

# - THE FATHER'S WILL -

*"The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever." (1 John 2:17)*

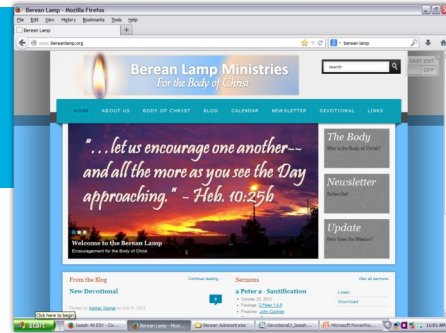
*"The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever" (1 John 2:17). "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:40). "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from all iniquity, according to the will of our God the Father, to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen" (Romans 8:3-5). "For it is the will of our Father that we should be sanctified by the word of truth, so that we should be a kind of first fruits among the nations" (James 1:18). "How will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was the first spoken through the Lord's voice, it was confirmed to us by the Lord's voice and by various miracles and by gifts"*



**Berean Lamp Ministries**  
*For the Body of Christ*

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## The Seven Churches (Revelation 2-3)



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### **Considering the Father's Will**

by Scott Moller - Page 3

### **God's Will—the Only Good Will**

by Nathan Warner - Page 4

### **The Conflict of the Soul**

by Ginny Larsen - Page 7

### **A Scriptural Primer: THE FATHER'S WILL**

Page 10

### **CHRISTMAS—the Promise of the Messiah, JESUS**

Page 18

### **Wise Men Follow the Rock**

by Jane Titrud - Page 19

### **Jesus Came to Do the Father's Will**

by Lynn Warner - Page 21

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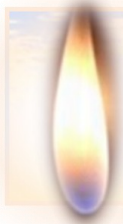
1. Encourage and strengthen the Body of Christ by providing the means for each of its members to share their spiritual gifts with one another, rooted in the Word of God, thereby growing into deeper union with one another and with Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-31).
2. Minister to non-believers; be a witness for Christ and a testimony to His Body in the world.

We would appreciate your help in contributing to the content and in spreading the work of this ministry. Thank you, and God bless.

- Pastor Scott Moller







## Considering the Father's Will

By Scott Moller

*"I and the Father are one."  
(John 10:30 NIV)*

How often do you begin your day asking yourself what the Father's will is for the day ahead? I must confess I rarely do. My head is usually full of all of the things I have planned for the day and what I want to accomplish. But that is not how it was with Jesus during His earthly ministry as He set for us the perfect example of being in the Father's will. He never set out on His own accord but steadfastly and single-mindedly fulfilled the Father's will for each day.

We see this principal at work in John 11, when Jesus receives the news of Lazarus' illness. Our typical response would be to set out at once, rushing headlong to the aid of our sick friend. But this was not how Jesus reacted. *"Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when He heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where He was two more days"* (John 11:5-6). Jesus understood it was not God's will for Him to set out immediately. *"Jesus said 'This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.' ...then He told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him'"* (John 11:4, 14-15). It was God's will that Jesus accomplish more than simply physically healing Lazarus in order to bring glory to the Father and the Son.

God tells us, *"As the heavens are higher than the earth, are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts"* (Isaiah 55:9). In other words, God's ways and thoughts are greater than our natural ways and thoughts. God's ways and thoughts cannot be determined by our flesh but only by the Holy

Spirit. We see Jesus seeking His Father's will often as He spent time in prayer.

Even at the very end before His crucifixion as He prayed, *"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will"* (Matthew 26:39), Jesus submitted His will and sought the will of the Father. As Christians, Jesus calls for us to pick up our crosses and follow Him—obediently giving up our lives (setting aside our will) in order to follow the Father's will for His purposes. May we begin each day seeking the Father's will for the day. Amen.

*"Jesus said to THEM, 'My FOOD is to do the WILL of Him who SENT Me and to accomplish His WORK.'" (John 4:34)*



## God's Will - the Only Good Will

By Nathan Warner

God is perfectly good, and His will is perfectly good. In His perfect will, God made all of creation to take part in His will *for their good*. As the Elders in heaven declare, *"Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created"* (Revelation 4:11 NASB), *"and behold, it was very good"* (Genesis 1:31b).

It is not natural for the creation to do anything but God's will, because God's will provides the only good way for all of creation.

