

**PSALM 25: 4-5 "SHOW ME YOUR WAYS, O LORD" GROUP BIBLE STUDIES –
LEARNER'S PACKET - LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

LESSON #7 – GOD'S WAY OF GUIDANCE

GOD'S WAY – Life, I think, is like a doctor's prescription. The pharmacist mixes the ingredients that will help you get well. If you took those ingredients separately, or changed the proportions, you might do damage, or even cause death. God knows how to mix the ingredients of life. On earth we see part of the picture which God sees fully. In heaven we will understand the meaning of the so-called tragedies of life. This lesson, which deals with God's Way of Guidance, is designed to help us in saying, "Thy will be done." We begin this lesson with prayer:

THE PRAYER –Dear Lord, forgive us the many times when we ask You to approve our way. Send Your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may find, and live, according to Your will and way. What is often asked of God, is not so much His will and way, as His approval of our way. Allow us never to confuse the will of the majority with Your desires for our lives. Such guidance and wisdom we pray in the Name of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE WORLD'S WAY –Years ago, a regiment of Egyptian soldiers were crossing the Nubian desert. Rationed in their water, they suffered from extreme thirst. So greatly were they bothered, that they insisted on their guide taking them to a beautiful lake they could see in the distance. The guide refused to lose precious time by wandering to a mirage. Eventually the soldiers killed their guide and began a rush to the welcome waters. The mirage, led them on, glistening in the sunshine, tempting them to drink from its cool waters. Finally the mirage vanished. Not a man ever left the desert. They were finally found by Arabs. All were parched and withered corpses. That is the way it is for people in this world who refuse God's direction to Jesus who is the Water of Life. This lesson does not deal with those who are already lost. Instead, we speak to those who know the Lord and wish to have Him in their lives.

THOUGHT: Christians today have been taught, when faced with a crucial decision, to ask "What's in it for me? Will it give me _____? _____? _____? _____? We mentally agree to saying, "Thy will be done", but in practice, we still spend a great deal of time adding on, "...as long as it doesn't mess with what I really want to do." When Joshua was giving his farewell speech to the Children of Israel, they promised (Joshua 24:24) that they would serve the Lord and obey Him. Let's see how they followed His will according to the book of Judges:

SCRIPTURE SEARCH 1 – Look at these passage and answer the questions which follow

PASSAGE	QUESTION	ANSWER
Judges 2: 11	What did God's people do?	_____
Judges 2: 14	What did God do when the people forgot?	_____
Judges 2: 16	What did God do then?	_____
Judges 2: 17	Did the people listen to the judges?	_____
Judges 2: 17b	How were they unlike their fathers?	_____
Judges 2: 18	What happened under the judge?	_____
Judges 2: 18b	How long did it last?	_____
Judges 2: 19	Then what happened?	_____
Judges 2: 20	What was God's reaction?	_____

FIRST APPLICATION:

The Children of Israel quickly, and dramatically, forgot the Lord's will in their lives. Often, God's people slowly forget His direction. Too many of us never get the drift that "the will of God" means living in obedience to whatever lies ahead. That's what the disciples said to the early church. Look at these passages and see what was being said:

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2. SCRIPTURE SEARCH - THE WAY OF GOD IS GOOD AND BEST

PASSAGE	QUESTION	ANSWER
Romans 10: 16-17	Where does faith come from? What are we supposed to hear.	_____ _____
John 14: 23	How can we show love to the Lord?	_____
Matthew 7: 24	Who is a wise person?	_____
Hebrews 1: 1-3	What takes the place of prophecies?	_____
The Bible, not personal revelation, becomes the rule and norm of our Christian lives. Look at:		
1 Corinthians 1: 22-23	What do Jesus/Gentiles look for? What do we preach?	_____ _____
Galatians 1: 8	What is our standard for finding God's will?	_____
2 Timothy 3: 16-17	What kind of good works will be directed by God's Word?	_____
2 Timothy 3: 16-17	Using that Word of God, how will we be equipped?	_____

THOUGHT & ILLUSTRATION: - We are not recommending that people use the Word of God like a Ouija board. It is dangerous, in a moment of perplexity, to open your Bible at random, and think that passage will apply directly to your need. Use of Scripture in this way is not much different than turning to your newspaper for a horoscope.

Instead of this random method of directive, we encourage God's people to find God's way, by searching the Scriptures. The way to find God's will is to get into the _____. The closer you are, the easier things will be.

Try to go your own way; try to steer clear of the Lord's wishes, and you will find destruction. By Scripture, the closer you get to God and His wishes for you, the _____ you will find things. The nearer you are to God, the _____ it will be. That is the kind of life that was described by the Apostle Paul in the twelfth chapter of the Epistle to the church at Rome. Look at the passage and record what Paul said:

Romans 12: 2	How do we find God's good and perfect will?	_____
	What will we use to find God's will in our lives?	_____

Last year, a recently licensed pilot was flying his private plane on a cloudy day. Inexperienced in instrument landings, he was a bit shaky. As the control tower was bringing him in for a landing, he shared his fear about the hills, towers and buildings around the airport. The tower said, "You just obey _____; we'll take care of the _____." That's how to find God's Way of Guidance.

THE WAY OF PRAYER – Dear Lord, in Psalm 37, David said, "Commit your way unto the Lord, trust in Him." May we, in every aspect of our lives, do exactly that. Let us pray, with fervent heart, "Thy will be done." In Jesus' Name. Amen.