



**Truth #6:
God Has A
Plan For Me
Psalm 139:16**

All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. - Ps. 139:16b

Three misunderstandings about Psalm 139:6 to avoid:

1. Don't be _____

2 Errors:

- God gets _____
- You become _____

*If anyone **chooses** to do God's will, he will find out whether My teaching comes from God. - John 7:17*

FACT: God's plan involves my _____

2. Don't be _____

*We know that in **all** things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. - Rom. 8:28*

FACT: God's plan is a long-term process that includes both _____ & _____

FACT: God's plan is _____ for those who love Him!

I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills his purpose for me. - Ps. 57:2

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me... - Ps. 138:8

Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails. - Prov. 19:21

Can I ever miss God's purpose for my life?

But the Pharisees and experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves... - Lk 7:30

In the Bible the only times it is missed it is by deliberate _____.

3. Don't be _____

*"I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "Plans to **prosper** you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future!" - Jer. 29:11*

FACT: God's plan is an expression of _____

The right attitude: Be _____

Daily Meditations

Based on this weekend's theme

This week's memory verse: *All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. Ps. 139:16b*

Monday

Review the notes from last weekend and read Psalm 139:16 again. What do you think it means when it says the days ordained for you were written in God's book before you began your life?

How do you resolve this with the equally biblical truth of your free will?

How are you helped by the idea that God "ordained your days" and wrote them in His book?

Thank God for His sovereignty and control in your life. Ask Him to help you make wise choices to cooperate with His will.

Tuesday

In Psalm 139:16, we read that God "ordains our days". Many Christians go to two extremes when reading these verses: Either they become fatalistic, assuming that each moment of every occurrence is God-ordained and therefore they have no freedom; or they become frantic and frustrated, assuming they must discern their God-ordained path or they will be out of the center of God's will.

Which of these extremes do you think you tend toward?

What do you think are the dangers of these extremes?

Read John 10:1-10; 27-28. This is one of the most inspiring New Testament statements on guidance. According to these verses, who has the responsibility for guiding the sheep?

What role does the free will of the sheep play?

What does a shepherd do when a sheep goes astray?

Are these verses a comfort to you as they relate to the guidance of God in your life?

Thank God that He ordains your days and guides your path. Ask Him for freedom from worry and fear regarding your future. Ask Him to help you relax and trust Him in complete faith.

Wednesday

Read James 4:13-15. How is James' instruction a recognition of the fact that "God ordains our days"?

How is this different from a fatalistic attitude?

How is James' instruction obeyed by Paul in these verses: Acts 18:21; Rom. 1:10?

Note that Paul is not passive-- he doesn't just sit there and wait for God's will to be shown. He is very active, always moving, doing what seems to him to be right. Yet he says-- if it is God's will, my plans will work out. How can you do this in your life?

Ask God for specific guidance in an area you need direction. Think of the plans you have today and this week. Commit them to Him.

Friday

Read all of Psalm 139 again. In preparation for Thanksgiving this next week, what attributes of God does this Psalm inspire you to be thankful for? Make a list here based on specific things mentioned in Psalm 139:

Now add to this list specific things from your own life for which you are thankful:

Take this list with you and "rehearse" your thanks to God each day before Thanksgiving! Please ask God to help you give wisely and sacrificially to the "Investing In Our Future" project at church. Thanks

Saturday

Talk to God today about some things you have learned so far during this study of Psalm 139. Praise Him for His involvement in your life! Please pray for the weekend services-- please ask God to move on all our hearts as we raise funds for our children's and youth ministries this weekend. Thanks very much!

Resources

Here are some books I have found helpful in thinking about how God "ordains" my days:

-Ron Boehm, *If God Has a Plan for My Life, Why Can't I Find It?* Seattle: YWAM

-Elisabeth Eliot, *God's Guidance: A Slow and Certain Light* Grand Rapids: Revell

-Gary Friesen, *Decision Making and the Will of God* Portland: Multnomah

-Haddon Robinson, *Decision Making By the Book* Grand Rapids, Discovery House

-M. Blaine Smith, *Knowing God's Will* Downer's Grove: IVP

-Charles Swindoll, *The Mystery of God's Will* Nashville: Word

-Bruce Waltke, *Finding The Will of God* Gresham, OR: Vision House

We'll study more about God's purpose for your life during our series *40 Days of Purpose* this January-- a series we'll do in cooperation with hundreds of other churches around the world!