

*"And now I commend you to God  
and to the word of His grace, which  
is able to build you up and to give  
you the inheritance among all those  
who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32)*

June 25, 2017

## **LET THE CHURCH, BE THE CHURCH** **The Indefinite Nature of Confident Planning**

I. **TEXT: 1 Corinthians 16:5-9**

II. **INTRODUCTION**

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*"Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."*  
(Ephesians 5:17, ESV).

III. **SERMON POINT:** Following God's guidance means planning with logical wisdom, "demonstrat[ing] great sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's work, [being] flexible, ready to change [your] plans as the Lord direct[s] . . ." <sup>1</sup>

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IV. **PAUL'S PLANS**



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PS: (!) Paul's plans were altered. In the end, Paul "went from Corinth to Macedonia and thence back to Ephesus ([2Cor 2:12-13](#))."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Pratt, R. L., Jr. (2000). *1 & 2 Corinthians* (Vol. 7, p. 284). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> Thiselton, Anthony C., *The First Epistle to the Corinthians: A commentary on the Greek text, The New International Greek Testament Commentary*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, MI, 2000, Page 1327

## V. THE PAULINE APPROACH TO DIVINE GUIDANCE

Christian decision-making is normally accomplished by wise and strategic planning, with humble acceptance that a loving and sovereign God will order and amend your plans as necessary.

1. PURPOSES: Paul adopted spiritual goals that were based upon God's clearly revealed will. ([2 Thessalonians 1:11](#))

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2. PRIORITIES: Some things were uncertain, but based upon what he knew he arranged his plans by priority. ([James 1:5](#))

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3. PLANS: Paul's plans then gave him a "proposed" agenda and a strategy for accomplishing the purposes. ([Psalm 37:5](#))

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4. PROVIDENCE OF GOD. Paul clearly placed himself and his plans in submission to the sovereignty of God. ([James 4:13–16](#))

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## VI. CONCLUSION

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[Philippians 2:13](#)

[Proverbs 3:5–6](#)

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### Recommended Resources:

1. Friesen, Garry with J. Robin Maxson, 'Decision-Making & the Will of God', Multnomah Press, Portland, OR, 1980 ([Amazon.ca](#))
2. MacArthur, John, 'Found: God's Will', David C. Cook, Colorado Springs, CO, 2012 (or listen to a message with similar content; 'Taking the Mystery Out of Knowing God's Will By John MacArthur' on [YouTube](#)).