

"GOD'S GUIDANCE"**Introduction**

1. Abraham's command to Eliezer
2. The reason for the oath
3. God's amazing providence here

DOCTRINE: God leads those who are in the way.

1. GOD'S GUIDANCE SHOULD ALWAYS BE SOUGHT IN LIFE

- 1) This TEXT shows: guidance sought and found: (Explain).
- 2) The Bible teaches us to seek God's guidance:
 - (i) "Ask...seek...knock."
 - (ii) "Trust in the Lord...thy paths."
 - (iii) "The meek he will guide..."
 - (iv) "I will guide thee with mine eye..."
 - (v) "Seek ye first..."

APPLICATION: Do you practise this duty?
- 3) Reasons why we should seek guidance:
 - (i) God has a plan for our life: Exx.
 - (ii) God's providence is to be sought
 - (iii) Faith asks God for guidance: "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"
 - (iv) Our chief end is to glorify God: John 17

Explain

- (i) We are to look for God's particular will in life: Psalm 57:2; Phil. 3:12
- (ii) It is a pagan thing to live in a haphazard way.
APPLICATION: A wonderful TEXT!

2. HOW ARE WE TO SEEK GOD'S GUIDANCE?

- 1) Look at life in the way this man Eliezer does: God will show us.
APPLICATION: It is right to seek God for every step along life's journey.
- 2) Each morning we are to look up to God for leading:
ILLUSTRATION: the pillar of fire / cloud.
- 3) This is especially so of the great steps in life:
 - (i) career: pray and work hard
 - (ii) marriage: as here – Rebekah
 - (iii) changes in life: e.g. new job, etc.
 - (iv) friendships: they influence us
 - (v) illness: this is never accidental
 - (vi) death: be studied in your death

APPLICATION: Do you seek God's will in all these ways. If we do not, we are liable to make very serious mistakes.
- 4) Faith teaches us to look up to God for guidance in all these ways. He knows what we need before we ask.
- 5) So we are to be "in the way", i.e. the way of (i) obedience (ii) duty (iii) submission to God's will
APPLICATION: It will exceed our asking if we are patiently waiting on God (TEXT).

3. WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF SEEKING GOD'S GUIDANCE?

- 1) It takes away our fears and worries:
ILLUSTRATION: marrying blindly.
OBSERVE: In great matters we might ask humbly for a sign (as here).
- 2) It removes the need for panic or undue disappointment: e.g. If we lose our hope for a time / lose our job / our health declines.
APPLICATION: We might apply this to all church matters.

- 3) When the sought-for guidance comes, it is wonderful – as here. God will give us far better than we think. So Eph. 3:20.
- 4) God's guidance fills our heart with joy and gladness: so here. Look too at the blessing to Isaac and Abraham.
- 5) To choose aright in life is to have comfort, usefulness and blessing.

CONCLUSION

But if you have taken any wrong turns, never despair. God is gracious when we repent and go back to him.

PSALM

25: 1 – 6

32: 7 – 11

57: 1 – 3