

Sermon Based Discussion

Sermon Title: A Better Way to Pray for God's Direction

Sermon Series: A Better Way to Pray

Sermon Text: Colossians 1:9-14

OPENING QUESTION

1. If you were planning a trip or some project, do you have a tendency to "over-plan" or "under-plan"? How have other people responded to your tendencies? Share an example.
2. If you had the choice of God telling you your complete future or keeping the future completely hidden, which would you prefer and why?

The above questions deal with our tendencies and preferences for knowing our future plans. In this session, we'll look at a passage which talks about going to God for direction about His will for our lives.

INTO THE BIBLE

Read Colossians 1:9-14

3. What are some things we can learn from the fact that Paul & Timothy "have not stopped praying for you" in asking God for knowledge of his will?
4. According to this passage, what is the goal for knowledge of God's will? Is this the goal most people have when asking for knowledge of God's will?
5. List the four ways we should pray in order to have wisdom to live a kind of life that's pleasing to God and discuss how these four things relate to living a life pleasing to God?

How do these four things relate to God's will?

GOING DEEPER (Sharing/Application)

When people think of going to God to gain knowledge of His will, most people come because they are in a pressing situation. And in those situations, people tend to want one of three things from God: (1) specific instructions for what to do, (2) an explanation for why things are happening the way they are, or (3) asking God to get us out of that situation. In the sermon Enoch labeled these as destination, explanation, and relocation.

But the four ways to pray in the passage have one thing in common: they do not provide specific instructions or explanations for our situations. Rather, they are more about one's attitude. Another way to put this is that instead of asking God to inform us, we can ask God to transform us.

6. When people ask God for knowledge of his will, do people pray more about information or transformation? Please explain your answer.
7. Can you share an issue you recently prayed about for knowledge of God's will? How can you pray less about information (or relocation) and more for our transformation?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way..."
(Colossians 1:10, ESV)