When Adam and Eve sinned, they disobeyed God's will for them, instead indulging their own will. This harmed them because only God's will kept them in life: *"There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death"* (Proverbs 14:12). As Adam and Eve's children, we bear the nature and

traits they passed on to us. To this day, each one of us *"is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death"* (James 1:14-15).

In our lives, we have a hard time accepting God's will over us, even though it is good for us, because our sin-nature is self-centered, self-willed, and narcissistic. Like young children, we are predisposed to care only for our immediate desires and wants, regardless of whether they will cause others harm or harm us later. In a child's limited understanding, their parent's "will" may not seem right or even make sense. They may think,

"Why can't I eat ice cream instead of broccoli?"

"Why do I have to go to bed? – I'm not even tired!"

"I don't want to put my toys away, I like them out!"

"Why am I getting disciplined? – he started it!"

*"For YOU have need of ENDURANCE, so that when you have DONE the will of God, you may RECIEVE what was PROMISED."* (Hebrews 10:36)



By Maria Madsen



The will of the parent often frustrates a child, because it is frequently in opposition to the child's own will. Children may think their parents don't understand, or maybe they think they know what is better. Wouldn't it be great if children could do what they "knew" would make them "happy" or feel good? If they were in charge, there wouldn't be bedtimes or discipline—they'd have ice cream for every meal and leave their toys wherever they wanted to. Everything they'd do, they would do for their own pleasure. Wouldn't that be great?

There is a problem, however. Because of the fall, *"the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God"* (Romans 8:20-21). This means that the consequence of self-willed behavior is all manner of futility. It is fruitless, pointless, useless, barren, unprofitable, hopeless, empty, failure – and ultimately death.

After spending a great couple days eating nothing but ice cream and staying up all night, the children would most certainly get sick. Then, rather than feel good, they would feel horrible. All that willful pleasure was pointless because it ended in pain. Yet in the futility of willful behavior, they'd start all over again once they felt better, *"indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind...by nature children of wrath"* (Ephesians 2:3b). Good parents know that indulging the will of a child prevents them from maturing and flourishing. Sure, they'll still physically grow to have the strength of an adult body and the powers of an adult mind, but those powers will be ruled by their destructive and self-centered childish indulgences – destructive to themselves and destructive to others, spreading their fruitless, pointless, hopeless, empty works wherever they go and leading others into futility. Rather than provide support and stability to those around them, they become dangerous in their so-called "freedom."

What freedom? Disobedient children think they are enslaved to obedience, so when they disobey their parents, they think they are ex-

periencing freedom, but in actuality they have simply exchanged one master for the other – they have become enslaved to disobedience: *"Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin [disobedience to God] resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?"* (Romans 6:16)

People who think that disobedience is freedom are self-centered, self-willed narcissists and *"fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil"* (1 Timothy 3:6b). Lucifer was the first of creation to declare, *"I will"* (Isaiah 14:13-14) – he was the first created being to be self-centered, and like a disobedient child, he put his will above God's will, because he thought his way would be better for him than God's way. How wrong he was! For although he has acted willfully in the short history of earth, the judgment he will face for all eternity is a terrible one— *"tormented day and night forever and ever"* (Revelation 20:10).

The truth is that a parent's boundaries and discipline create a framework for children to grow and mature in the good will of their parents. Obedient children learn to obey their parents regardless of whether they always understand why they must. They learn that they can't always get what they want AND that often what they want isn't good for them in the long-run anyway. In the same way, a Child of God learns that it is better *"to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin"* (Hebrews 11:25), *"for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 6:23). *"For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life"* (Romans 6:20-22). *"Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments*

*of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God” (Romans 6:12-13).*

Jesus is God’s only begotten Son. His purpose in coming into the world was the purpose of His Father: *“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work”* (John 4:34b). Jesus gives us who are adopted children the greatest example to emulate for obeying the Father’s will while living on this earth. Jesus said, *“I have come in My Father’s name”* (John 5:43a), *“not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me”* (John 6:38b). *“I can do nothing on My own initiative...because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me”* (John 5:30). Jesus did nothing that was self-centered or self-willed. He *lived* to do the will of His Father and nothing else. May we emulate Him!

