

- Have you sought the opinions of godly, trusted adults about your options? This safeguard is a biblical resource for making decisions in harmony with the will of God.

(The “Christian and Non-Christian College Readiness Inventory” in *Walking Through The College Planning Process*, ACSI, 1999, may be of help to you and others in your assessment.)

#4

...you consider the circumstances of God’s providence in your life.

“...he himself (God) gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.” Acts 17:26,27

- Your life situation is not an accident! Are you thankful for the circumstances that frame the range of your choices?

...your parents’ socio-economic situation

...your health and that of your parents

...your parents’ values and church commitments

...your mental, athletic, leadership, and personality patterns and your physical make-up

None of these conditions should be used as an excuse for not taking initiative in your college planning, but all of them are expressions of God’s sovereignty in your life. They should not be ignored where they may have a bearing on your options. A sick parent or large family, for example, may influence the availability of family funds for college. These are not accidents. They are part of God’s framework of providence in your life and need to be considered as you make your plans.

- What are the providential conditions (*apparent assets and apparent liabilities*) that your Father wants you to take into consideration in your planning?

#5

...you pray for a discerning mind that is sensitive to the Bible’s principles, the counsel of others, and the providence of God.

- Your Father’s plan is for you to *think* about your options considering all the above factors. He commands you to get wisdom—thinking with his values in mind!

“Get wisdom, get understanding ...Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.” Prov. 4:5,7

- Do you pray regularly for a discerning mind about this decision?
- Are you looking for a feeling, an impression, or some other source of direction that may shortcut prayerful thinking in the decision making process?

“...we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.” Col. 1:9

- If it’s wise, it’s his will! Use all the resources God has put at your disposal to think biblically and choose prayerfully.

More information about the will of God in the college and career planning process may be found in *How Much Spring Is In Your Diving Board, A Career Planning Manual For Christian Young Adults*, ACSI, 1996.

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You’re ready to choose a college in harmony with the will of God when...

Five biblical principles to help you determine the will of God in the college choice process



DCCS Guidance

College Readiness Series #5

Your choice will be the will of God when...

#1

...you are committed to doing his will, no matter what.

The Bible consistently teaches us that God gives his favor and *future* opportunities to those who are faithful in the *present*.

“...You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.” Mt. 25:21 & 23 (Consider the context—the parable of the talents.)

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear...Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance...” Mt. 13:9,12

“If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God...” John 7:17

“The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.” Ps. 25:14

“But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.” James 1:25

- Have you specifically prayed expressing your willingness to do God’s will? Are you willing even if



the wisest choice is not the most popular with friends or the kind or size you preferred or in the location you first wanted? *This is being a “living sacrifice”!* (Romans 12:1,2)

- Are there any “conditions” you’ve put on college options that God has to meet for you to be willing to obey him? (For example, “It has to be within 2 hours of home, can’t be a Christian college, must be Division I.” etc.) *This is being “double-minded”!*

#2

...you consider a college in light of the Bible’s command to grow and to be faithful in all your talent areas.

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things...” Mt. 25:21 &23

“Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men.” Prov. 22:29

- Will the school you are considering help you to grow as a competent professional?

Is the program professionally respected? (What happens to graduates after 6-9 months?)

Will it give you experience in the field you want to study?

- How will the school you are considering support your growth toward Christian maturity?

Will your academic schedule allow you to keep a deep commitment to a Christian growth on cam-

pus?

Is it likely that you will find the dorm and college life situation a help or a hindrance to your spiritual growth?

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Mt. 6:33

“Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight, declares the LORD.” Jer. 10:23,24



#3

...you consider the counsel of godly adults before selecting a college.

“For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisors make victory sure.” Prov. 11:14

“Make plans seeking advice; if you wage war, obtain guidance.” Prov. 20:18

“...the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to (wisdom) will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.” Prov. 1:32,33

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More details about each of the items in this checklist are in the college planning handbook, *Walking Through The College Planning Process*, (ACSI, 1999)