

## **THE WILL OF GOD**

### **Col 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, & Timothy our brother**

#### **Intro**

1. Paul's intro emphasizing his apostleship **by the will of God** & whoever was with him
2. He often felt compelled to remind his critics that his apostleship was "by the will of God."
3. His fellow Jewish bel's felt compelled to criticize him for his stand on the grace of God as applied to the Mosaic Law& the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who is the "end" of the Law.

**2 Cor 11:5** I do not think I am in the least inferior to those "super-apostles." - Paul's sarcasm

**2Cor 11:22-28** - Paul's intense suffering for sake of the gospel in cp to false apostles in Corinth.

**Act 21:15-26** - Paul's weakness: ambition to take credit for his work - vulnerable to allow James to persuade him to go back to the temple, under the Law to be more acceptable to the Jews.

**Phil 3** - God used the sufferings of prison to boil out his OM ambitions - old ambition is dung

#### **Will of God**

##### **1. The Divine Decree - Eternal Life Conference**

**Eph 1:4-5** For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love, He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

**Eph1:9-11** He made known to us the mystery of his will . . . . to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment -- to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,

- His plan was decreed in eternity past, predetermining the outcome as historical reality

Act 3:18 God announced beforehand by the prophets that the Christ had to suffer for our sins

1Cor 2:7 God's hidden wisdom in a mystery before time predestined for our glory - Ch-Age truth

Rom.8:29-30 Believers are predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son - be like Christ

A. Omniscience imagined every possible human history, chose the one He wanted & decreed it

B. The decree allows for creature free will to choose for God or against Him by choosing for self

C. The decree doesn't force free will, only foreknows it, making the foreknown certain by decree

D. The divine decree is the all comprehensive plan of God for angels & mankind - His will.

E. Creatures are given the freedom & responsibility to align their will with His or seek to use their will differently & apart from His - the ultimate choice determining your ultimate destiny.

## 2. Three wills in operation in the universe.

- **God's will** (Divine Viewpoint) Since mankind was created in the image according to likeness of God (Gen.1:26-27), mankind has free will (volition) after the divine model (Mark 3:35).
- **Satan's will** (Cosmos Diabolicus, Worldly Thinking) Satan's will is identified in (Isa14:12-15) by the famous five "I wills" directed against the revealed will of God. Human volition (free will) is the target in the angelic conflict. (2 Tim.2:26).
- **Human will** (Will Power) The other two spheres of wills influence human will (Adam and Eve). Adam and Eve were created with human volition to believe either God or the Devil (Gen.3; Gen.2:17; Rom.5:12; Gal.1:4; Matt.21:28-32).

## 3. Three classifications of the Will of God

- **Directive Will of God**
  - What God specifically reveals about the Decree of the Plan of God to you (Gen.22:1-8). Ab directed to sacrifice Isaac - How the divine decree directs your life
- **Permissive Will of God**
  - What God allows regarding volition reacting to the Directive Will (Gen.22:9-10; Heb.11:17-19). Allowed Ab to proceed according to his own common sense.
  - Wisdom - use biblical principles transformed into mature spiritual logic, to discern the most righteous path to do the will of God. God desires we develop & act from wisdom - maturity
- **Over-ruling Will of God**
  - What God does not allow to interfere with the function of the Plan
    - Jonah - tried to run from the will of God but God over ruled His decision
    - Peter - Lk 22:55-62 tried to avoid his fear being exposed but God used it to humble him
    - David - what God would have done had David trusted Him for His promise to make him king.
  - 1Sam 16: 11-13 - David anointed to become King over Israel - prophesied/destined to happen
    - Had David not run from Saul, God would have overruled any attempt to kill him
    - Had David not run and had God allowed him to be killed, He would have resurrected him.
    - David had no need to run from King Saul; God's promise should have been enough.

## 4. Three categories under the Directive Will in the Plan of God.

These are never in conflict each other in the Plan. They must all line-up with the directive will.

- **Geographical will of God** -Where God desires His Directive Will to be performed (Jonah 1:2).
- **Operational will of God** - What God desires the believer to do (Jonah 1:2; 3:2; 4:11).
- **Mental will of God** - How God desires believer to think about Directive Will (Jonah 3:10; 4:9-11)

## **5. Discerning the will of God - lining up the word with your walk – wisdom**

- God's will never contradict clear statements in His word - Mal 2:16 He hates divorce
- If there are exceptions, they are discussed in the word - Mt 5:32 - except for cause of adultery
- God's always honors His promises - Mt 6:25-33 He promises to provide your needs
- It is never God's will to violate His word or commit sin - Jam 1:13 - right vs wrong
- Right vs right situations require wisdom to choose the better path - choice of mate
- Listen to the voice of the Spirit - Samuel; inner dialogue with GHS
- Putting the puzzle together - David 1Sam 27:1-12

**Note:** [2013 Basics](#) - 4 excellent studies by Ron Adema about the Will of God