

When Life Throws Us A Curve

How The Bible Got It Wrong:

Romans 15:22-33

Two Keys To Understanding God's Will:

Romans 12:1-2 Acts 15 & 16 James 4:13-17 Matthew 6:33-34 Proverbs 3:5-6 Luke 12:13-34

(1) God's will is far more **relational** than **rational**.

- ✓ It is more about where we are **in Christ** than where we are **in life**.

(2) Our goal in life should be how we **live it**, not where we **end up**.

- ✓ Paul's **goals** didn't change, just the **people** and **places**.

What To Do When Life Throws A Curve:

Mark 14:32-42 Proverbs 21:31 1 Peter 4:12-13

(1) Pray for your **wants** and **desires**.

(2) **Surrender** to God regardless of the **outcome**.

(3) Pray for **closed doors** when everything seems **wide open**.

Food for Thought for the week of August 13, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. As Chris pointed out this weekend, understanding God's will can be a confusing thing. The good news is, there are many times where God explains his will in his word. As you read through the following verses, what are the clear parts of God's will that could help us when confused?

Proverbs 3:5-6 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

Ephesians 5:15-20 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 *New International Version (NIV)*

³ It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;

1 Thessalonians 5:18 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Can you think of any time where God's will was made evident to you?

2. It's important for us to stay obedient to what we know whether we know the outcome or not. A great biblical example of this is Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in Daniel 3:8-20. How did these three young Hebrew leaders demonstrate obedience to God despite not knowing what would happen?

Daniel 3:8-20 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁸ At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews.⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "May the king live forever! ¹⁰ Your Majesty has issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, ¹¹ and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. ¹² But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up."

¹³ Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, ¹⁴ and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? ¹⁵ Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able

to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.

How might you use a similar approach today when you aren't sure of God's will?

3. Chris mentioned there are several steps to follow when life throws us a curve. As you read through the verses below, jot down anything that relates to, adds to, or elaborates on the steps Chris gave.

James 1:5 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Hebrews 13:20-21 *New International Version (NIV)*

Benediction and Final Greetings

²⁰ Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, ²¹ equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalms 37:4-6 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁴ Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him and he will do this:

⁶ He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,
your vindication like the noonday sun.

Taking the verses above and the steps Chris gave, how would you summarize what it means to seek God's will?