**“Confidence in the King”**

**Prov. 3:1-7; Isa. 53:3-6; Col. 1:9-14; 1 Thes. 5:16-18**

**(Notes based on the sermon by Pastor Drew Wenstrom, Hayden Bible Church, 5/25/25)**

How does one discern the will of God? Do we just do what is easiest, most pleasant, and least harmful? No, that is just pragmatism. God does not command us to figure out an invisible plan that we can only determine through signs, circumstances, and feelings. He actually tells us just what to do in Prov. 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord (Yahweh) with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Trusting in God and acknowledging Him by applying His truths in everything through prayer, worship, and obedience will make your paths straight. This means you will have peace through tribulation, joy in suffering, love toward the unlovely, and the absolute assurance of His sovereign lordship through it all.

Trust is complete reliance on Him. You trusted Him for salvation way back when, and now you trust Him every moment going forward. “Repenting” and “believing” the gospel means that this trust and action is ongoing. Trust is committing your spiritual well-being to Him for salvation and for abundant life. This Man of Sorrows bore OUR sins on the cross. He was pierced and crushed FOR US. He carried our sins; by His wounds we are healed (Isa. 53:3-5). On the cross He paid the **penalty** for our sins. By giving us the Holy Spirit, He gives us the **power** to fight sin now. And on that Great and Glorious Day we will no longer be in the **presence** of sin! Trust Jesus with your whole heart! There is no plan B!

How do you know God’s will? Don’t lean on your own understanding; He delights in us having a right relationship with Him (Jer. 9:23-24). There is a way that SEEMS right (the foolishness of the world), but it ends in death (Prov. 14:12).

“Acknowledge God in all your ways” means in the course and conduct of your life. At home, work, church, school… wherever you are, **know, follow,** and **worship** Him. In your behavior, your motives, and in the thousand little choices you make each day, **know, follow,** and **worship** Him. “And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.” (John 17:3) Knowing God is a lifestyle of following Him (Luke 9:23). Following means obeying. This leads to your transformation: becoming more and more like Him. Following means forsaking your will to do His will.

We worship Him in the course and conduct of our lives, in every little mundane act that we do. The Bible repeatedly says that “lip-service” does not cut it. Is your worship acceptable and pleasing to Him? Sinning stands in opposition to worship. Sinning means I am loving the wrong thing (usually myself or an idol). How do you know God’s will? He says that He will make your paths straight. He says that He will direct your steps (Prov. 16:9). He will put the right desires in your heart. He will transform you into one who is more and more like Jesus.

What is God’s will? It has been decreed and revealed in His Word (Rom. 12:1-2). Read Col. 1:9-14 again. We are to be filled with the full knowledge of His will. We are to walk worthy of our calling in Jesus. We are to bear fruit for Him. We are to be steadfast, patient, joyful, and thankful. If your life is all about these things, you are doing God’s will. What else is God’s will? We are to serve one another with kindness. We are to be joyful, prayerful, and thankful. We are to pursue good conduct. We will probably suffer for righteousness sake. We should continue on the road to sanctification. These good works don’t save us, only Jesus can do that. But it is His will to live a life worthy of our calling. In the words of Sinclair Ferguson, “We discover the will of God by sensitive application of Scripture to our own lives.”

*Father, may we live every day of our lives knowing and following and worshipping You. THAT is Your will! Amen.*

**QUESTIONS**:

1. Does God require that we determine an unknown plan as coming from Him before we do anything? If not, how are we to proceed?
2. Do you measure God’s fulfillment of His purposes in your life based on whether your life is easy, pleasant, or peaceful? If not, how do you know He is working for your good?
3. In Prov. 3:1-7, list all the ACTIONS that apply to us. Which ACTIONS apply to God?
4. Put Prov. 3:5 into your own words and share it with your group.
5. Read Rom. 12:1-2 again. Now let’s get real personal. Is your worship acceptable and pleasing to Him …when you are driving? …when you are reading? …when you are watching “that” show? …when you are talking to your family/friends? What are you going to do about it?

**“When We All Get to Heaven” (Hewitt)**

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus,

Sing His mercy and His grace;

In the mansions bright and blessed

He’ll prepare for us a place.

**Refrain:**

**When we all get to heaven,**

**What a day of rejoicing that will be!**

**When we all see Jesus,**

**We’ll sing and shout the victory!**

Let us then be true and faithful,

Trusting, serving every day;

Just one glimpse of Him in glory

Will the toils of life repay.

Onward to the prize before us!

Soon His beauty we’ll behold;

Soon the pearly gates will open;

We shall tread the streets of gold.