

## CHRIST'S LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

The importance of “wills” is seen in bestowing possessions and settling of proper disputes in our society. Wills are also important in helping us to understand the scripture and our responsibilities under the last will and testament of Christ. A “will” could be defined as the desire of one who makes a will, as to the inheritance offered to certain ones. Three words are synonymous: **WILL, TESTAMENT** and **COVENANT**. The words suggest the making of “arrangements” to provide something for others. These 3 words are used interchangeably in the scripture.

The “will” of Christ is ALSO the “will” of God (John 14:10, 26; 12:48-50; 2 John 9). There are several areas in the spiritual realm that are involved in the “will” of Christ.

- a. Prayer in His name. 1 John 5:14
- b. The apostleship. 1 Cor. 12:28; 2 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 2:20; 3:5; 1:1
- c. Suffering for Well doing. 1 Pet. 2:16; 3:17
- d. Sacrifice of Jesus. Heb. 10:5-7
- e. Sanctification. Heb. 10:9-10; 1 Thess. 4 :3
- f. Man’s repentance. 2 Pet. 3;9
- g. A replacement of one will with another. Heb. 10:9; 8:8-13
- h. Spiritual blessings in Christ. Eph. 1:3-7
- i. Entering into heaven. Matt. 7:21-23
- j. The new birth. John 1:12-13; 3:3-5

There are some twelve (12) characteristics of “wills,” that are *especially* applicable to the last will and testament of Christ.

- (1) **TESTATOR**—one who MAKES a will and sets the terms thereof. 1 Cor. 2:11, 16; Heb. 9:15-17; 1 Tim. 2:5 .
- (2) **SETTLED** according to the will of the testator, according to law. Psa. 119:89; Matt. 6:10; 16:18-19; 28:18-20
- (3) **PROMISSORY**—inclusive of what the testator is promising to give to those named in the will. Gal. 3:15-18
- (4) **UNALTERABLE**—not subject to change once it goes into effect. Gal. 3:15; Deut. 4:2; 5:22; Prov. 30:5-6; Gal. 1:6-9; Rev 22:18-19
- (5) **REVEALED**—made known in behalf of potential heirs. 1 Cor. 2:9-10; Eph. 3:3-5
- (6) **ONE**—not many variable testaments, but in many “copies” (books) of that one testament, meaning the same in all. John 12:48; 17: 20; 1 Cor. 1:10; 4:15, 17
- (7) **CONDITIONAL**—according to the TERMS set forth. The condition can be expressed generically (Deut. 2:13-14; Matt. 7:21), or specifically .Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 8:35-37; 10:48; 17:30
- (8) **NAMES**—of the heirs generally (children, Gal. 3:23-29) and specifically (Christians, Acts 11:26; 1 Pet. 4:16)
- (9) **WRITTEN**—the names or conditions, promises, and the names of those involved IN the will. 1<sup>st</sup>, the will itself (Exo. 24:12; 31:18; 32:15; Matt. 4:7; , 10; 2 Cor. 3:14; Heb. 9A: 4; Rev. 11:19; John 20:30-31; 1 Pet. 3:15). 2<sup>nd</sup>, Names of those meeting the conditions. Exo. 32:32; Heb. 12:23; Phil. 4:3; Rev. 21:27
- (10) **EXCLUSIVE**—being inclusive of all that it contains, and exclusive of all other wording, or other “heirs” not specifically named in this will. Matt. 7:13-14; John 14:6; 1 Cor. 10:12; Eph. 4:4-6
- (11) **INHERITANCE**—that which is to be given to or received by those submitting to that which IS written IN the will. Tit. 1:2; Gal. 3:23-29; 4:1; Rom. 8:17; Tit. 3:1; Heb. 6:17; 9:15; 11:7; Jas. 2:5; 1 Pet. 1:3-5
- (12) **DEATH**—of the Testator. The origin of “covenants” involved the death of certain forms of life (Gen. 15:1-10; Jer. 34:18-19) which was *prophetic* of the 2 great covenants or testaments. In human wills, the testator must die before the will goes into force. Under the first (old) testament, there had to be the death of animals for their blood to ratify the covenant (Heb. 9:18-22). Under the second (new) testament, there has to be the death of the Testator—CHRIST. (Heb. 9:23-26; Matt. 26:28).

All shall be judged by the will, testament or covenant under which they lived (Heb. 9:15). Under the NEW will, we shall be judged by the gospel, and not the law of Moses.

Those living under Moses' law will not be judged by the gospel—otherwise God would not be just (Gen. 18;25; 2 Tim. 4:8; Rom. 2:16; Acts 17:30-31). God would not hold Abraham, Moses, Joshua or Elijah accountable for not obeying the gospel, or the terms thereof, for it was not given to them. Christ's testament went into force AFTER His death, and those dying before His death did not have to obey the terms OF the new will or testament of Christ. During His life, Christ could "forgive" sins to any He chose, or the conditions He set, but NOW we are under the new testament which went into effect on Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2. (Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 15:1-3; Luke 5:18-24; 7:47-50; 23:42-43).

Christ's "last will and testament" is INDEED His LAST one (2 Tim. 2:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3; Jude 3; Rev. 22:18-19; Gal. 1;6-9). Those who claim to have been given "latter day" revelations are in error, and endangering their souls and those who believe them (Matt. 15:9, 13-14). If they say that they *only* are told what was already in scripture, they WHY repeat it?? If "new revelations" are real and true, then the New Testament of the Bible is false in claiming to be the complete and last will of the Lord. Those who claim to receive "messages" from the Holy Spirit are in the same camp as those claiming "written" revelations. Those who change the truth of the gospel into after-dinner speeches or compromising "feel good" messages belong to the same camp.

DON TARBET