

# Understanding the Will of God

**Scripture:** Ephesians 5:17;  
Ephesians 1:5,7, 9, 11

## Introduction

God places a premium upon his will; therefore, it is incumbent upon us to know His will, and even more imperative, to understand His will. God's word reveals some keys concerning his will.

Here are three levels of the will of God:

### I. The purpose of God -- The comprehensive plan

**Ephesians 1:11** In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.

**Ephesians 3:11** According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### A. The plan of redemption

**Revelation 13:8** ...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

**Ephesians 1:4** According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

1. God's foreknowledge
2. God's provision
3. Christ's foreordained sacrifice

#### B. The plan of victory

**Genesis 3:15** And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel

**Hebrews 9:26** For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

#### C. The plan of judgement

1. Of reward

**Romans 14:10b** ...for we shall all stand before judgement seat of Christ.

#### 2. Of punishment

**Acts 17:31a** Because he hath appointed a day, in which he will judge the world....

### II. The will of God -- the general plan

**Ephesians 1:5** Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

- A. The plan of salvation through repentance
- B. The plan of personal fellowship with God
- C. The plan of eternity with God

### III. The good pleasure of God -- the specific plan for you

**Luke 12:32** Fear not, little flock; for it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

**Ephesians 1:9** Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

- A. The perfect plan for your life
  1. That you be saved
  2. That you personally fellowship with God
  3. That you be active in work for Him
  4. That you spend eternity with Him
- B. The perfect plan for eternity

**Ephesians 2:7** That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.