And what is our Father’s will that Jesus so single-mindedly focused on to accomplish? It is the good of all, for the Father *“desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge*

*of the truth”* (1 Timothy 2:4), *“not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9b). God is forgiving, and He desires the disobedient children of the world to be reconciled to Him through obedience to His Son, whom He has given all things— *“All things have been handed over to Me by My Father”* (Luke 10:22).

Only through obedience to Jesus may self-willed mankind return to the will of God, which is the only good way for them, and so be saved from eternal death, *“for this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day”* (John 6:40). *“This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day”* (John 6:39). Even so, Amen.



By Nathan Warner

## The Conflict of the Soul

By Ginny Larsen

*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*  
(Ephesians 1:2 ESV)

“It is worth noticing that grace comes first, then peace. This is always the order. Only after grace has dealt with the sin question can peace be known. And only through the undeserved strength which God gives from day to day can the believer experience peace, perfect peace, in all the changing moods of life.” (William MacDonald, *Believer’s Bible Commentary*)

*“For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.”*  
(Romans 7:15-20)

As God’s children, He has placed in us the desire to do His will. He has given us a new heart, a new will, and new desires to please Him through His Spirit coming into our hearts, if we are born of His Spirit. Yet we find within us a conflict, because the enemy accuses us, twisting our motives and our understanding of God’s will. The enemy preys on our weakness. He condemns us, or pushes us to condemn ourselves, so we will put our eyes on ourselves rather than on God—to the point we’ll be torn by irresolvable conflict in our soul, which only God Himself can sort out. There are times I’ve cried out, “God! I do want Your will, but I can’t discern what it is! The conflict inside of me brings confusion, and I

can’t discern between what is coming from my flesh, my own desires, my own weaknesses, my own inability or what is from the enemy twisting your Word in my head, and Your will, Your command. How to resolve it?!” I find myself in hopeless despair to ever live up to His will! As I struggle through, trying desperately to come to peace with this conflict in my soul, trying to honestly discern what is of God, what is of the devil, and what is of me, I realize I cannot. His Word comes to me: *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil”* (Proverbs 3:5-7).

I realize it is only God Himself, through His Word and by His Spirit, that can discern the thoughts and the intentions of the heart and divide between soul and spirit. *“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart”* (Hebrews 4:12). I must not wrestle to discern it by my knowledge, understanding, feelings, or anything else – especially not by another’s opinion. I must do as the Word says. I must go to Him and acknowledge Him.

Acknowledge—“1. To own, avow or admit to be true, by a declaration of assent; as to acknowledge the being of a God. 2. To own or notice with particular regard” (Webster’s 1828 dictionary).

Even if I should seek wiser counsel, I need first to acknowledge and seek Him. And then if I do seek another’s counsel, that too must be brought before Him. I must not lean on another’s understanding anymore than I lean on my own. I must own, avow, and declare God as my God, my Father – to regard Him alone as the One Who knows all. He understands perfectly His own will and the schemes of the enemy, which deceive, twist, and condemn falsely. God alone is the One Who understands all the intricacies in my heart, the mo-



tives, the feelings, and the desires. Only He can divide between His own work in me by His own Spirit and what is coming from my own flesh, which is very deceptive, always holding onto what it desires. He alone is able to conquer all those places in my heart, to help my will conform to His will. He alone is able to resolve the conflict. It is He Who works in me *to will* to do His will and then enables me to carry it out—I cannot by my own understanding and efforts. When I try, I fail, I fall, I stumble in the dark, and the enemy then comes in for the kill with condemnation, until I feel buried under it and hopeless to ever find peace.

God is our peace. His *grace* is sufficient for us to enable us in the conflict. His power is sufficient for us to do all. Until He comes into the situation or conflict, we can't understand, we can't trust, we can't rest, and we can't "do," because we so easily deceive ourselves and others. As we look to Him, then we are able to look away from the conflict itself, to stop the struggle, and to look to Him. Then we are able to say, "It is Yours, Lord. I will trust You with all my heart and not lean on my own understanding. I know You will direct my path. You will discern, You will make Your will clear and understood in me, and bring my will to conform to Yours." We find rest in our souls, though perhaps the conflict is not yet resolved to our understanding. It is now cast on Him. As we wait on Him, we stand in His grace, in His peace, and determine that we will submit ourselves to His Spirit in our hearts as He resolves it and brings discernment and light. We stand in His salvation against the attacks of the enemy's condemnation. We stand in His righteousness, knowing we have none in ourselves, and His righteousness will be ultimately fulfilled in us.

