**Embracing Our Calling, Culture, and Commission**

**by R. Scott Pace and David Wheeler**

**Clarifying God’s Call on Your Life**

On Christmas morning when I was eight years old, along with my favorite gum, some candy, and a customary pair of socks, I found a notepad in my stocking. It had my favorite team on it, the Duke Blue Devils, and each page was covered with grid lines. It wasn’t the most exciting gift I had ever received, but I did find a creative way to enjoy it. I began to use the lines to carefully trace out mazes similar to those you would find on a kids’ menu at a restaurant. Eventually I graduated to full-size sheets of graph paper and designed intricate labyrinths with the goal of creating the most confusing mazes with as many dead ends as possible. Drawing them was a lot of work, but it was so entertaining to watch my parents and friends attempt to navigate their way through them and repeatedly have to backtrack and start over.

When it comes to God’s will for our lives, many Christians approach it with a similar perspective. We are often convinced that God has designed a plan for us with lots of dead ends as though we are mice, making our way through some experimental maze. Whenever we come to a point when we don’t know which way to go, we are forced to reverse course and pursue a different direction. This results in us wandering through life with uncertainty, second-guessing our decisions, feeling frustrated at every “wrong turn,” and hoping that somehow we will reach our destination and finally find God’s will.

But God’s will for our lives was never intended to be a maze. He designed it to be amazing! As we answer God’s call on our lives and begin to follow his path, how can we know with certainty what his will is for us? Paul answers that question through his prayer for God’s people in his letter to the Colossians. This passage teaches us how we can determine God’s will for our lives and the necessary steps to fulfill it.

*For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven’t stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints’ inheritance in the light.* (Col 1:9-12)

**The Possibility of Finding God’s Will**

READ: Colossians 1:9-12, 1 Timothy 2:3-4, 2 Peter 3:9, 1 Thessalonians 4:3

1. Is possible for believers to know and understand God’s will for our lives?
2. What does it mean to be “saved?”
3. What does it mean to be sanctified?
4. What does the term “Spirit filled” mean to you?
5. What does the term “Spirit filled” have to do with Christian actions?
6. What is the purpose of God’s will in our lives?

READ: James 2:14-26, Titus 2:14, Galatians 5:22-23, John 15:8, Ephesians 2:10

1. What do you think your life will look like if you are living a life pleasing to God?
2. Do you think there are things you need to change to live your life pleasing to God?