

Questions

Question: Are you a dispensationalist? It seems like you are.

No, we are not dispensationalists but we do believe that God has a **plan** that He oversees to its fulfillment. We are born again, believers in the Lord Jesus the Christ who died for the sins of all mankind and believe that we are saved by grace through faith. In His plan of salvation for Mankind, God has steps (periods of time, age is the word Scripture uses) or phases if you will, of things that have to be completed before the next thing can happen. Example: before the flood, there was no Law of Moses but eight were saved from the flood and all others destroyed. Before the cross, sin was atoned for or covered over by animal sacrifice of blood for both Jew and Gentile. After the cross, sin can now be forgiven/removed by the grace of God through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, where the blood of Jesus was what met God's requirement for removal of sin, not that of an animal. Read *Hebrews 9* and *10* for context. Israel was under a covenant of law where the Body is under a new covenant of grace. After the 70th week of Israel's prophetic time (tribulation) is completed, Jesus returns and sets up His 1000 year reign on the earth. For the student of the Scriptures, all of these things need to be recognized and understood.

The plan of God is to save all of Man who will trust and obey Him, and there are many details not mentioned here in this answer. If one can look at what I just pointed out and wants to look at us and say we are dispensationalists, there will be nothing I can do to change your mind but just consider that God has a plan and that plan has structure and order to it. This structure was designed by God, not man, and is very clearly outlined in His Word to mankind. These time periods or ages come with their own specific way to obey the command God gives to that group of people in that age.

For those who say that there were/are no ages, how do you explain Enoch or Noah? Christ had not come to the earth, there was no Law of Moses, there was no Israel and Christ had not died on the cross. So how can one say that he had to believe in Jesus to be saved? Wouldn't you agree that would be hard to do since they didn't know anything about Him dying on the cross? It is true that God told Satan, in *Genesis 3:3*, that there would be one who would "crush your head" and it is possible that God told man about One that would come, but we have no clear Scripture of this. To explain this, one will have to dismiss and distort a tremendous amount of Scripture and still not have an acceptable answer, but if you are really interested in the answer, refer to the paper in the toolbox titled Salvation where we have outlined salvation the way the plan of God lays it out from *Genesis* to *Revelation* and then decide for yourself.

There are teachers who are labeled "hyper dispensationalists" and these are the ones who distort the Scriptures with false teachings and give rise to many controversies, and rightly so, as they go way too far with regard to when the body was established and to whom some of the letters were written to and about, etc.

As with anything else, along with the Truth, there will also be those who distort it just enough so that believers, as well as the world, will be deceived and it is for you to study the Scriptures, put all into the proper context, and allow the Holy Spirit opportunity to lead you into all Truth.

Several years ago I called myself a dispensationalist but as I studied and grew in knowledge of the Scriptures, that idea along with other beliefs and traditions that I held, slowly yielded itself to the Truth. Today it is not even an issue to me because now I KNOW that God has a plan and that there are certain things that are to be accomplished in certain time periods as He directs certain things to happen within that time of the plan. So, if people want to label us as dispensationalists, that's fine but what we really are is: believers in Jesus the Christ who believe God has a plan that He will see to its end and will save all men who turn to and believe Him for salvation.

I hope this answered your question. Grace be with you as we, the body, all grow together.

Question: I was saved recently and not really sure what God wants me to do. How do I know what God's will is for my life?

That's great, welcome to the body of Christ and that is a very appropriate question for a new believer because that is exactly what you should do: seek and understand God's will as one of His children. So many times what we see in assemblies is that new believers are told that they have "joined" that particular church, placed in some sort of new believer's class and "put to work" doing some task within the scope of that church's "mission" and told that their

Questions

“journey” has now begun. Sound familiar? The question you have asked is a very important one because for so many believers this is what we see is given to them as God’s will; but is it?

