

God's Will

Fall 2009 – Boston Chinese Evangelical Church

What is "Trellis":

A *trellis* is a structure a vine grows on. For BCEC College Ministry, in keeping with the word picture in John 15 of the vine and branches, the Trellis is the written word of God. Trellis isn't a traditional Sunday School class. It's the primary large group gathering of college-aged folks for our College Ministry. We hope you don't just come to a class, but participate in a community. Many of our college students gather in small groups on different week nights. They discuss life and the Bible, share life, and hang out. Please see our welcome area for more information on those small groups we call TWIGS.

Course Description:

Notice that this course is not entitled "Finding God's Will." Even that phrase suggests something that may not be as biblical as many think. We'll look at the idea of God's will and how our understanding of that idea helps and hinders Christians to live for God.

Meeting Time and Place:

We will meet in Josiah Quincy Upper School cafeteria from 11:15-12:30PM every Sunday except for the off days noted on the Course Schedule.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of the semester, the student will be able to...

1. Understand the biblical teaching on the will of God.
2. Describe the different ways the Bible uses the idea of "God's Will"
3. Identify ways our view of God's will help or hinder Christians following God..

Textbooks:

Required Texts:

The Bible, preferably the New International Version, New American Standard Version. Or English Standard Version

Just Do Something by Kevin DeYoung, Moody Publishers, 2009.

Suggested Texts: See Enoch for a list of other books on God's will from various theological perspectives.

Course Assignments & Requirements:

There are will very likely be reading assignments in this class... at least once! Please read those materials that I give to you. Otherwise, it would be helpful to review the material during the week.

Grading Scale:

75% attendance & participation
25% external projects & reflection

Instructor Information:

Enoch Liao, Assistant Pastor

Boston Chinese Evangelical Church

Office Hours: by appointment.

Work Phone: (617) 426-5711 x66.

Email: enoch.liao@bcec.net

Virtual Office (for course materials): <http://blog.karenoch.com/trellis/>

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Reading
1	Sep 13	Introduction to Course	JDS 1
2	Sep 20	Different "Wills" of God?	JDS 2
3	Sep 27	No Trellis: Congregational Retreat	
4	Oct 4	State of the Search for God's Will	JDS 3
5	Oct 11	Seeking God's Will Gone Awry	JDS 4
6	Oct 18	Different Approaches to God's Will (Part 1)	JDS 5
7	Oct 25	Different Approaches to God's Will (Part 2)	The Discipline of Spiritual Discernment, Ch 6, by Tim Challies
8	Nov 1	Does God Guide?	JDS 6
9	Nov 8	MISSIONS CONFERENCE	
10	Nov 15	How God Guides	JDS 7
11	Nov 22	How to Gain Wisdom	JDS 8
12	Nov 29	Quick Questions on God's Will	Found: God's Will by John MacArthur
	Dec 6	Career, Calling, and Marriage	JDS 9
	Dec 13	Living Peacefully with Uncertainty and No Regrets	JDS 10

Opening Questions:

1. If you could anything about God's will for your future, what would it be?
2. Think of three adjectives/phrases that describe your searching for God's will for your life.
3. Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?