



Lesson 1: Understanding the Will of God

Text: Ephesians 1:1-3

Key Thought: God's will is both knowable and doable.

1. The Apostle Paul's life radically changed once God declared Himself and His will to him (*Ephesians 1:1*). Prior to this encounter, recorded first in Acts 9:1-22, he believed he was living an acceptable life before God. (See Acts 26:4-5) Did you feel that way about yourself before coming to faith in Christ? Explain.

A.

When asked, most non-Christians would say they are good. What sort of things do "good people" do or not do?

A.

2. Though He once boldly led the charge against Christians, after his encounter with Jesus, he finds himself unable to see and is led around by one of them. Why do you think he then went 3 days without any food or water? (See Acts 9:7-9)

Potential reasons include:

- He simply didn't feel hungry or thirsty after the encounter.
- He was fasting. (*Jews often did as an act of devotion and consecration.*)
- He was consumed with guilt, remorse and shame.
- _____

A.

3. Like Saul/Paul, we all have a past that includes things we are especially not proud of. There are things that the devil and others don't want us to forget. What was probably high on his list? (See Acts 8:3, 22:19-21, 26:9-11)

A.

What does the devil and/or others not want you to forget about your past?

A.

4. Paul later stated that before coming to faith in Christ he lived "ignorantly in unbelief" (*1 Timothy 1:12-13*). That is, he failed to even consider that the claims made by Jesus and His disciples might be true. He didn't feel he needed to. Like many others do, he pursued something that isn't even possible. What was/is it? (*See Romans 10:1-4*).

A.

5. Although God personally revealed a great deal of His will to Paul, who else did He use? (*See Acts 9:10-16, 22:12-15*).

A.

Who has He used in your life?

A.

6. Why is depending too much on others to discover God's will both unhealthy and unnecessary?

A.

7. What is God's will for every Christian, as it was for Paul? (*See Acts 26:19-23*)

A.