We must submit and present ourselves to the working of His will in us, by placing ourselves before Him in His Word, letting it speak to us, letting it divide soul and spirit, letting it bring light, truth, and counsel to our hearts. Most of all, we need to let Him reveal Himself, His heart, His mind, and His will to us through that Word. As we do that, we grow in love to Him, and we grow in our awe of Him. We de-

sire His will above our own. We find we don't have to strive, and as His Word becomes our delight, we want it more than anything else. We find, almost without realizing it, that there has been a work in our hearts to make us conform to His will even in our feelings and desires, and the will of our flesh no longer has a hold on us. *"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do"* (Galatians 5:16-17). *"Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, and He will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday"* (Psalms 37:4-6).

There are two ways to think on Ps. 37:4. First, if we delight ourselves in the Lord, He will give us our heart's desire. Second, if we delight ourselves in the Lord, He will put the right desires in our heart. I have found both to be true in my own experience. As I delight in Him, my desires become what He desires for me and others. Then, those very desires that I am asking of Him, He gives. What a wonderful God we have! Our wonderful Father does not want a slave relationship with us. He wants us to discover Him, His heart, and His will. He tells us life eternal is in order that we may know Him! (John 17:3) He wants us to know Him, not just to come to Him as a slave master. He does not force submission. He reveals Himself to us, which makes us unable to do anything other than to adore and worship Him, to delight in Him, and to desire His perfect will, even when it is a sacrifice for us. When we are "in the Spirit," we are being filled with the Spirit and with the will of the Spirit.

Under the law there was more of the slave/master type of relationship:

"As to man, the law and the ordinances were only bondage. They aimed at bridling the will without its being changed" (J.N. Darby, Galatians 4).



Grace and peace is how Paul greeted the church in Ephesus. Grace gives us the enablement to know Him, love Him, love His will, and to do it. Peace is the outcome. We stand in all God has done for us and in us, trusting alone in His work, His power, His provision, submitting ourselves to Him as we abide in Him—by that grace, then, we find the Father’s will to be increasingly the pure will of our hearts. And only in submission to His will do we find peace from the conflict of the soul. It is our hope and promise that one day the conflict will be over forever. We will have the most perfect peace at that time—more than we can now comprehend, for we will be in His likeness and in His presence, where nothing can ever again be in His presence that is not conformed to that blessed will. *“For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness”* (Galatians 5:5). *“Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we*

*know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure”* (1 John 3:2-3).

Knowing this, it stands to reason that we should do all we can do and as much as we can to embrace, love, and cherish the Father’s will—to seek it, know it, and submit to it. Ultimately, we will live in the Father’s will perfectly. It is in His will alone that we are made complete, whole, and can have His peace. Even so Father, work Your will in our hearts! Deliver us from all that hinders it in us and around us. In Jesus name, Amen.



By Maria Madsen

## A Scriptural Primer: THE FATHER'S WILL

There are many wills at work in this fallen world, but only one is above all and only one is good – God's will. Let's look together at some verses describing the Father's will.

### CREATION WAS AN ACT OF GOD'S WILL

*"Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created"* (Revelation 4:11 NASB).

*"God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day"* (Genesis 1:31).

### GOD'S WORD IS AN ACT OF HIS WILL

*"But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God"* (2 Peter 1:20-21).

### LUCIFER'S REBELLION – AN ACT OF SELF-WILL IN OPPOSITION TO GOD'S WILL

Lucifer was the first of God's creation to rebel against God's will. *"You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God... You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you. By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And*

*I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire"* (Ezekiel 28:12b, 14-16).

Lucifer's Fall is the pattern of every rebellion against God, for rebellion is self-willed. *"But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High'"* (Isaiah 14:13-14).

Even when Jesus came to do His Father's will, satan tried to subvert God's purpose by tempting Jesus to participate in his rebellion by acting on His self-will. Satan showed Him *"all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, 'I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours'"* (Luke 4:5-7).

### MAN'S REBELLION – AN ACT OF SELF-WILL IN OPPOSITION TO GOD'S WILL

Lucifer brought his rebellion to man and tempted them to follow his pattern and rebel against God by choosing their own will over God's will. In so doing, he became satan, the "adversary" of mankind ("satan" means "to lie in wait, adversary, and accuser").

