

I would like to call your attention to Ephesians 5:17. "Therefore do not be foolish"--a good motto for us, something we all need. "Therefore do not be foolish, but understanding what the Lord's will is. I'm sure all of us are foolish on many occasions. We do very foolish things. We make very foolish mistakes. But usually we rather quickly learn what our mistake has been and while we feel disgusted at it we very quickly correct it.

But if you are foolish in making your life plan, if you take a vital step that is foolish you have something to regret for a much longer time. So this is important for all of us. "Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the Lord's will is." Do you understand what the Lord's will is? I am sure every one of us comes to a turning point in our lives where we wish we could know what the Lord's will is. I know I in my young days came to points where you could go this way, or go that way. There were decent reasons for going this way; there were decent reasons for going that way. It was very very difficult to decide. In fact sometimes I would even see the cows up on the hillside munching grass and I'd think, Wouldn't it be good to be like the cow? Munching grass, living their life, not worrying about these decisions we have to make.

But God doesn't want us to be brute beasts. He wants us to be human beings. He wants us to learn to make decisions that are in line with His will for us. "Therefore be not foolish but understanding what the will of the Lord is." I could think of no command aside from the command "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved" that is much more important than this one--understand what the Lord's will is.

First, of course what I hope all of us have faced and have made the right decision is that it is the Lord's will that we turn to Him, that we turn to the Lord Jesus Christ and receive salvation thru His Name. I think even in a group like this it is well we face that question, and face it often. That we go back to it. That we ask ourselves, Have I truly turned away from my own way, and from my own sins, away from my own desires to have what I enjoy and turned to Jesus Christ for salvation and asked Him to come into my life and to lead me in all things.

One of the ~~first~~ great questions I had in my life was that after I had received my first Master of Arts degree, I took a year off and went to BIOLA. I had a year there in which I learned many things but above all I learned to live closer to the Lord Jesus Christ and to know Him better. We frequently had assemblies in which we had fine speakers who would speak to us about the Lord's will. They would speak to us about salvation thru the Lord Jesus Christ. But time after time at those meetings when a call would be given, an invitation to come forward, men whom I had heard speaking on the ~~sp~~ streets leading souls to Christ would come forward and say,