

Sermon Notes for August 2, 2020

## THE DECLARED AND PERMISSIVE WILL OF GOD ISAIAH 45:5-7

### Series: THE JOURNEY OF PURSUING GOD'S WILL

<sup>17</sup> But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them. <sup>18</sup> And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land. <sup>19</sup> They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the LORD, to deliver you." **Jeremiah 1:17-19 (ESV)**

### 1. THE DECREED WILL OF GOD

- A. Is Absolute
- B. Is Immutable (unchangeable)
- C. Is Unconditional
- D. Is Always in Harmony with God's Nature and Plan

<sup>4</sup> Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." <sup>6</sup> Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. <sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD." **Jeremiah 1:4-8 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> "Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. ... <sup>5</sup> Man's days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed.  
**Job 14:1, 5 (NIV)**

<sup>22</sup> Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. **Acts 17:22-24 (NIV)**

<sup>5</sup> I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, <sup>6</sup> so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting men may know there is none besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no other. <sup>7</sup> I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things. **Isaiah 45:5-7 (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup> But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. **Psalms 115:3 (NASB)**

<sup>22</sup> "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup> This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. **Acts 2:22-24 (NIV)**

### 2. THE PERMISSIVE WILL OF GOD

<sup>1</sup> Then Job replied to the LORD: <sup>2</sup> "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. <sup>3</sup> You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. **Job 42:1-3 (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ... <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. **John 3:14-16, 18 (NIV)**

### 3. WHAT WE KNOW FOR SURE

<sup>1</sup> And God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup> "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>3</sup> "You shall have no other gods before me.  
**Exodus 20:1-3 (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality; **1 Thessalonians 4:3 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always; <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing; <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit; <sup>20</sup> do not despise prophetic utterances. <sup>21</sup> But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good; <sup>22</sup> abstain from every form of evil. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 (NASB)**

### 4. SEEKING GUIDANCE IN PURSUING GOD'S WILL

- In Biblical times God revealed His will in several ways that fall into three categories:
  - God used miraculous events to reveal His will
  - God spoke through visions and dreams
  - God revealed His will through direct revelation

<sup>1</sup> God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, <sup>2</sup> in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. **Hebrews 1:1-2 (NASB)**