*"Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Indeed, has God said, "You shall not eat from any tree of the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die."'" The serpent said to the woman, 'You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' When the woman saw that the*



tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate" (Genesis 3:1-6).

As a result, "there is none righteous, not even one; There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one" (Romans 3:10b-12).

As a human being, Paul said, "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want" (Romans 7:18-19).

Our rebelliousness is in honor of satan's rebellion against God's will. Jesus told the Pharisees, "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44).

#### IN THE FALLEN WORLD, WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR MANKIND?

Mankind became self-willed rather than obedient to God's will. We became enemies of God, yet He did not desire mankind to perish but to be saved: "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance**" (2 Peter 3:9).

"First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of **God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to**

**come to the knowledge of the truth**" (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

"What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. **So it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish**" (Matthew 18:12-14).

#### GOD'S WILL FOR MANKIND WENT FORWARD AFTER THEIR REBELLION

"THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART, AND ON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM,' He then says, 'AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE'" (Hebrews 10:16-17).

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:16-18).

"For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God" (1 Peter 4:6).

#### GOD BROUGHT SALVATION TO MAN THROUGH HIS SON

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the

foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight **He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him** with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will" (Ephesians 1:3-11).

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, **according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory**

forevermore. Amen" (Galatians 1:3-5).

**"For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day"** (John 6:40).

"Who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:13).

"Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, **to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.** We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ" (Colossians 1:25-28).

*"In EVERYTHING give THANKS;  
for this is God's WILL for you in  
Christ JESUS."*

*(1 Thessalonians 5:18)*





*"In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures" (James 1:18).*

God's will is beautiful for us: *"Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, 'I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,' says the Lord. 'AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAR; And I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,' Says the Lord Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6:16-18).*

As Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, said, *"For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother" (Matthew 12:50).*

#### GOD'S WILL IS GOOD FOR THE CHILD OF GOD

*"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come" (John 16:13).*

*"For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).*

*"And He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:27).*

*"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you" (John 15:7).*

*"This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us" (1 John 5:14).*

*"Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right" (1 Peter 4:19).*

*"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).*

#### WHAT ARE SOME PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF GOD'S WILL IN OUR LIVES?

*"For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light" (Colossians 1:9-12).*

*"For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you" (1 Thessalonians 4:3-6).*

*"Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,*

even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:4-12).

"For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls" (1 Peter 2:21-25).

"The one who practices sin is of the devil; for

the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8).

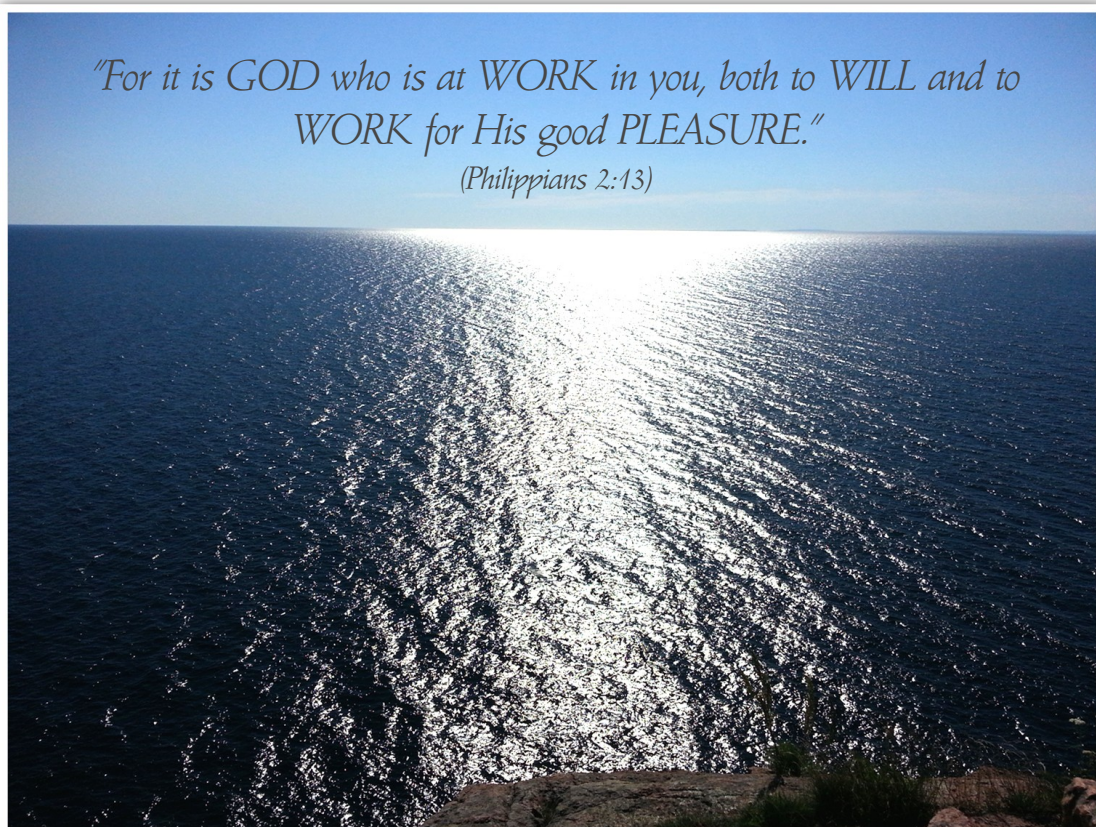
"In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

