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**TOPIC** Kingdom Disciples

**SPEAKER** SP Daniel Foo

**THEME** Wisdom in Turbulent Times

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## MESSAGE SUMMARY

### Navigating with wisdom through turbulent end-times

SP Daniel Foo reminds us that with the passing of each day, we get closer to the end of days – it is both the worst of times and the best of times. Days will be turbulent. There will be conflicts between nations, natural calamities, failing of men’s hearts, drunkenness (Luke 21:10-36), but it is also a time of unparalleled glory as the Church readies herself to be spotless and without wrinkles, holy and without blemish (Ephesians 5:26-27).

In these unstable times, we must rely on the wisdom and knowledge from God to help us navigate to victory (Isaiah 33:6). And wisdom begins with knowing and understanding God.

### Steps to knowing and understanding God

The word ‘will’ is translated from 2 different Greek words:

- A. *‘Boulema’* refers to the plans of God that are unchanging and are set to happen such as God’s redemption plan, Jesus death to pay for the penalty of our sins, the Second Coming of Christ, and finally the Rapture. These events fulfil God’s purposes according to His appointed time.
- B. *‘Thelema’* on the other hand, refers to situations where God’s will is spelled out in His word, but has yet to be fulfilled because it depends on the humans’ choices. For example: choosing to honour God within a marriage and one’s salvation (Deut 30:19).

### UNDERSTANDING GOD’S WILL

These are the things that God has already allowed / permitted / sanctioned / authorised. We must learn two truths: the first being the free will of man. Secondly, on earth, there are laws and principles of life for man. Putting these two truths together means that consequences will follow the choices that we make; man reaps according to what he sows.

Scripture must be read and interpreted with a clear understanding of context and the underlying principles. Specific to the Hebrew language, in the way the Old Testament was originally written, every act is attributed to God – even though it was not Him who committed that said act!

A deeper understanding of the underlying principles must be expanded on for us to truly know His character. There are four sources of pain and suffering:

### 1. Fallenness of Man

This source of pain comes from conflicts that occur between man such as envy, hatred, covetousness. (Gal 5:19-21) We also experience physical death, the fracture of the physical earth, the curse of toil in man's labour, and accidents that happen. This pain is often without choice. But it does not come from God – God is good.

### 2. The evil one

The devil is one who comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). He seeks to plant doubts in us about God's character of goodness and love, and His Word and promises. We must stay vigilant to not give legal grounds to the devil.

### 3. Our own faults

This refers to the consequences of our own choices and 'faults', which includes our sins and weaknesses. This source of pain should be met with a response of our repentance.

### 4. For righteousness' sake

Believers might be mocked. In some extremes, they face persecution because of their faith. However, we can be encouraged that God will be glorified in these situations – choosing to stick by our principles is a worthy choice.

## KNOW THAT GOD IS ALWAYS GOOD

In our lives when bad things happen, we must not be quick to blame God as He is not the source or origin of our pain! Instead, like a father, He gives good things. But as God, He is the giver of everything good (Luke 11:13, James 1:17) and His gifts are not only good, but **perfect**. With this, we can live in total dependence on God (His promises and covenant), with prayer, for He is consistently good all the time.

## Conclusion

God is good – consistently good. Equipping ourselves with the right understanding of God is the first step to wisdom; the key to thriving in these turbulent end times. 1 John 1:5 reminds us, *"God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all"*. Do not judge God's goodness by your circumstances, but get into a deeper understanding of His Word.

# QUESTIONS

1. Share an account of thanksgiving where you learnt about God's goodness despite your difficult circumstance. How did you pull through eventually?

2. Did you previously have any difficult questions about God's character and events that He had 'committed' in the OT, because of the direct interpretation of the Hebraic writings? Share your thoughts and discuss.

3. God is *always* good; knowing this provides us with hope in turbulent times. Has this truth affected your faith goals of 2018? How will you work to achieving these goals successfully?