



unexpected

THE DIVINE \rightleftarrows IN BETWEEN

ACTS 16:6-34

Following God's will and witnessing God's glory

I. Follow God by going where He is _____.

And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. vv. 6-12

biblical patterns FOR FOLLOWING GOD'S WILL:

God gives turn-by-turn directions rather than the big picture.

God does the opening and closing, and we do the discerning and following.

II. Follow God by doing what is right, despite the _____.

As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. vv. 16-24

biblical patterns FOR FOLLOWING GOD'S WILL:

God's will is always in step with obeying God's Word.

III. Follow God by _____ whoever is right in front of you.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God. vv. 25-34

biblical patterns FOR FOLLOWING GOD'S WILL:

God's will is most easily discerned when we are tuned to God's voice.

The destination of God's will is more about Him than about you.

SERMON DEVOTIONAL STUDY

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Acts 16:6-34. Does God ever guide you by closing doors (v. 6) or by directly leading (v. 9)? Give an example or two.

“THE WILL OF GOD IS FOUND
in the Word of God. The more a person grows, the more he begins to think instinctively and habitually from a divine perspective.”

HOWARD G. HENDRICKS

“The will of God is never exactly what you expect it to be. It may seem to be much worse, but in the end it’s going to be a lot better and a lot bigger.”

ELISABETH ELLIOT

“Life’s trials are not easy. But in God’s will, each has a purpose. Often He uses them to enlarge you.”

WARREN WIERSBE

“There are places in God’s Word where He declares His will for us. The will of God is that you and I be saved ... being spiritually controlled is the will of God ... our sanctification is the will of God ... submission to godly authority in my life is the will of God for us as well. And at times, suffering is in that category. ... So many want to know God’s will but don’t want to do God’s will.”

MARV BAILEY

“To walk out of God’s will is to step into nowhere.”

C. S. LEWIS

“The mere fact itself that God’s will is irresistible and irreversible fills me with fear, but once I realize that God wills only that which is good, my heart is made to rejoice.”

A. W. PINK

2. What aspects of knowing the will of God have been confusing to you? What insights from the sermon helped you with that subject?

3. Paul and Silas spent the night praying and singing hymns to God (vv. 23-25). How did these actions show their attitude toward God, themselves, their circumstances, other prisoners, the jailer?

4. How has studying the Word of God given you more of a “heavenly perspective” regarding God’s will in different circumstances of your life?

5. Which of the biblical patterns for following God’s will from the sermon notes will you incorporate into your daily life?

6. How do you normally respond to persecution or pain when God allows it in your life? How can you adopt Paul and Silas’ response and attitude? Watch and pray for a specific opportunity to do this.

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn’t based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God’s love for us. Here’s how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
 2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
 3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
 4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)
- “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:
“Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.”

For more about having a personal relationship with Jesus visit www.ccbcfamily.org/nextsteps.

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here’s a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you’d like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

THE 5 P.M. IS COMING BACK Fort Worth Campus, as you look around the room, you’ve probably noticed there’s not a lot of wiggle room! It’s evident that God is moving in our communities as more people begin attending our church, and as God moves hearts to hear the gospel, we want to create more space for that opportunity to happen. So, we are opening a third service! This won’t begin without your help. Will you pray about moving your service time to 5 p.m.? Text PIONEER to 24253!

LUNCH WITH A MISSIONARY Ever wonder about our Global Missions Ministry? Join us Sunday, Oct. 15 for Lunch With a Missionary! Fellowship with one another and learn how to support the persecuted church around the world. We will be meeting in the Oak Room at 12:30 p.m. If you would like to learn more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/lunch.

WAIT WITH ME If you’re facing infertility, miscarriage, adoption or prolonged difficulty in growing your family, you’re not alone. Our Biblical Counseling Ministry, Soul Care, has a women’s group called Wait With Me that is designed to give you support and care during this difficult season. Join us on Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. for encouragement, community who gets it and biblical lessons as we learn to wait together with hope in the Lord. Learn more by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/soulcare.

HOME GROUP SPRINT The Christian life is meant to be lived in community and Home Groups are a great way to do that! Each week you’ll pray, learn and do life with other believers, growing deeper in your faith and helping others do the same. This fall, we have special content that you won’t want to miss out on – so check out a Home Group near you! Find your group at www.ccbcfamily.org/homegroups.

BAND OF BROTHERS: THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED Starting this fall, Band of Brothers will continue their journey through Exodus and witness the steadfast faithfulness God has for his people. To learn more about Band of Brothers, and this study, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/bob.

WOMEN IN THE WORD: DAVID’S SONGS A place to connect, grow and learn, Women in the Word is a ministry designed for women of all ages to be in community around God’s Word! This fall, join the Women in the Word study on Psalms at www.ccbcfamily.org/wiw.

ELDER PRAYER God does extraordinary things when we go to Him in prayer, and we’re excited to announce a time for us to do just that with the Elders and their wives! Whether it’s simply an encouragement, or we seek God together for healing, this will be an impactful and intentional time with our leadership. Be a part of this special afternoon after the service on Sunday, Oct. 15t right here in the Worship Center.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU’D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text GIVE to 24253 to get started.