

## THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF JESUS CHRIST

Hebrews 9:15-17; 2 Timothy 2:19

"And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth."

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal. The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

The words "testament," and "covenant," are used interchangeably in Scripture (Hebrews 8:8,9,13). We read, "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28). While they are used interchangeably, a covenant is usually an agreement between two parties (i.e. God and Noah, God and Abraham), but a testament, or will, is that of A person leaving his goods to his beneficiaries. In this text we are reading the will or testament of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is Christ's will which we find recorded in the Word of God.

A will is not in force until the willer has died. In the gospel Paul preached we are told of Christ's death, and therefore His will is now in force. His death has put it into effect. In every human will there is named an administrator. It is the responsibility of the administrator to see that the terms of the will are followed and executed as written. Also in the gospel which Paul preached we are told of Christ's resurrection. The Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead to be the Administrator of His own will. Christ will distribute the exact inheritance of the written will to the beneficiaries. Who knows best what the will contains than the one who made that will? Christ lives today to be the Administrator of His will, and to see that all who are named in it have their inheritance made known to them. Christ has sent the Holy Spirit to execute the terms of His will, and they are being brought to pass even now to the very letter.

It is sad today that many think that by exercising their will they can be made an heir of God. Man's will has nothing to do with being made a beneficiary. It is only God's will that matters. It is not man's right to ask for gifts or to be included in an inheritance.

The will of God is forever settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89). The beneficiaries were not even born yet when Christ made the will, but all the elect are in the will as beneficiaries. To each will be given their respective inheritance.

### **A. The validity of the will is the seal.**

A will is validated by the seal it bears. The will of Christ was not sealed with an ordinary notary seal, but with His own precious blood. "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28). This will was sealed in the highest court of the universe, and it cannot be rescinded, nor can it ever be changed. All who were included in that will at the moment of sealing (the elect) will be beneficiaries of that will. "But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you" (1 Peter 1:19,20).

The testament or will of Christ which is sealed with His own blood is the Word of God, i.e. the KJV. No other testament will suffice for they omit the seal of His blood. The true heir possesses a copy of the will that bears the seal of Christ's own blood. How foolish to appear before God with a false copy of the will and be denied sonship and heirship. Until I know that I am a beneficiary (by His grace) I have no interest in the will, nor do I care about the willer, or any inheritance. It is when God calls us and quickens us

that we for the first time hear the terms of the will.

Without an understanding of the terms of the will, i.e. believing the gospel and identification, there is not going to be a true conversion. The terms of the will are: "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God . . . it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (1 Corinthians 1:18,21). "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death . . . For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection . . . Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him" (Romans 6:3,5,8). "It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him" (2 Timothy 2:11). (See also Colossians 2:11-13).

### **B. The Lord knoweth them that are His.**

The heirs were chosen by God because of His love for them. Many claim to have exercised their will and chosen God. Many claim to be heirs, but are found false. "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21-23).

Many have asked Jesus into their heart, or walked down to the aisle to the altar and prayed the sinner's prayer, but neither of these are found in the terms of the will. Also many are found without a copy of the true will which bears the name, and the seal, and are thus unable to prove they are a son and heir. They possess one of the perversions in which the Name (Deity), and the blood seal are missing.

### **C. The true heirs confess the Name and bear the image.**

The true heirs confess with their mouth the Lord Jesus. They love His lovely name and speak it often. They confess His name, i.e. His resurrection title, the Lord Jesus Christ, not this Jesus stuff we hear so commonly. "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11).

The true heirs also bear the image of Christ by departing from iniquity. In the terms of the will they read they are to be holy. "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren" (Romans 8:29). "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him (Colossians 3:10). This process begins with the reading of His will. " . . . through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth" (2 Thess.2:13). "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, . . . For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness" (1 Thess.4:3,7). "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14).

"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:22-24). "Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body" (2 Corinthians 4:10). "From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks (stigmata or impress) of the Lord Jesus" (Galatians 6:17).

Satan can no longer get to Christ, so he attacks those who are Christ's. He marred the image in Adam, and now seeks to mar the image of Christ in every believer. God works in the heirs, the adopted sons, by the Holy Spirit to sanctify them to the terms of the will. (1) The terms of the will are all of grace, Christ compiled all the riches, and if we receive anything it is a gift of His grace. Satan inserts false terms by substituting works, i.e. do something. (2) The terms of the will say we are to die, become a new creature, and be separated unto God. Satan inserts false terms by saying just quit a few bad habits, or turn over a new leaf. Reformation is not regeneration. (3) The terms of the will include bowing down to the supreme will of God, i.e. not I but Christ. Satan inserts false terms by using all kinds of activities which put self in control.

Without conformity to the image of Christ there is no agreement with the terms of the will. This destroys the teaching of getting saved and going to heaven when you die without any responsibility in between.

#### **D. The inheritance.**

Inheritance pre-supposes sonship. Adoption is to an inheritance. Christ is the only begotten Son of God, and is the appointed Heir of all things. "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, . . . " (Hebrews 1:2). Therefore it is Christ who wills to each adopted son their inheritance.

The true heirs know their inheritance. They have read and heard the terms of the will, believed they are heirs, and have an inheritance. The Lord knoweth them that are His, and makes known to the heirs their inheritance. We read of being joint-heirs with Christ. "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together" (Romans 8:17). "That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel" (Ephesians 3:6).

##### 1. The inheritance of the earth.

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5; see also Psalm 37:9,11,22,29,34). This promised inheritance is given to those in the kingdom of heaven. It is part of the covenant promise given to Abraham (Genesis 12:7; 13:14-17; 15:7,18; Hebrews 11:8). This is also the inheritance of the twelve disciples who will sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30).

##### 2. The inheritance of the kingdom.

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34). These are the sheep nations which have been kind to Christ's brethren. There are many which shall not inherit the kingdom for other reasons (1 Corinthians 6:9,10; Ephesians 5:5).

##### 3. The inheritance of the holy mountain.

"When thou criest, let thy companies deliver thee; but the wind shall carry them all away; vanity shall take them: but he that putteth his trust in me shall possess the land, and shall inherit my holy mountain" (Isaiah 57:13). "And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there" (Isaiah 65:9).

"But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city" (Hebrews 11:16). "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels" (Hebrews 12:22). "And I John

saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband . . . And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God" (Revelation 21:2,10).

#### 4. The inheritance in heavenly places.

"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will . . . In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" (Ephesians 1:5,11; 2:4-6). "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Colossians 1:12,13).

"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it" (Colossians 2:15). "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, (where your inheritance is), not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:1-2).

#### 5. All the heirs will inherit eternal life.

"And everyone that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life" (Matthew 19:29).

"And I give unto them eternal life: and they shall never perish, . . ." (John 10:28)

"As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him" (John 17:2).

". . . and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed" (Acts 13:48).

"But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: . . . even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord . . . but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 5:20,21; 6:23).

"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2). "That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:7).

"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son" (1 John 5:11).