

## The Extent of God's Plan for the Believer

### Introduction

- A. Too often the Christian limits what God desires to do for him and through him.
- B. We need to inquire as to whether the Bible gives us any indication of the extent of God's plan and whether we have any instruction in this area.
- C. God's instruction to Israel may be helpful.

Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given you, as I said unto Moses, Joshua 1:3.

- D. As with Israel, God has given us as believers, all blessings and provisions in Jesus Christ, Eph. 1:3. However, if this is to become a part of our daily experience, we must learn how to implement God's grace, to tread out our land.

### I. All Things were Created by God for His Glory and Pleasure, Revelation 4:11.

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created.

Observation: This verse reminds us that God not only created all things but that there is a purpose in all of His creation. All things are therefore included in His plan. This, of course, covers our lives as well.

### II. All Things are Under the Control of the Lord Jesus Christ, John 3:35.

The Father loveth the Son and hath given all things into His hand.

Observation: We ought not to view the world, life and history as though it were a machine without a governor and ready to explode. A part of God's plan is that Jesus Christ would govern all things. He is our Lord.

### III. All Things have been Placed Under the Feet of the Lord Jesus, Eph. 1:22.

And hath put all things under His feet and gave Him to be the Head over all things to the church.

Observation: Here we are taught that Jesus Christ subdued all principalities and powers (v. 21), and brought all things under His dominion. This victory is imputed to all believers. We share His triumph.

### IV. All Things Can be Made to Work Together for Our Good, Romans 8:28.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

Observation: This comforting verse indicates that God desires to glorify Himself and use all facets of our daily life for our well-being. This ought to determine our attitude toward "all things"• No area of life is beyond the use of God.

V. All Things have been Designed by God for the Believer's Welfare, II Cor. 4:15.

For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

Observation: The message here goes beyond the former verse. Now we are shown that God has brought trials and difficulties into our lives so that He might be glorified and we might be helped.

VI. All Things have become New for the Believer, II Cor. 5:17.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new.

Observation: When a person believes upon Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord he becomes a new creation. All areas of his life now are possible of becoming used for God's glory. All perspectives, attitudes, relationships and values take on new meaning.

VII. All Things May Be the Recipient of God's Grace, II Cor. 9:8.

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.

Observation: This verse explains how "all things" can be used for God's glory and our good. An adequate provision has been made so that whatever we have in our lives - it can be strengthened, changed, and used in God's plan. We must choose to look upon our "all things" in this way.

VIII. All Things May Be Done by the Believer, Through God's Grace, Phil. 4:13.

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Observation: The Apostle Paul stated this truth as a personal testimony. He had learned that whatever God asked him to do, no matter how difficult it may be, God would give him the ability to do it. This principle applies in the lives of all believers.

IX. All Things Have Been Designed by God to Glorify Jesus Christ, Col. 1:18.

And He is the head of the body, the church, Who is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that in all things He might have the preeminence.

Observation: Here we are instructed as to how God can be glorified and we can receive the help and grace of God in all things. When we choose to make Jesus Christ preeminent in all areas of our life - then we know we are in the will of God and will be blessed of God.

X. All Things May Be Used to Glorify God, I Peter 4:11.

If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God, if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth, that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to Whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Observation: This verse designates the goal of the believer's life - to glorify God. When this is chosen, then all areas of life can be used by God to bless the believer and to honor Himself.

Victor M. Matthews