

Your Plans, God's Plans

You've got your life figured out do you? So does God. Whether you have laid out your path or are searching for one, this class will help you understand how and where God is directing you.

Is this the right person to hire? Should I go to college? Where should I live? Do I borrow money for trade school? Is this the right person to marry, or is it right not to marry that person? Is this the right amount of freedom to give to my children? And on and on. Most of the choices are legal and moral, but not all are wise.

God does have a spiritual career mapped out for us (MacDonald).

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

How do you get God's guidance?

1. The guidance God does

The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage,
But everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty. Proverbs 21:5

The lot is cast into the lap,
But its every decision is from the Lord. Proverbs 16:33

So, which way is it?

The Lord has made everything for its own purpose
Even the wicked for the day of evil. Proverbs 16:4

The One forming light and creating darkness,
Causing well-being and creating calamity;
I am the Lord who does all these. Isaiah 45:7

We know that we are responsible for our evil deeds, and yet God will weave our mistakes, mistakes others make, trials, and disappointments in to our life. His guidance sometimes doesn't make sense to us today, but will over time. (Romans 8:28)

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways ", declares the Lord. Isaiah 55:8

Example: The Story of Joseph (Genesis 37, 39-50)

Only in the end of the story can Joseph say: "you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good". (Genesis 50:20)

Summary: Never think that God is not working in your life, and never think you will figure it out until the end. God's guidance is more something He does, and not only what He gives.

2. The guidance God gives

Commit your works to the Lord

And your plans will be established. Proverbs 16:3

We normally read this as "we make our plans and then God blesses it". It actually says the opposite.

Commit means - to roll your complete weight on to it.

Unconditionally trust God. I will obey anything you say and accept anything you want, even if I don't understand it. God's price is the highest...I trust you to give or withhold whatever you want.

"What you will, when you will, how you will." John Newton

Overtime, you start seeing your flaws and strengths and you become more in tune with God with your plans. You seek wisdom from God's word and from Godly people in your life. Secondly, as you learn how much God really does love you, then your plans become bolder than they would be otherwise.

Examples: Philippians 1, Paul's joy in bondage.

Acts 27 – Paul's "cool factor" in dealing with life and death storm/shipwreck.

3. The guidance God purchases

Understanding what it cost God to guide us to Him.

Example: Story about a parent.

To the degree that you know how much God loves you, you will "roll over" or commit your life to Him.

Practical steps:

1. Commit everything to Him.

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21

2. Submission to Christ every day.

If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. Luke 9:23

3. Saturate yourself in His Word.

4. Develop a regular relationship with at least one Godly person that can tell you hard things.

Questions