"For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised" (Hebrews 10:36).

"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Timothy 1:8-10).

"For it is GOD who is at WORK in you, both to WILL and to WORK for His good PLEASURE."

(Philippians 2:13)





*"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.' Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that'" (James 4:13-15).*

*"For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bond-slaves of God" (1 Peter 2:15-16).*

*"Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God" (1 Peter 4:1-2).*

*"Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor" (1 Corinthians 10:24).*

*"But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (1 Corinthians 12:7).*

*"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2).*

*"Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:15-17).*

#### JESUS OBEYED THE FATHER'S WILL

*"THEN I SAID, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE COME (IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME) TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD'" After saying above, 'SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS AND WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN YOU HAVE*

*NOT DESIRED, NOR HAVE YOU TAKEN PLEASURE in them' (which are offered according to the Law), then He said, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL.' He takes away the first in order to establish the second. By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:7-10).*

*"Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work'" (John 4:34).*

*"I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me" (John 5:30).*

*"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day" (John 6:38-39).*

*"So Jesus answered them and said, 'My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself. He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him'" (John 7:16-18).*

*"If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him" (John 12:26).*

*"When day came, Jesus left and went to a secluded place; and the crowds were searching for Him, and came to Him and tried to keep Him from going away from them. But He said to them, 'I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose'" (Luke 4:42-43).*

*Knowing His agony was near, Jesus said, "Now My soul has become troubled; and what*

shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour" (John 12:27).

"And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will'... He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done'" (Matthew 26:39, 42).

### THE APOSTLES OBEYED THE FATHER'S WILL

The Apostles imitated Jesus in His obedience to His Father's will. Paul says, "To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

**This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him**" (Ephesians 3:8-12).

The will of God for Paul was to go to the whole world "to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me" (Acts 26:18).

### DANGER OF THE SELF-WILLED

"But the Pharisees and the lawyers **rejected God's purpose** for themselves, not having been baptized by John" (Luke 7:30).

"But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these" (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

"For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, **not self-willed**, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain" (Titus 1:7).

"Then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, **self-willed**, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties" (2 Peter 2:9-10).

The "will of man" is really the captivity of satan to do his will: "The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from **the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will**" (2 Timothy 2:24-26).

### GOD'S WILL IS OVER ALL, AND HIS PURPOSE ALWAYS GOES FORWARD

"For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute. In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise **the unchangeableness of His purpose**, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us" (Hebrews 6:16-18).

"David, **after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation**, fell asleep, and



was laid among his fathers and underwent decay; but He whom God raised did not undergo decay. Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you" (Acts 13:36).

When the chief priests and elders forbade Peter and John from obeying the will of God to speak about Jesus, they told the other disciples, "and when they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, 'O Lord, it is You who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM, who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, "WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE, AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS? THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST." For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, **to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.** And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus'" (Acts 4:24-30).

"For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, 'For this very purpose **I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you,** and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth'" (Romans 9:17).

Even in the last days, when the Beast is on the earth, "**God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose** by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled" (Revelation 17:17).

