

## HOW TO KNOW THE WILL OF GOD

Text: Eph. 5:17; Isa. 55:8-9; Jer. 10:23

### I. THE ONLY WAY TO KNOW THE WILL OF GOD IS BY STUDYING THE WRITINGS OF THE N.T. APOSTLES AND PROPHETS.

1 Cor 2:11-13, For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Eph 3:3-5, by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

### II. THE N.T. INDICATES THE WILL OF GOD IN ONE OR MORE OF THREE DIFFERENT WAYS.

- A. By example. Acts 15:7-11
- B. By necessary implication. Acts 15:12
- C. By precept (statement or command). Acts 15:13-17.

NOTE: There has been much controversy over "how examples bind" or "how to tell when an example is binding." In reality, it is God's will that is binding, and that will is sometimes indicated by examples.

Common sense. Same applies to commands. Rom 16:13, "Greet Rufus..." Not to us, but for us.

### III. SCRIPTURAL AUTHORIZATION MAY BE EITHER SPECIFIC OR GENERAL IN NATURE.

Mark 16:15-16, "Go..." "Preach gospel..."

#### IV. ILLUSTRATE WITH HEBREWS 7:12-14.

For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.

Pray to Mary? Acts 12:5.  
Instrumental music? Eph 5:19; Col. 3:16  
Elements of L.S.? 1 Cor. 11:26.  
Limits of elders' oversight? 1 Pet 5:1-4  
Etc., etc.

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, June 10, 1987 (meeting)  
Pottstown, PA, June 25, 1987 (VBS)  
Exton, PA, June 28, 1987  
Winston-Salem, NC, August 26, 1987  
Martinez, GA, August 30, 1987  
Jonestown, TX, September 17, 1987 (meeting)  
Mount Pleasant, Wilmington, DE, October 18, 1987  
Franklin Farms, Washington, PA, December 20, 1987  
La Porte, TX, April 6, 1988 (meeting)  
Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, June 4, 1989 (meeting)  
Wrightsville, PA, February 17, 1991  
Berks County, PA, March 3, 1991  
Tri-State, Ashland, KY, June 23, 1991 (meeting)  
Kelton, PA, September 29, 1991  
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, November 24, 1996  
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, March 1, 1998  
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, July 21, 2002  
Dexter, ME, September 26, 2003 (meeting)