

## Discovering God's Will - Part 3 Romans 12:1-2

### Communication is a funny thing

- A) When my wife is talking to me – She wants and needs my undivided attention
  
- B) Now when I want to talk to her – well, she can be cleaning the Kitchen – walk out of the room – still be paying attention.
  
- C) But when she is talking to me – She needs me to be tuned in
  - 1) And if my Body language – is showing that I am not really interested in what she is saying – She shuts down

### Today is our final study on the subject of Discovering God's will –

- A) Today we are going to focus specifically on Hearing God's voice – Very Practical
  - 1) Speaks to us thru the word
  - 2) Thru His Spirit
  - 3) Thru other People
  - 4) Thru circumstances
  
- B) Something that the Bible teaches us about God is that our attention and Body language mean a lot to Him as well.

### Now understand – If we are distracted in our attention –

- A) Or our body language reflects a heart that is communicating – I am not really interested right now
  
- B) God doesn't get put out – He doesn't get his feelings hurt like my wife can
  
- C) But He simply realizes we are not ready to really hear or listen to what He has to say
  
- D) So today we are going to finish this series by starting in Romans 12

### A Passage that is THE KEY to understanding the will of God.

- A) Key to putting ourselves in the right place to hear God's Voice – Be led by Him

### Quick Review: Talked about the Providential... Moral .....

- A) Isaiah 55 God thinks differently than we do He acts differently than we do
  
- B) More acquainted we become –with how He thinks and acts by studying His word –
  - 1) The better we will discern – What God is saying and doing
  
- C) But Romans 12 brings it all together for me  
**It is the key for me to see those things the right way**

12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

**Now notice the word therefore in that first sentence**

**Key: Therefore ..... therefore**

A) Paul at this pt is looking back to what He has been teaching for 11 chapters

B) Expounding of the Doctrine of Salvation: What God did in order to save and establish a relationship with wicked depraved sinful pp like us

C) He has been expounding on the reality that Salvation is by grace thru faith alone

1) Been painting a beautiful picture of **the magnitude of God's love for lost Humanity**

D) God's love reaches out to every lost sinner and His grace is available for all those who would call upon the name of Jesus

**It is in light of all of that Paul has been building on that He says here in Romans 12 – Response**

A) Natural reaction – I beg of you therefore ... In light of all that God has done for us / with us / in us

B) Present yourselves to Him as a living Sacrifice!

**See it is not enough for me to know that God is Sovereign – He does what, when, How**

A) It is not merely enough for me to Know that God has laid out for me a standard to follow

B) It is not enough for me to admit that God is **smarter than I am – His ways are higher**

1) That I cannot truly understand Him

C) Because in My stubborn sinful flesh – I want to prove Him wrong

1) In fact – one of the things that repulses me – is a **KNOW IT ALL TYPE OF PERSON**

**Listen if I don't see those attributes of God in light of what the book of Romans tells me about God's love**

A) His heart to rescue lost sinners -

B) Then God being Sovereign just means that He is a bully that pushes His weight around

C) His moral will just means that He is a task master with too many rules and regulations

D) Him being smarter than I am – **compels me to prove Him wrong**

E) Unfortunately that the is the way that most of humanity has viewed God for far too long

**But when I see that in light of all that the book of Romans teaches me about God's heart –**

A) When I see those attributes in light of what He is done to save – me – how much He loves me

B) His Sovereignty becomes my refuge – It only magnifies the Greatness of the God who is on my side

1) Who loves me and Gave Himself for me

C) I am like a little Kid – who believes his dad is superman – can do no wrong

1) Good thing about this is I don't grow to find out that I was wrong about God

**His moral will I realize is only for my protection and benefit – Like a parent – instructing his kids to stay away from fire**

A) Making sure the safety cap is on the medicine

B) The fact that His ways are higher and His thoughts greater – only makes me want to run to him for advice and direction

C) When I understand this in light of what Paul has been saying in the first 11 Chapters of Romans

1) Ch. 12 V.1 is a great invitation

**Present yourselves to God as a living Sacrifice.**

A) The verb “present” in this verse means “present once and for all.”

**B) It is the picture of two pp on their wedding day making a commitment that is for keeps**

C) Present themselves – Covenant that is forever

1) Love is the driving force

D) I love you so much that I want to spend the rest of my life with you – better or for worse

1) Sickness and health - All seasons and trials

**It speaks not just of commitment but also Vulnerability – LET YOU SEE ME NAKED**

A) Difficult at first especially for women – being vulnerable – lots of insecurities

**Living Sacrifice is a willingly sacrifice**

A) Dead sacrifice – has no choice

B) It is saying to God – Because you love me so much and I am secure in that love -

1) I am willingly committing myself to you –

C) Let you see me, have me, take me – with all my insecurities and flaws

1) Lord I am standing naked before you.

**Reasonable service:** It is the only thing that makes any logical sense in light of who God is – what He has done.

## V.2 Transformed Vs Conformed

A) Conformed – don't let the world squeeze you into her mold.

