

- ***God's providence creates a short human life with eternal consequences – Luk 13:5 repent!***

- Infant humans enters life with free will - planted

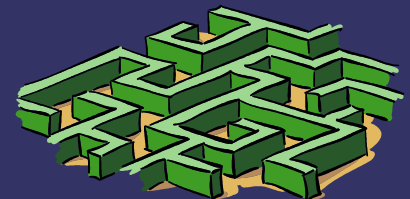
- Choice of spiritual or fleshly fruit for the growing season

- Humans leave life to await the judgment of harvest – Gal 6:7



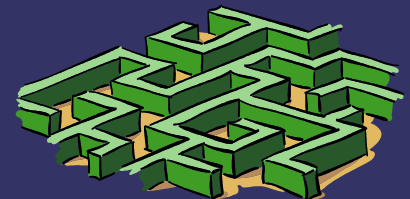
God provides His will for us

- ➔ 2Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
- ➔ Messiah was prophesied Psa 16, 22, 34, 41
- ➔ Thy will be done! Mar 14:21 For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”



Who is glorified, God or us?

- ⇒ God's providence is for His glory, not ours.
- ⇒ Mat 7:7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” Our prayers are to be aimed at God's glory, not ours.
- ⇒ Num 14:21 Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the LORD fills the whole earth, (none of rebellious 1st generation lived to see Canaan)



God's providential will – spiritual victory!

➞ Old Testament – All nations glorify God, a savior from Abraham (Israel)

- Psa 86:9 All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name. (not all humans)

Rom 11:28 As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, (God plans always bring glory)

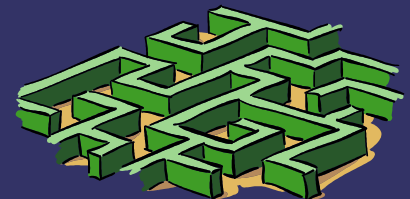
➞ New Testament – God glorified thru gospel

- Mat 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- Mat 28:19,20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. (God's will: salvation and glory to follow)



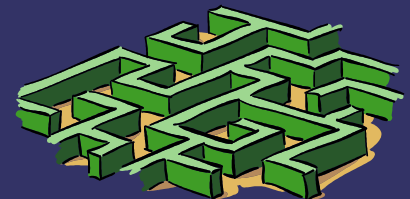
God's providential will for a Christian is NOT:

- ➔ To make you happy (family, friends, possessions, job, education, health, freedom)
- ➔ To make you rich (inheritance, stock market, job)
- ➔ To make you famous (when all men speak well of you) Luk 6:26
- ➔ Jam 4:2,3 You lust and do not have, so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with the wrong motives, so that you may spend what you request on your pleasures.
- ➔ 1Joh 5:14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.



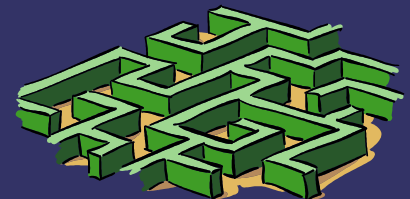
God's Will is:

- ➔ 1Pet 4:16 but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.
- ➔ Mat 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
- ➔ 1Cor 6:20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.



God's Good Plans (providence)

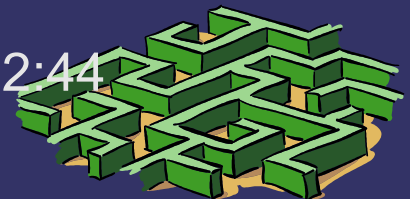
- ➔ God created law, time, space and matter
 - Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Everything obeyed God's laws.
- ➔ God created light
 - Gen 1:3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.
- ➔ God created life
 - Gen 1: 20-28 animals to reproduce after kind, human in God's image, male and female, reproduce and rule over animals
- ➔ God gave free will and law – don't rebel!
 - Gen 2:16,17 Don't eat of tree of knowledge of good and evil
 - Gen 3 Will man be righteous and have fellowship? Man fails
- ➔ God banished man from garden – Gen 3:23
- ➔ Man's rebellion grieved God – Gen 6:6
 - Gen 6:13 Flood destroys a bad crop of humans



God Influenced Nations for Israel

Worldwide drama in the Old Testament

- ➔ Abraham's seed chosen in Ur of Chaldees
- ➔ Joseph betrayed, delivered – Gen 50:18-21
- ➔ Ahab's war with Syria 1King 22:18-28
 - Micaiah's prophesy, Zedekiah, son of Chenaanah's rebuke
- ➔ Egypt's war with Israel Rom 9:17
- ➔ Babylon – gold head, Neb's dream
 - 70 years of Judah's captivity – Dan 4:17, 25, 32
- ➔ Medes, Persians – silver chest
 - Cyrus let Judah return to Jerusalem – Ezra, Nehemiah
 - Behind the scenes – Dan 10 - 12 angel tells of future plans
 - Esther, Est 2:17 raised, Est 8:7,8 delivered
- ➔ Greeks – bronze thigh
 - Alexander and 4 generals
- ➔ Romans – iron and clay legs and feet
 - In the days of these kings – kingdom of God set up Dan 2:44



God's Influence for Christians

Worldwide drama continues in New Testament

- ➔ High place wrestling match, Satan's part
 - Eph 6:12 principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, spiritual wicked
 - Eph 6:16 fiery darts (spiritual influence for evil?)
- ➔ Caesar's part, census in Luk 2:6
 - Mic 5:2 out of Bethlehem
- ➔ Herod's part, wise men's prophecy in Mat 2
 - Out of Egypt – Mat 2:15
- ➔ Satan seems to win – “Thy will be done”
 - Judas betrayed Jesus Mat 26:25 “Is it I? Thou hast said!”
 - Christ's body, bride of Christ, kingdom is established Mt 16:18
 - Satan attacked Peter Lk 22:31, Limited by God Job 1,2
 - Prince of power of air Eph 2:2
 - Kills Stephen Act 7, Saints scattered Act 8, kills James Act 12
- ➔ Angels help
 - Acts 5:19 help apostles, 8:27 help Ethiopian, 12:7 help Peter
 - Heb 1:14 ministering spirits, 13:2 not recognized



How Do We Influence God?

- ➔ Get in the spiritual game, be in the spiritual arena, come prepared to the king's wedding feast! Mat 22
- ➔ By prayer and faithfulness
 - Jam 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.
- ➔ Maintain God's righteousness
 - Used 33 times in Romans
 - Obedience to gospel is righteousness Rom 1:16,17
 - Remission of past sins Rom 3:25,26
 - Doing what is right 1John 3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you: The one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as Christ is righteous.
 - Sow the seed in peace = righteousness Jam 3:7
 - Get busy! 2Co 9:10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

