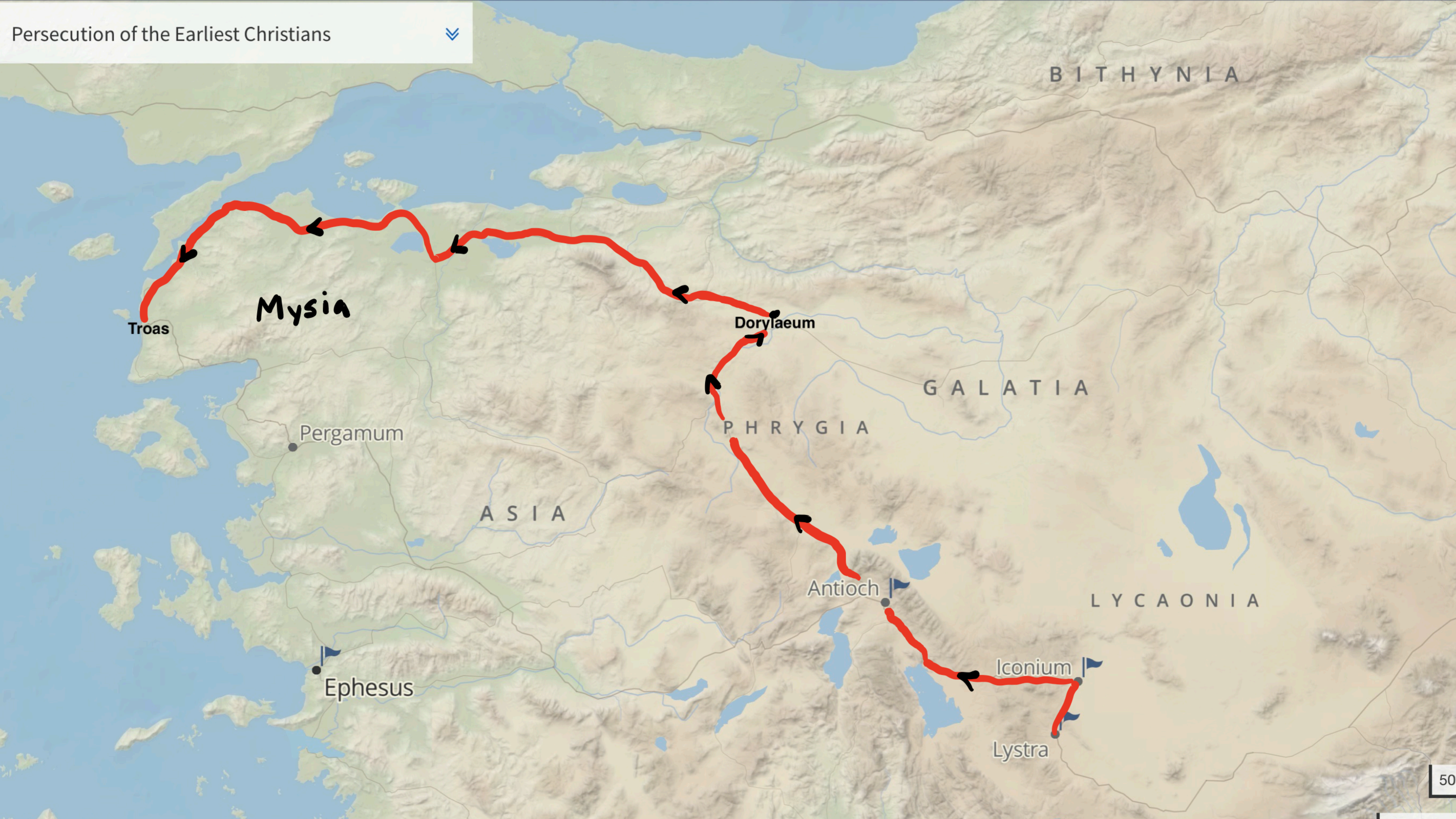
THE DOOR TO ASIA CLOSED



ACTS 16:6-8

And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.





