

Do You Know God's Will?
Can You Make Good Decisions?

The Day of the Lord

1Thessalonians 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

7 For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

- End Times purpose for Knowing God's Will
 - Paul says, "You don't need me to tell you"
 - This implies that we should already know
 - This puts the onus on us to be aware of the end times and what they look like
 - It's coming when we don't know...we should know that
 - There will be NO peace and safety until Christ comes
 - We are to walk in the light
 - This means when Jesus comes back...it should not surprise us
 - This should not fill us with fear and dread
 - That is how those in the dark will feel
 - We are not in the Dark...we have the Word!
 - God's Wrath is not for His Children
 - We have been given salvation
 - So, we comfort each other with FACTS

- And we encourage one another to walk in the Light
 - To walk in what we know...what do we know?

God's Known Will

12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. *And* be at peace among yourselves.

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*.

15 See that none render evil for evil unto any *man*; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*.

16 Rejoice evermore.

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

19 Quench not the Spirit.

20 Despise not prophesyings.

21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

- We can get so wrapped in trying to know God's Will
 - as if we are waiting on some special message to just light up in Scripture
 - or some physical sign that would substantiate really what our will is not so much His will.
- God's will is simple...
 - Not for us to seek for
 - but something for us to live in.
- Outside of this passage we know from Christ's own mouth,
 - "If you love Me, keep my commandments".
 - We also know those commandments to be to "Love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and might;
 - then to love your neighbor as yourself".
- These are God's Words revealing His active will.
- Nothing has negated this will for us in any way...
- Nothing we interpret from the Word and
- Nothing anyone might supersede the Word of God, so...

- Rest assured that you have a servant that labors in love for you
- Take what is said from this position serious

- Let's look how this list of things written to the Thessalonian church are simply how following the commandments looks in our daily life.
 - In Other Words...this is God's Known Will for each of us

- Warn them that are unruly (loving our neighbor)
 - This is striving to reach the lost
 - This is lovingly helping those who are rebelliously ignoring God's Word and Will

- Comfort the feeble minded (loving our neighbor)
 - Not everyone is resting in faith but are wrestling with their faith
 - Some struggle to read and or study God's Word...encourage them and be the Word before them

- Support the weak (loving our neighbor)
 - This is physical and spiritual

- We tend to judge here instead of coming alongside them and being God's Strength in their life
- Be patient toward ALL men (loving our neighbor)
 - Not everyone will agree with the direction you're going and want to join you
 - Some will aggressively oppose themselves
 - **2Timothy 2:25** In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;
- Don't be evil to evil given, follow that which is Good (loving our neighbor) This is being like Jesus!
 - Jesus is that which is good...follow Him
 - This is not just something for us to do ourselves,
 - but we are to provoke our brethren to do the same...
 - this means lovingly call them out when we see the need
- Rejoice Evermore!!! (Loving God with all we are)
 - No matter the season or circumstance seek to be filled with the Joy of the Lord

- We know that everything God allows in our life is for His glory and our good...so rejoice
- Pray without Ceasing (loving God and our neighbor)
 - This is having a day long conversation with God...
 - When weakness or sin begins to rob our focus...pray
 - Pray for those who are unruly, weak, feeble minded...they need Jesus just as we do
- IN EVERYTHING give thanks
 - **Every situation is an opportunity to learn from and bring glory to God**
 - **Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.
 - **God is not trying to hurt you, He is refining you**
 - **Jeremiah 29:11** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
- **Oh Wait...there's more!**
 - **Quench not the Spirit...**this means...don't stop following Jesus...don't let sin in

- **Despise not prophesyings...**Don't get mad at truth when it confronts you
 - When the pastor says that the way you're going is a path to pain and destruction...don't get mad
 - When what you believe is confronted by the Word of God...listen, don't get stiff necked
- **Prove ALL Things!...**be Berean by nature
 - **Acts 17:11** These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they **received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily**, whether those things were so.
 - Make sure you know the Word
 - Try obedience first...prove it works
- **Hold Onto what is Good!**
 - Don't let anyone take from you what God has given you
 - This is after you follow 1-3 before this
- **Abstain from ALL appearance of Evil**
 - This is the point where we should have some spiritual discernment

- This is where we don't make the choices in our lives, for the choice to obey the Word was already made
- If you have to ask if it's ok, don't do it until you have a godly, biblical answer
- If you had to manipulate scripture to do it...
- **But when we allow God's Word to be the authority**
- **And God's Spirit to be our Guide...**

23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.