B) When I realize who God is – why would I care what Oprah and others like her would say

1) They don't Know God – love God

C) I realize His love – I want my worldview to be shaped by who He is

B) Transformed – by the renewing of your mind

1) Mind renewed thru the word – is the result along with a committed heart – living sacrifice

Opens the door to discover what is the good and acceptable – perfect will of God

A) God's will for you is good

B) It is acceptable –

C) Perfect – Fits just right

## Hearing God's voice

Now I want to talk Importance of getting alone with God – tuned into his voice.

A) I don't see many places in the Bible where God talked to someone in the Crowd

1) Or in the hustle and bustle

B) But I do see many times where God gets Moses alone up on a Mt

1) David alone in the Wilderness / Paul alone in a Prison cell / Elijah alone in a cave

C) Joshua alone out on the plains of Jericho

Even God's son Jesus modeled this:

A) Mark 1 Ht of Popularity – everyone is excited about Him – after Him

Mark 1:35-38

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. 36 And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him. 37 When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You."

38 But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth."

B) Jesus got up early in the morning got alone to seek some direction from his father

1) When the disciples find him his response is – it is time to move on.

C) The importance of alone time – quieting our hearts

D) Peter's example: Acts 10 Lunch – Peter on the roof - {Quiet place / heart / time}

How does God speak to us:

#1 Through His word

A) We have talked about Generally – principles and ways

B) Today I want to talk about how He can speak specifically –

1) Usually born out of a prayer time – seeking direction

C) Normal Devotions

**Avoid Bible Roulette** - Judas hanged .....

Go and do likewise .....

What you do do quickly.....

**I have found in the course of my daily reading when I am praying about something –**

A) Often God will make it very clear –

B) Example: When I was a youth Pastor here @ CCV and praying about leaving – to go to Oregon

1) One thing I was struggling with was leaving my parents - / Brother – we have a close family

Reading in my normal Devos – Matthew came to this verse in Matthew 19:29-30 **“And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother**

**or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.”**

**See the Big picture and don't worry**

**I have found in my life – that is how God speaks to me thru his word – direct it is clear – there is not a lot of mystery to it.**

I'm not having to decipher, could this mean this or is God trying to tell me that.

Usually a reminder of something I already know – When I am asking for direction and wisdom

**Now once I feel that God has spoken to my heart I will begin to look for confirmation in other things**

A) Could be People – Wisdom in a Multitude of counselors

B) The Problem that I see a lot of Christians make is they run to pp first – they get a lot of opinions

1) They end up more confused than anything else

C) Once God has spoken to your heart and given you confirmation thru His word –

1) Then you can look to people to build on it – further confirm or give some added direction

**Example Phil McKay – Costa Rica** – Phil and Rebecca had been praying about Going to Costa Rica – Confirmation from the word

A) Question was where: Wide open no Calvary Chapel Churches there.

**B) Needed confirmation – So I suggested – let’s go spy out the land and see – what God might show us**

C) 1st place that we go to Tamarindo

1) 1<sup>st</sup> day: Restaurant – what doing .... Waitress

D) After dinner – Guy tries to sell us drugs – Get saved – this place is ripe

E) Still not sure- The next day we go to another city about 30 minutes away – lunch

1) After lunch stop to look at these hammocks – Random guy – Go to Tamarindo – place needs God

F) Go back – check housing – Couple – house meet at our hotel

**Once Phil moved there – God showed Phil and Rebecca to actually start the Church in Villarreal**

A) Get established build a Rep – among the locals

B) Now they are venturing into Tamarindo – 2 yrs later.

C) God will speak in the right setting – times of waiting on the Lord –

1) Words of Knowledge –

2) Wisdom

D) Prophecy -

**Acts 13 – Meeting ministering to the Lord**

A) The Spirit said – thru a word of Knowledge Separate Paul and Barnabas

Through the Spirit speaking to our hearts – I need to test that -

Through the word / Through People to confirm

**Through circumstances**

A) Paul gets a vision man from Macedonia – please come -

B) Paul goes – God is leading me to Macedonia – Get there doesn’t find a man @ first – woman

1) Lydia – Open door – ok – this must be part of God’s plan

C) Later in Jail – Jailer – I believe that was his man from Macedonia –

**Paul’s shipwreck – Ok this is what God is doing My Life – Oregon**

A) Corvallis – College town – my favorite age

B) Closed door - North

C) Call from Silverton – Go – Didn’t make sense small town – 6,000 pp –

**1) I had always been from bigger city – Vista was small to me**

**D) God confirmed – word – pp –**

**Went to move: We couldn't find a place to meet in the City – the schools were closed**

**A) Drove one day – West down this road – about 10 miles – Brand new Beautiful School little community called Brooks**

**B) Community of about 600 pp – Wasn't a part of the district – so the Principal was also the Super**

**1) She was a Christian – She was thrilled to have a Church meeting in her School**

**C) Here is what I later found out – Brooks was right in the middle about 5-15 miles away from 5 different communities**

**D) Here is what happened – I thought we were going to ministry in this one little city –that was far east**

**1) God put us right in the middle of those five communities and we had pp coming from all of them**