

Sermon Notes

Exodus – The Revealing of God’s Glory and His Design for the Chosen

Afterthoughts, Part III: “How Do I Know the Will of God?”

I. Introduction

A. A common question.

1. How do I know the will of God?

B. However, in order to answer you must first decide which “will” you are talking about.

1. Key Text: Deuteronomy 29:29

2. Deuteronomy – The second giving of the Law.

a. Recapitulation.

II. Things revealed and things hidden.

A. The theological distinction.

1. *Deus absconditus*

2. *Deus revalatus*

B. The Decretive versus the Preceptive

1. The secret will of God is also the Decretive (to decree) will of God.

a. Defined – “God sovereignly brings to pass _____
He has willed or decreed.”

b. Synonym – E_____.

c. It cannot be resisted.

d. Westminster Confession, Chapter 3, Sections 1-2
Acts 15:18; Eph. 3:11; Heb. 6:17; Matt. 10:29-36;
Acts 4:27-28

2. The revealed will of God is the Preceptive.

a. The Ten Commandments and other mandates of
Scripture.

b. It can and is resisted.

C. Back to the original question again –

1. How can I know the will of God?

a. If your inquiry concerns the Decretive Will, you cannot know it.

b. Calvin.

c. It is not our business.

1. This is why God is outraged by fortune tellers and other devices which seek to know the future.

D. What does the Bible say about God’s leading?

1. Proverbs 3:5-6

2. Focus is on Preceptive Will of God for decision making.

3. Example: What job should I take?

a. Know your gifts and talents.

b. Know the Moral Law

c. Know your primary ministry to the family and church.

d. Preceptive Will as a guide.

1. Psalms 1:1-3

E. Note the ending of the Deuteronomy text:

1. “... that we may d_____ all the words of the Law.”

2. The Law concerns h_____ w____ c_____ delight.

3. The future concerns o_____ delight.

III. Points of Reflection

A. The Decretive Will of God is hidden to us until after the fact.

B. The Preceptive Will of God is the revealed will which is unveiled within Scripture.

C. Do not use hind sight of the Decretive Will of God to justify the breaking of the Revealed Will of God.

D. The Preceptive Will reveals the character of God and what most pleases Him.