

His Purpose, His Council, His Will

Ephesians 1:7-12

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him. 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:5 (NKJV) 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Ephesians 1:9 (NKJV) 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

Isa 40:13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has taught Him? 14 With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding?

Ro 11:33 ¶ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?" 35 "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?" 36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

1Co 2:16 For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?"

Daniel 4:34 And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. 35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

Psalms 135:5 For I know that the LORD is great, And our Lord is above all gods. 6 Whatever the LORD pleases He does, In heaven and in earth, In the seas and in all deep places.

- I. If God works all things according to the council of His will, why is there sickness and evil in the world?
 - A. Our first parents brought sin into the world.
 - B. With sin came the curse and death.
 1. God invented term limits to curb corruption in the world.

2. Sickness is a part of that and it affects God's people as well as others.
 3. That is why we age and grow weaker.
 4. I have seen God use that to bring the hardest sinners to repentance.
- C. The curse affects everything in this world.
1. Our crops and gardens.
 2. The weather.
 3. Earthquakes and volcanos.
 4. Ro 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.
- II. God may intervene to bring either sickness or health in order to accomplish His will.
- A. The plagues of Egypt.
 - B. Judgment of leprosy on Miriam.
 - C. Judgment on Elisha's servant, Gehazi.
 - D. But most of the time we cause our own problems.
 1. Beningtonfield
 2. People in my own family.
 3. God does not guarantee a golden parachute.
- III. God generally does not overrule the will of people.
- A. If God just allows people to be as sinful as they want to be then there is not hope.
 1. That is why Abraham interceded on Lot's account.
 2. Had he not Lot would have been totally lost.
 3. That is why we intercede for those who we love but are outside the will of God.
 - B. But often I run into people who want God to force someone to do something.
 1. Now most of the time what they want is good.
 2. But God does not force us all to be good.
 3. Or else we would just be robots.
 4. I have not had problems with people wanting God to force them to always do what is right.
- IV. God will force His hand and cause everyone to do His will but not in this age.

- A. His will will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 - B. For a thousand years Christ will rule this world with a rod of iron.
 - 1. But in the end the hearts of mankind will still rebel against God's will.
 - 2. You see that is what sin is, it is a rebellion against God's will by the creatures that He has made.
- V. God has better things for us.
- A. Luke 12:32 "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
 - B. Romans 8:17 (NKJV) 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.
 - C. 1 Peter 1:1-4 (NKJV) 1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
- VI. Should Be to the Praise of His Glory
- A. All for Him.
 - B. All glory for Him.

I read here that God hath his own way, and his own will, and that he reigns and rules, and so he will until the world's end; and all who are loyal subjects wish God to rule. He is a traitor who would not have God to be King; for who is infinitely good and kind as God is? Let him have his divine will. Who wishes to restrain him? Whether we wish it or not, however, the Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice, and let his adversaries tremble. *Spurgeon*