

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
KNOWING AND DOING THE WILL OF GOD**

Message One

The Will of God

Scripture Reading: Rev. 4:11; Col. 1:9, 18; 3:4, 10-11; Eph. 4:3-6, 11-12, 16

- I. “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created”—Rev. 4:11:**
 - A. God is a God of purpose, having a will of His own pleasure—Eph. 3:9-11; Col. 1:9.
 - B. He created all things for His will so that He might accomplish and fulfill His purpose.
- 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 the mystery of His will known to us 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 refer to Christ; the will of God is profound in relation to our knowing, experiencing, and living in 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 would 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.