Troas

Mysia

Pergamum

ASIA

Ephesus

Dorylaeum

PHRYGIA

Antioch

GALATIA

Iconium

Lystra

BITHYNIA

LYCAONIA

THE MACEDONIAN

CALL



ACTS 16:9-10

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.





M A C E D O N I A

Philippi

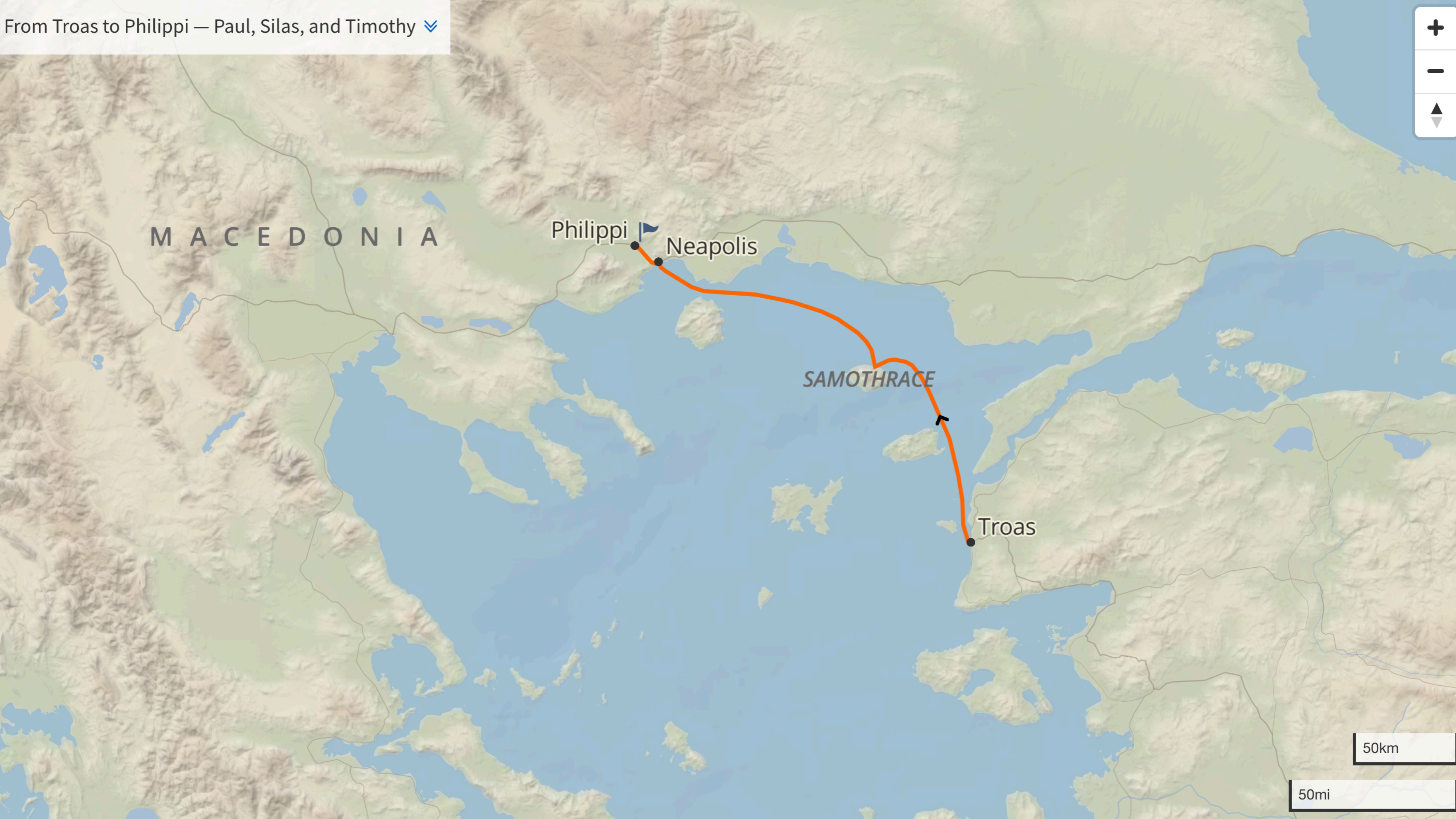
Neapolis

SAMOTHRACE

Troas

50km

50mi



DISCERNING

GOD'S

WILL



HELP FROM WITHIN THE TEXT

1. Do not attempt to discern God's Will in isolation.



HELP FROM WITHIN THE TEXT

1. Do not attempt to discern God's Will in isolation.
2. Invite other Christians in helping you discern God's Will.



HELP FROM WITHIN THE TEXT

1. Do not attempt to discern God's Will in isolation.
2. Invite other Christians in helping you discern God's Will.
3. Discerning God's Will requires immediate obedience.





PRINCIPLES FOR DISCERNING GOD'S WILL



THE TWO WILLS OF GOD

1. The decretive (secret/decreed) will of God



THE TWO WILLS OF GOD

1. The decretive (secret/decreed) will of God
2. The preceptive (revealed) will of God



“The former is that will of God by which he purposes or decrees whatever shall come to pass, whether he wills to accomplish it, or to permit it to occur through the unrestrained agency of his rational creatures. The latter is the rule of life which God has laid down for his moral creatures, indicating the duties which he enjoins upon them. The former is always accomplished, while the latter is often disobeyed.”

LOUIS BERKHOF

Systematic Theology





SINCLAIR FERGUSON QUESTIONS

1. Is what I am “sensing” from the Lord asking me to do something that is a clear violation of Scripture?



SINCLAIR FERGUSON QUESTIONS

1. Is what I am “sensing” from the Lord asking me to do something that is a clear violation of Scripture?
2. Is what I am “sensing” from the Lord for my good and the good of others?



1 CORINTHIANS 6:12

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything.



SINCLAIR FERGUSON QUESTIONS

1. Is what I am “sensing” from the Lord asking me to do something that is a clear violation of Scripture?
2. Is what I am “sensing” from the Lord for my good and the good of others?
3. Is what I am “sensing” from the Lord consistent with Christ’s Lordship?