Let’s look at the statement above and analyze what was said:

- 1) Joined the church - Upon our belief in Jesus the Christ for our salvation we become members of the body of Christ, not members of any particular congregation or assembly. The practice of making a member of the body “join” a congregation is unfounded in the Scriptures, as it is a tradition of man. You or I, as a member of the body, should be able to travel to any congregation anywhere and be accepted as a brother in Christ. If we choose to stay and worship collectively with that group, there is no requirement in the Scriptures of anything we should do to be a member there, as we are already members of the body, except abide under the leadership of the elders where we should be able to grow and mature in Christ - this is God’s will. Some churches require a letter of recommendation from our previous church, which sounds like a good idea, but if we are saved, the Spirit of God lives in us producing good works which will be recognized by others of the same, and the acceptance should be based on that, not a letter from some unknown person.
- 2) Put to work - When we are saved, God places His Spirit within each one of us and He dwells with us every second of our life. He also gives each one of us a spiritual gift that He can now use to produce righteous works. This gift doesn’t necessarily correspond with what we do for a living or something we are good at. It is a spiritual gift that God uses for His purpose. Example: a school teacher is saved and is “put to work” teaching a class of believers just because their profession is teaching. This new born babe in the faith is an infant needing milk and not yet able to understand the deep truths of the faith, consequently there is no doubt that many false teachings would come from this effort of putting someone to work. Yes, it is true, we should work within the will of God, allowing Him to work through us the gift He supplied and let Him produce the righteous works of His “...*good purpose*...” How do we know what that gift is? Diligent study of the Scriptures, prayer and desire will slowly reveal God’s will for your life. For an elder to put a believer in a position of work just so they will “feel” like they have something to do, have a responsibility, be accountable or important enough to want to stay there, is a tragic error which more times than not only produces frustration, not growth and maturity in Christ.
- 3) New believer’s class - Nothing wrong with this **IF** what they are being taught is in fact sound doctrine being rightly divided. But, if what is being taught is church doctrines, how to be a member of that congregation or anything manmade (traditions, customs, etc.), they are being mislead and no one should be part of that.
- 4) Journey - for those who have placed their trust in Christ and been saved, we are reborn (born again) into the kingdom where we now become heavenly citizens, given God’s Spirit and the gift of eternal life. God then gives us a spiritual gift that He uses to do righteous works and we work within that gift, in Christ, as we wait for the redemption of our bodies. This is the life of a believer and **there is no “journey”** that we embark upon. We are already heavenly citizens and need to do nothing to get there. Of course we are to work, as already stated, but these works are what we allow the Father to do through us as one of His children and this is for His “...*good purpose*...” (*Philippians 2:12-13*).

Now that we have pointed out some erroneous practices, let’s look at what God says that His will is for His children. If you will read the following passages you can then determine what His will actually is. Remember this is not an exhaustive list and you will find more as you study for yourself.

List passages of God’s will here

Question: If we are under a new covenant of grace, what happened to Israel? Aren’t they still God’s chosen people and can they be saved today? Should we give the gospel to a Jewish person?

Note: these are separate, individual questions put together and will be addressed as one question.

These are common questions that we have heard multiple times before from people who really want to know. It is unfortunate that so many times and at so many places the answer is confused because of the mixing of the “Gospels” and the Epistles. If one does not “rightly divide” and put people, places, things said and events in the proper context, the answer normally becomes as muddy as a freshly visited hog wallow. So let’s put it in context and see if we can come up with the clearest answer possible, as we never want anyone misled or deceived. This will take some reading

Questions

on your part, so if you really want to know, take the time to read the passages and do not only believe what we say but check the Scriptures for yourself.

When reading the Old Testament it will be abundantly clear that Israel was a chosen people. Here are some ways Israel was described by the Scriptures: chosen, elect, apple of God's eye, God's wife, God's inheritance.....

We already know that Jesus came to Israel with a message that announced the birth of the kingdom (fifth kingdom of *Daniel 2:44*) but was rejected as prophesied and God placed Him on a cross to pay for the sins of all mankind. Now, think about this: God sent their Messiah to take Israel into their promised, prophesied kingdom on earth that they were waiting for and they did not want (reject) not only the Messiah but also God's offer of entrance into the kingdom. So what did God do? He caused the Romans to come into Jerusalem and destroy much of the city, destroy the temple, kill an estimated 1,000,000 Jews, with most of the remaining fleeing into the nations for fear of their lives where they remain to this day.