#### GOD'S WILL FOR THE BELIEVER IN JESUS

"The world is passing away, and also its lusts;

but the one who does the will of God lives forever" (1 John 2:17).

"He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations" (Revelation 2:26).

"He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son" (Revelation 21:7).

"For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge" (2 Corinthians 5:4-5).

"But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death. For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, 'All things are put in subjection,' it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all" (1 Corinthians 15:20-28).

"Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen" (Hebrews 13:20-21).

## CHRISTMAS—The Promise of the Messiah, JESUS

After the fall in Eden, God told the serpent that the Messiah would come through woman:

*"And I will put enmity  
Between you and the woman,  
And between your seed and her seed;  
He shall bruise you on the head,  
And you shall bruise him on the heel." (Genesis 3:15 NASB)*

This was well understood because Eve believed her first child was the Messiah, for when *"she conceived and gave birth to Cain,"* the literal translation of what she declared was, *I have gotten a man, the Lord, with the LORD* (Genesis 4:1). Unfortunately for Eve, while she correctly understood God's promise, the birth of the Messiah would not come in her lifetime, but in the life of her great, great, great...granddaughter Mary.

God gave Isaiah more revelation about the coming Messiah:

*"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)*

*"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;  
And the government will rest on His shoulders;  
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

*There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace,  
On the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness  
From then on and forevermore.*

*The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this." (Isaiah 9:6-7)*

The Promise of the Messiah was finally fulfilled in the days of Mary:

*"Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.'*

*But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.'*

*Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. For nothing will be impossible with God.' And Mary said, 'Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.' And the angel departed from her." (Luke 1:35-38)*



## Wise Men Follow the Rock

By Jane Titrud

This past summer, my daughter and I had the privilege of traveling to Moab, Utah, to visit Arches National Park. The park was even more impressive than I had imagined it would be with its many natural stone arches and other unusual rock formations, and I highly recommend it to others.

One formation that particularly caught my eye was a series of pinnacles that resembled three human figures. In person these were very large and grand. Their official name is “The Three Gossips,” but to me they more resembled “The Three Kings” we sing about at Christmas time. I have included a picture with this article so that you can judge this for yourselves.

Notice in the picture what appear to be three human figures that all seem to be facing the same direction rather than talking amongst themselves. For this reason, I don’t think they look like gossips at all. They rather have the appearance of three travelers—or the kings, if you will—who were following the star of Bethlehem. I can even “see” them riding on camels. Can you? Oh well, if it doesn’t look like that to you, it does to me. That is why I had my daughter take the picture, so I could use it in some way at Christmas time.

Of course these pinnacles are only rocks and not really people at all. They just appear to be travelers—at least to me. But two thoughts immediately came to mind when I originally saw them. First, I remembered the phrase I had seen several times on Christmas cards and mugs to the effect that “Wise Men Still Follow Him.” Second, I thought of the



By Pam Titrud

way the Bible compares God to a rock and how He wants us to follow and become like Him.

Some of the verses that compare God to a rock are as follows:

*“The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.”*  
(Deuteronomy 32:4 NASB)

*“There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides Thee, Nor is there any rock like our God.”*  
(1 Samuel 2:2)

*“For Thou art my rock and my fortress; For Thy name’s sake Thou wilt lead me and guide me.”* (Psalm 31:3)

*“He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken.”*  
(Psalm 62:2)

*“Trust in the LORD forever, For in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock.”*  
(Isaiah 26:4)

There are several more such verses in the Bible as well, all of which together describe the LORD our God as solid, stable, strong, enduring, everlasting, a fortress, and a protector—things that are also characteristic of true physical rocks. Like a rock, our God is sure and unchanging.

The fact that God wants us to follow Him is also evident in the Scriptures. One can see this in both the Old and New Testaments. Note, for instance, this verse from the Old Testament: *“And Samuel said to the people, ‘Do not fear. You have committed all this evil, yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. And you must not turn aside, for then you would go after futile things which can not profit or deliver, because they are futile.’”* (1 Samuel 12:20-21).

In the New Testament, following God the Father translates into following His Son, for this too is the will of the Father. Jesus said:

*“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ...I and the Father are one”* (John 10:27, 30).

And again, *“If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant also be; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him”* (John 12:26).