SINCLAIR FERGUSON QUESTIONS

4. Is what I am “sensing” from the Lord consistent with the Biblical example of Christ?



1 CORINTHIANS 11:1

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.



SINCLAIR FERGUSON QUESTIONS

4. Is what I am “sensing” from the Lord consistent with the Biblical example of Christ?

5. Is what I am “sensing” from the Lord for the glory of God?



1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.





JOHN FLAVEL'S RULES

1. Get the true fear of God upon your hearts, be truly afraid of offending him.



PSALM 25:14

The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.



JOHN FLAVEL'S RULES

1. Get the true fear of God upon your hearts, be truly afraid of offending him.
2. Study the Word of God more, and the concerns and interests of the world less.



PSALM 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.



PSALM 119:9-11

How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.



JOHN FLAVEL'S RULES

1. Get the true fear of God upon your hearts, be truly afraid of offending him.
2. Study the Word of God more, and the concerns and interests of the world less.
3. Reduce what you know into practice, and you shall know what is your duty to practice.



JOHN 7:17

If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.



JOHN FLAVEL'S RULES

4. Pray for illumination and direction in the way that you should go; beg the Lord to guide you in the straits, and not to suffer you to fall into sin.



EZRA 8:21-23

Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods. For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king, "The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him, and the power of his wrath is against all who forsake him."



EZRA 8:21-23 (cont.)

So we fasted and implored our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty.



JOHN FLAVEL'S RULES

4. Pray for illumination and direction in the way that you should go; beg the Lord to guide you in the straits, and not to suffer you to fall into sin.

5. Follow providence as far as it agrees with the Word of God, and no further.





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