

**“THE CHRISTIAN VIEW OF  
PLANNING”**

**1 Corinthians 16:5-12**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This portion of the letter has a more personal perspective as it shows his relationships to those in Corinth. He has developed friendships and wants to maintain them. Paul's calendar plans are also revealed in this text. He has plans for Ephesus, Macedonia, Achaia and Corinth. He has Rome in mind as well! Planning is something that we all need to do. While there are many sources of ideas for planning, the ultimate advice comes from the Creator of time! He has foreknowledge and is omniscient. No information can surprise Him! He doesn't need plan B!

## **THE PLANS**

God is the ultimate Planner. Prophecies are His plans foretold. The **Proverbs 31** woman was well organized. Even the ant in **Proverbs 6** is a well-organized creature. Dreams are OK, but reality may end up differently. Circumstances change and we must change! When plans change we have to be flexible and ready to adapt. Paul was a man of his word, a man of commitment. Even Paul was not sure how things would work out, the way things are worded in **v. 6, 7, 10, 12**. Unfortunately, Paul was smeared for making changes.

We must purpose to pray for our plans and look for God's will in our initial planning stages. We must use Scripture to guide us. Do our plans violate His general will? Signs are sometimes used, but they are secondary and can play on our emotions. We have to consider what God's general will is. We must also consider God's specific will for our lives. We must surrender to His plans! His plan may not be easy. It may not be the path of least resistance.

## **OPEN DOOR**

Recognizing God's will changes how we view opportunities. We may see open doors! Not all open doors are the Lord's path, however. The easy way isn't necessarily the best way. Some avoid His way because they think it is too hard. There can be adversaries. **Verses 9-10** indicate this. Paul wanted to go to Rome, however, prior to this journey he was arrested on a false accusation, spent 22 years in Caesarea, was on a ship in a storm, was shipwrecked, and bitten by a venomous snake! **Acts 21-28** is loaded with drama for the benefit of billions of Christians throughout the ages. When seeking the Lord's will, there is wisdom in a multitude of counselors, but be careful when someone says, "I think".

## **CONSIDER**

When making plans, even as a Christian, there is always the element of risk. Be sure to run your decisions through the guide of Scripture and prayer, being willing to accept "no" as God's answer. Christians have hope, however. Even when we make a mistake in a decision, God can work it to the good, **Romans 8:28**. But this promise is for the *believer*. When situations seem like a disaster, God can turn things around, such as in the lives of Esther, Joseph and Paul. God has a way of taking something bad and turning it into something good! Rather than being fatalistic in our attitudes, Christians can now say "How will God make this good"? Eventually, things will all make sense in the end!

## **PRAY .....**

- \* That we would have hearts that love the lost!
- \* That the body of Christ would support the local churches financially.
- \* That the Lord would allow us to purchase the land behind the church for youth activities.