

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE WILL OF GOD AND THE DIRECTION OF THE LORD'S MOVE**

Message One
The Will of God

Scripture Reading: Rev. 4:11; Col. 1:9, 18; 3:4, 10-11; 4:12

- I. God is a God of purpose, having a will of His own pleasure—Rev. 4:11; Eph. 3:9-11; Col. 1:9.**
- II. God's will is God's wish; God's will is what He wants to do—Eph. 1:9:**
 - A. God's good pleasure is of His will and is embodied in His will, so His will comes first—v. 5.
 - B. God has made known to us the mystery of His will through His revelation in Christ, that is, through Christ's incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension—v. 9; 3:9.
 - C. God works all things according to the counsel of His will; God's will is His intention, and His counsel is His consideration of the way to accomplish His will or intention—1:11.
- III. Colossians is a book concerning the great, eternal will of God—1:9; 4:12:**
 - A. Colossians reveals what God's will is according to His desire and intention in the whole universe, in creation, in redemption, in the coming age, and in eternity.
 - B. God's will in Colossians 1:9 is His will regarding His eternal purpose, regarding His economy concerning Christ—Eph. 1:5, 9, 11.
 - C. To have the full knowledge of God's will is to have the revelation of God's plan so that we may know what God plans to do in the universe—Rev. 4:11.
- IV. The will of God is concentrated in Christ and is for Christ; Christ is everything in the will of God—Col. 1:9:**
 - A. In 1:9 God's will refers to Christ; the will of God is profound in relation to our knowing, experiencing, and living the all-inclusive, extensive Christ, who is God, man, and the reality of every positive thing in the universe—2:9, 16-17.
 - B. Christ is the preeminent One, the One who has the first place in everything—1:18.
 - C. The all-inclusive, extensive Christ is the centrality and universality, the center and circumference, of God's economy—1:15-27; Eph. 1:10:
 1. In God's economy Christ is everything; God wants Christ and Christ alone—the wonderful, preeminent, all-inclusive Christ, who is all in all—Matt. 17:5; Col. 3:10-11.
 2. God's intention in His economy is to work the wonderful, all-inclusive, extensive Christ into our being as our life and our everything that we may become the corporate expression of the Triune God—1:27; 3:4, 10-11.
 - D. The will of God is that the all-inclusive, extensive Christ be our portion—1:9, 12.

E. God's will is that we know Christ, experience Christ, enjoy Christ, be saturated with Christ, and have Christ as our person and our life—3:4, 11.

V. God's will is to have the church as the Body of Christ—1:9, 18; 2:19; 3:15:

- A. The will of God is to obtain a Body for Christ to be His fullness, His expression—Rom. 12:2, 5; Eph. 1:5, 9, 11, 22-23; 4:16:
1. To live the Body life is to “prove what the will of God is”—Rom. 12:2, 4-5.
 2. If we are proper members of the Body, acting and functioning in the church life, we will be persons in the will of God—1 Cor. 1:1-2; Eph. 1:1; 5:17; Rom. 12:2, 4-5.
- B. The church is the Body of Christ, which is an entity constituted with the Triune God and His chosen and redeemed ones—Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4-6.
- C. Christ is the Head of the Body, and we are the members of His Body—Col. 1:18a; 2:19; Eph. 4:15-16:
1. To live in the Body is to live corporately with the members under the Head—v. 15; Col. 2:19.
 2. To live the Body life, we must be under the Head and take the Head as our life, the principal object, and the center of our whole being—Col. 1:18a; 2:19.
- D. The Body grows with the growth of God; the growth of the Body depends on the growth of God, the addition of God, the increase of God, within us— 2:19; Eph. 4:16.