**God’s Plans for Your Life**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Jeremiah 29:10-14**

**Sunday Morning**

**October 18, 2020**

**Jeremiah 29:10-14**

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

14 I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.

**One of the most reassuring realities in life is God’s sovereignty over the affairs of earth**

Saints, although we may not understand how He brings about His will in the world, we can rest in the fact that He is God, and nothing is impossible for Him. His authority covers not only global affairs but also reaches down into our everyday lives. He has a plan and will for each of us, and our responsibility is to trust and obey Him.

Saints, believers who trust and obey the Lord attempt to walk in His will and do what pleases Him, rather than seeking to fit into the world by pursuing their own desires.

Salvation not only changes a person’s eternal destiny, but it transforms how he or she lives now. Instead of living for oneself, believers live for God!

**Philippians 1:21**

“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain”

**Romans 14:7-9**

7 For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

**God’s Sovereignty**

**Psalm 103:19**

“The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all.”

Saints, this means God has the full right and power to do whatever He chooses without any interference from outside forces. In other words, He controls everything.

**Matthew 10:28**

“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”

Saints, most people in the world don’t believe this. They think God controls some things, but they are in charge of their own lives.

From an earthly perspective this may appear to be true, but ultimately God has absolute control of everything—including human beings.

Although we may look at the world and the behavior of people today and conclude that God doesn’t seem to be in charge, He is. Even in our own lives, we may question whether He cares because He doesn’t intervene as we desire.

**Proverbs 16:9**

“A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps”

**Proverbs 19:21**

“There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD's counsel--that will stand”

Saints, God’s sovereignty cannot be evaluated by circumstances or our understanding of His actions but by the truth of His Word. The prophet Jeremiah came to this conclusion about God:

**Jeremiah 32:17**

“Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You”

Saints, if we truly believed that God’s arm reaches everywhere and nothing is too difficult for Him, it would change how we live. Our doubts would be silenced, and our confidence in the promises of His Word would increase.

Instead of becoming discouraged over the state of the world or our own circumstances, we would rest in the truth of Scripture and put our hope in God.

**Three Distinctions in God’s Will**

When we consider what God is doing in the world and how His will is worked out, we must understand the three aspects of His will.

**God’s Predestined Will**

**Ephesians 1:9-14**

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. 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Saints, there are some things the Lord has predetermined to occur, and nothing or no one can change them.

**God’s Moral Will**

**Colossians 1:19-23**

19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight-- 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Saints, this could best be explained as God’s righteous standards such as those revealed in the Ten Commandments and various other passages of Scripture. They prescribe what we are to do and not do in order to live as God desires.

If we choose to obey the Lord’s commands, we will enjoy the benefits of obedience. However, we can also decide to rebel against God’s standards, and as a result, suffer the consequences that inevitably come with sin.

**God’s Desired Will**

These are things the Lord desires for us. For instance, He wants us to walk obediently with Him and seek His guidance. The only way we will know God’s desired will is by reading, believing, and heeding the Word of God.

**2 Timothy 2:19-23**

19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.

21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. 22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Saints, this is where we will discover who God is, what He approves, and how He wants us to live.

**God’s Best**

Saints, the Lord knows the right path for each of us, and He always does what’s best for us. Although life is sometimes confusing, we never have to make decisions without His guidance because He invites us to come to Him in every situation.

**Matthew 7:7**

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”

**1 John 5:14-15**

14 “This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.”

**God’s Personal Will**

Saints, the Lord not only rules the world, but He also has plans for our individual lives, and these can be divided into three categories.

**1. His Intentional Will**

This is what God intends for us. His plans were in place before we were even born, and they included the time and place of our birth, the families into which we were born, the skills, abilities, and spiritual gifts entrusted to us, our vocations, and many other details. Beginning very early in life, we should ask God to direct our choices.

**Ephesians 1:3-6**

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His wil…

**2. His Circumstantial Will**

There will be times in our lives when we fail and make wrong decisions. This is not what God desires for us; however, He doesn’t cast us out but continues to work in our lives through these circumstances.

**James 1:2-4**

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Sometimes He may remove the consequences of our sin, but at other times He will leave them. In either case, He works for our good in order to bring us back to Himself and establish us on a path of obedience.

**3. His Immediate Will**

Yesterday is gone, and we cannot change the past, but God is still with us, directing our path for today. James warns us not to boast about our future plans because we cannot know what tomorrow holds.

**James 4:14**

Our lives are like “a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away”

Instead, we ought to live in complete dependence on Him because Jesus said it best!

**Mark 1:14-15**

14 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Saints, it’s amazing to realize that the God who sovereignly rules heaven and earth is also interested in our individual lives.

We are not living in a vacuum but in the presence of the living God. He has revealed His will in His Word and has promised to guide us through each day when we trust and obey Him.

**In Closing:**

**1. Have you been living and making decisions with God’s good and perfect will in mind, or have you been ruling your own life and relying on your own wisdom to guide you?**

**2. Are you willing to yield your life to the sovereign God who holds your future and has your best interest in mind?**

**3. What changes do you need to make in order to follow God’s will more obediently?**

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**The Little Video >**

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let's Pray! Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace." '**