

Accepting God's Plans

Man's plans do not always work out the way he plans. That should be no surprise because God has told us that tomorrow is not a guarantee. We do not know for sure what tomorrow will bring (Matthew 6:34; James 4:14). Christians are called to choose their steps wisely. Sooner or later we are made aware that we are not as in control of our ordered lives as much as we may think we are. How well do we handle ourselves when God's plans are not exactly in line with what we previously thought? Are we willing to follow humbly a God-ordained plan when it calls for a change in our lives?

Men of faith heed God's plans. King David planned to build a temple to God, but he was forbidden (1 Chronicles 28:3, 19; 29:2-3). He did not push to get his own way, but humbly submitted to God's directions, accepting the role of making preparations for someone else to build the temple. Peter was an experienced fisherman, who did not see the reasonableness of putting his nets back down in the water again after he had worked all night, but because Jesus told him, he did it (Luke 5:3-4). The persecutor Saul's plans to hunt down Christians were dramatically halted. When he faced the truth, he changed his course and obeyed the Gospel (Acts 9:4-6, 8, 18).

Faith is all about submitting our Creator's will. It is not about finding our own path that makes us happy or that fits our personal preferences. Earthly concerns can become spiritual distractions. They can deceive us to conclude that our plans always fit perfectly with God's plans. From the beginning God established marriage to be an honorable union between a man and a woman, and His plans do not include any sinful disregard to the marital covenant (Matthew 19:4-6, 9). In our sexually immoral culture many cannot accept God's plans for purity. There is no entrance into the Lord's heavenly kingdom without repentance - a change of heart that produces a change of actions and words (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 17:30). A believer cannot continue to practice the deeds of the flesh and inherit eternal life (Galatians 5:19-21). Many do not accept God's demands of holiness. What will you do when you learn what God's plans are for all men?