UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE WILL OF THE LORD IS

This morning I would like to call your attention to the fifth chapter of Ephesians. There in the fifth chapter of Ephesians I shall read verses 14-17: "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is."

I'd like to speak particularly this morning on thoselast words of this passage: Understanding what the will of the Lord is. How can we understand what the will of the Lord is? Many a person has wished, facing a decision, that God would simply give them a word, or push a button in a certain direction, or put up a sign or something. They say, I just don't know what the will of the Lord is. Well here he says that we should be not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is. Surely then He is saying that we do not need to be in doubt about the Lord's will.

This, however, does not necessarily mean we know everything about the Lord's will. We can't know everything about any particular subject. No human being knows all about God's nature. No human being has full under- standing of the universe. No one has a full understanding of God's purpose. What we are more apt to be concerned about is what should we do? Where should we serve? Well in many many a case it does not make the slightest difference where you serve. Here is a man who could go as a missionary to Asia, and do a tremendous work for God there. Or he could be a pastor in this country and do a tremendous work for God. And whichever of these he does the other one will not be done. I've heard people sometimes talk about how silly it is when everybody in this country hears the gospel to (let) any Christian stay here and not go out some distance, some distant country and preach. Well of course that is utter nonsense. All you have to do is to listen to