This brings us back to the title of this article, “Wise Men Follow the Rock.” There is wisdom in following the will of the Father in that this leads us to a place of stability despite the uncertainties of this life. The result is peace, safety, and security. That is why He is described in the Scriptures in terms of being our rock. Following the will of the Father also tends to make us more like Him. What is more, following Him keeps us from going after futile things, which the prophet Samuel said *“cannot profit or deliver”* us (see 1 Samuel 12:20-21 above).

People are followers, plain and simple. Anyone who chooses not to follow God’s will will end up following something or someone else, and the result will not be good.

The original wise men of the Bible followed the star because it promised to lead them to the prophesied king of Israel—the Messiah. Now that He has come into the world, those who are wise continue to follow Him in order to be with Him forever. This is the hope of the Gospel. This is also the meaning of Christmas. And may yours be a blessed one.





## Jesus Came to Do the Father's Will

By Lynn Warner

Jesus declared that He came down from heaven to do His Father's will in John 6:38-40: *"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent Me, that of all which He hath given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of Him that sent Me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise Him up at the last day"* (KJV). Jesus, the Word of God, brought the faithful and true testimony of the Father's will to earth. This testimony was that everyone who sees the Son and believes on Him may have everlasting life, and Jesus will raise him up on the last day. The Father's will is that of all He gives Jesus, Jesus should lose nothing but raise it up at the last day.

Jesus came to do the Father's will. The Father's will was to take away the old covenant of law and sacrifices for the covering of sin and to establish the new covenant of grace by the willing sacrifice of His Son for the taking away of sin. Hebrews 10:4-5 and 7-10 explains this: *"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when He cometh into the*

*world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering Thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared Me...Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do Thy will, O God. Above when He said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin Thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said He, Lo, I come to do Thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that He may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."* These Scriptures show that it was prophesied that Jesus would come to earth to do God's will. God's will was to end the Old Covenant of daily sacrifices for the covering of sin and introduce a better way. This better way, the New Covenant, was the sacrifice of Jesus "once for all," to take away sin for all who see and believe on Jesus.

Jesus came to do the Father's will. He did His Father's will by being obedient to the Father. We read in Hebrews that His Father prepared a body for Jesus, a body that would be crucified to take away the sins of the world. In Philippians 2:8, we read that *"being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* Obedience to the Father in humility is the Father's will.

Jesus came to do the Father's will. Obedience in keeping God's commandments gave Him joy – He delighted to do God's will. In

*"...UNDERSTAND what the WILL of the LORD is." (Ephesians 5:17b)*



By Nathan Warner

John 15:10-13, He states: *"If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love. These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is My commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."*

Keeping God's commandments, the commandment of loving one another as Jesus loves us, is God's will. The love we are to follow is the love that sacrifices for another. We are to follow Jesus in doing the Father's will.

Jesus came to do the Father's will. Jesus came to earth to testify of His Father's will and to reveal Him and His love. He did this in both word and action. His words were the words He heard from His Father, as He said in John 8:38: *"I speak that which I have seen*

*with My Father and ye do that which ye have seen with your father."* His actions were obedience, even being *"obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* Jesus' attitude was one of joy and delight in keeping God's commandments in love. He knew how to love people. His time, words, and actions were not His own; they were His Father's will, words, and actions. We read of no hobbies, entertainment, or collections of material goods. Instead, we read that He often slipped away from the people to spend time alone with His Father and learn from Him what to say and do. Even His nourishment was doing the Father's will, as He declared in John 4:34b: *"My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work."* We know from what is written that Jesus came to do His Father's will.



*"Now My SOUL has become TROUBLED;  
and WHAT shall I say, Father, SAVE Me  
from this hour? But for this PURPOSE I  
came to this HOUR."*

*(John 12:27)*

By Lynn Warner



## January/February Newsletter Theme— CREATION

**Submission Deadline: January 29**

**Publish Date: February 7**



### Creation...

- What is creation?
- How do we relate to creation?
- How does Jesus relate to creation?
- How many creations are there?

### Verses on Creation (from the NASB version)

**Genesis 1:1** — *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*

**Mark 10:6-8** — *“But from the beginning of creation, God MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE. FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; so they are no longer two, but one flesh.”*

**Romans 1:20** — *“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”*

**Romans 8:19-23** — *“For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.”*

**Colossians 1:15-16** — *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.”*

Further Out—Mar/Apr 2017: THE NARROW WAY