Rightly Dividing the Word: The Will of God

Ephesians 5:17

I. The Will of God Defined

A. What is it?

1. Divine Determination
2. Divine Desire
3. Divine Directions

B. How do people view the will of God?

1. Hyper-Calvinism
2. God does not have a specific will.
3. God has a specific will in every area.
4. God has a plan for the life of each individual that is subject to His Word and directed by His Spirit.

C. Misunderstandings regarding the will of God

1. God's will is something mystical.
2. God's will always happens.
3. Whatever happens is God's will.

II. God's Sovereign Will.

A. God has a will that He laid out before the world began that nothing could change or get in the way of. (2 Timothy 1:9)

B. There is a general global plan that God has had in place from before the foundation of the world.

C. Nothing could get in the way of, alter, or prevent this will.

III. God's General Will.

A. God has a will that doesn't always take place because of the sin and disobedience of Man.

B. These would be the things that God wants to take place in humanity but may or may not happen in the lives of individuals.

C. Some might call this God's moral will.

IV. God's Revealed Will.

A. God has a will that He has revealed in the Bible.

B. Can we know God's revealed will?

1. We can understand it. (Ephesians 5:17)
2. We can be filled with the knowledge of it. (Colossians 1:9)
3. We can prove (try or test) it. (Romans 12:2)

C. Knowing God's will starts with the Bible. (Romans 2:17-18)

D. God's revealed will is absolute.

E. God's revealed will is revealed.

F. God's revealed will is uniform.

G. What is God's revealed will?

V. God's Applied Will

VI. God's Plan for My Life