

Comprehending the Lord's Will

Life in Christ: Wealth, Walk, Warfare (Ephesians) – Part 117

Ephesians 5:17

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Therefore, take heed¹ carefully how² you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶buying back the time,³ because the days are wicked. ¹⁷For this reason, do not become unthinking fools,⁴ but *instead* comprehend what the will of the Lord is.

(Ephesians 5:15-17 DJP)

Introduction:

I. Overview: Aspects of the Will of God

A. God's _____ (or Decretive) Will

1. **Definition:** God's will as to what will or will not _____, expressed in _____; unerringly done by _____, whether directly or through means
2. **Biblical evaluation:** literally _____ Scripture
Psalm 115:3
Ephesians 1:11

B. God's _____ (or Preceptive, or Revealed) Will

1. **Definition:** God's will expressed in _____; to be done by _____
2. **Biblical evaluation:** literally _____ Scripture (Psalms 19; 119; 2 Timothy 3:14–17)

C. God's _____ Will

1. **Definition:** God's _____ will that each of us must figure out _____
 - a. ...to be discovered in ways that _____ depending on _____ you _____
 - b. ...but if we _____, things _____ well and we'll _____ the _____ of God's perfect will
2. **Biblical evaluation:** literally _____ Scripture

II. The Sovereign Will of God

A. What Is It, According to Scripture?

1. **Described:** that will by which

¹ Literally *see*, that is *look to*.

² Many Greek manuscripts switch two words, reading *how carefully*.

³ Or *season, opportunity* (Gk *kairos*).

⁴ Or *senseless*.

2. Seen in God's Lordship over...
 - a. Nature – Matthew 5:45b
 - b. H_____ - Daniel 2:21
 - c. H_____ will - Proverbs 21:1
 - d. “_____” occurrences - Proverbs 16:33
 - e. Everything - Ephesians 1:11

B. For What Am I Responsible, According to Scripture?

C. How Can I Know It, According to Scripture?

1. Sometimes: by _____ic Scripture
Ephesians 1:9–10
Isaiah 46:9–10
2. Always: by _____

III. The Moral (Revealed) Will of God

A. What Is It, According to Scripture?

B. For What Am I Responsible, According to Scripture?

1. In short, _____
Deuteronomy 6:5–6
Ephesians 5:10
Ephesians 5:17
Ephesians 6:6
2. You look at all the Scripture, you'll see

C. How Can I Know It, According to Scripture? (2 Timothy 3:14–17 DJP)

But you — you remain in the things that you learned and became convinced of, since you know those from whom you learned *them*,¹⁵ and that from infancy⁵ you knew the sacred writings,⁶ which are able to make you wise resulting in salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed, and is beneficial for teaching, for reproof, for restoration, for training which is in righteousness,¹⁷ so that the man of God may be equipped, for every good work fully-equipped.

⁵ Literally “from an infant.”

⁶Very literally, “sacred letters”