



Gateway to Life Sermon Notes

"And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32)

February 25, 2018

SEEING, BUT NOT SEEING

Text: John 11:1-45

The purpose of the Gospel of John ([John 20:30-31](#)).

A sign points to a reality that requires faith to recognise.

The point of the raising of Lazarus: Jesus wants us not to see what we see, but to see what we don't see. (cf: [v.40](#))

☛ Everyone "saw" the resurrection, but not everyone "saw" the glory!

What was it about the glory of God that Jesus wanted these people to see? (see [John 11:37](#); cf: [John 5:21](#)).

Example: [Exodus 33:18-19](#); [Psalm 135:5-6](#); and [Psalm 115:1-3](#)

God does what he pleases but all that he pleases is good, holy, loving, righteous and beautiful. ***We rarely know why God wills one thing rather than another; and in some cases, it is not even right that we know.***

Five Implications of this Doctrine

- #1. We can be certain that Jesus' will to not heal Lazarus but to allow him to die was motivated by love.
- #2. We are not certain why Jesus chose within his own freedom the course of direction he did, but we do know that it was to ultimately glorify God.
[Isaiah 55:8](#)
- #3. We are certain, that if in God's will we are destined to suffer, Christ understands our pain and suffers even as we do (cf: [John 11:33,35](#)).
- #4. We know that we can only see the glory of God, in life's circumstance through eyes of faith.
- #5. We also are certain of the mystery that the freedom of God's will does not violate the responsibility of man to make choices.

"God determines *voluntarily* what and whom He will create, and the times, places, and circumstances, of their lives. He marks out the path of all His rational creatures, determines their destiny, and uses them for His purposes. And though He endows them with freedom, yet His will controls their actions."¹

Application

The first 6 signs of John revealed God's great power over life and nature. The seventh sign revealed his freedom to act in keeping with his own will. The eighth sign will prove both aspects.

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¹ Berkhof, Lous, Systematic Theology, Wm. Eerdmans Publishing, Co., Grand Rapids, Mich., 1941, Page 78.