

The Last Will and Testament of Jesus Christ

By Pastor Hollis Partlowe



"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" (Heb. 9:16, 17).

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The New Testament is in the form of a will. It is in fact the last will and testament of Jesus Christ. Now a will is in force after the death of the testator or the one who made the will.

Perhaps you have made a will. All adults should have one. In that way, one can have his possessions disposed of in the way he chooses before "he goes the way of all the earth" and keeps his appointment with death. (1 Kings 2:2; Heb. 9:27.) It would certainly be appropriate and a part of faithful stewardship to remember the work of Jesus Christ in your will.

Furthermore, it is vitally important that couples with small children have a will in case both of them are killed in an accident. Otherwise, the state will have custody of their under age children.

When studying the New Testament, we must keep in mind that the law covenant was in full force until Jesus died. Then it ended and the New Testament came into full force.

"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" (Heb. 9:16, 17). The New Testament is in the form of a will. It could not come into force until the death of Christ, the one who made the will. During His earthly ministry the law covenant made with Israel was passing away and the new "will" was being written. At the cross the old one ended and the new one came into full force. The new covenant was not made with any one nation, but with each individual who accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Jesus did not come to patch up the old law covenant and extend it to the nations. (Mark 2:21.) The law covenant was for the age of the law and was made with Israel only. It extended from Moses to Calvary. The new

covenant is for the gospel dispensation and is freely offered to all peoples, nations, and tribes from calvary to the second coming. Keep this in mind, and the Bible will make better sense to you. This uniting of all believers from all nations into the body of Christ is one of the things that gives the church its distinct character—its uniqueness.

The law covenant ended at calvary and the New Testament came into force, the testator having died. "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator."

A man has power over his estate as long as he lives. After death he is powerless to change anything. Once he has died the will stands. Until death the will can be altered, changed, or destroyed. It may be revised, corrected, or withdrawn. It may be superseded by another will. In such cases the last will makes all preceding wills and testaments null and void.

The law covenant with Israel was never intended to be eternal for obvious reasons. "For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. . . . When He said, 'A new covenant,' He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear" (Heb. 8:7, 13, NASB).

In wills that men make, many loopholes may be found. A judge may misinterpret the will, lawyers may confuse the issue, and there is nothing the testator can do. He is dead. However, this could never happen to Jesus' will in which we are heirs of salvation. Our Lord made His last will and testament and legalized it and sealed it by His death. Proof of His death has been established.

Moreover, after He died He rose to personally administer

His will. He ascended to sit on the bench as chief justice of the supreme court of God. This never happened in any other case and probably never will.

Full possession of our inheritance awaits the return of Christ, but we have a down payment—a first installment on this eternal inheritance. Paul the apostle tells us that we have been “sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise which is the earnest of our inheritance . . .” (Eph. 1:13, 14). That is to say, we have the down payment with assurance of more to come. We are children of God, “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ . . .” (Rom. 8:17). “He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son” (Rev. 21:7).

Our redemption is potentially complete, but in experience it is incomplete. Now we have the “earnest,” the down payment. (Eph. 1:14.) We are justified and complete in Christ. Our redemption is in three stages: past, present, and future. In Christ our redemption is complete, our position is settled; but in experience we must wait till the second coming for the final stage of our salvation.

The cross stands forever as evidence of unfailing love. The cross is also the place where God’s wrath was poured out against sin. Jesus Christ suffered the wrath for a sinful world. The hymn writer, Elvina M. Hall, said it well:

*“ Jesus paid it all,
All to him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.”*

Have you realized that Jesus made a will? Perhaps you think

(Please turn to page 6)

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF JESUS CHRIST

I, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, do hereby make My last Will and Testament. By this instrument the former Old Will, made with Israel under the works of the law, is hereby revoked; and this New Will shall supersede all others. It shall be administered under the principle of grace without discrimination of place or race.

To all who will receive Me I give the right to become the children of God.

I will give to him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. And whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.

I bequeath to you everything needed for a life of godliness, including the forgiveness of sins and all the riches of My grace.

And behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

This bequest shall be preserved, undiminished, non-negotiable, and kept inviolate until claimed by the beneficiary in person. You may claim your share of this inheritance by identifying yourself as one of those named in the Will. I further will that each beneficiary shall be safely guarded and kept by the power of God until he claims his full inheritance. In the meantime a partial distribution is to be made on demand, and a 10,000 percent dividend declared for all who forsake everything for My sake and the gospel's.

In Witness Whereof:

The Father and all the Holy Angels

Attest:

The Blood of Christ

Jerusalem, A.D. 33

Signed with a cross

The Lamb of God



(Continued from page 3)

that no one ever remembered you in a will. You're wrong! If you make it to the Kingdom of God, it is because Jesus remembered you in His. Christ died with your name on His lips.

They say a man can't make a will that lawyers can't break, but I challenge them to break this one. No judge or jury can set this one aside. Then, too, Christ arose to execute His own will. If He had left us a lot of money, thieves would have stolen it in the first century and we would be in a sad state of affairs.

Think of the tremendous wealth we are to inherit. The cross on which Jesus died was not His. It was meant for Barabbas but, more importantly, that cross was yours and mine. When we die, others may collect our insurance. Likewise, the death of Christ provided us with the legacy of eternal life.

Jesus Christ never suggested that all religions are equal. He never said that all religious leaders are of equal authority. Rather He said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). The Son of God established the one perfect religion for all mankind. Since He is the way, why follow any other way? Our salvation is already provided. You are included in Jesus' will, but you have to claim your inheritance.

Just before Jesus died on the cross, He said: "It is finished" (John 19:30), meaning His sacrificial work was completed. God's holiness had been satisfied. Christ's death for the payment of man's sin had been accepted in the court of high heaven. God demonstrated this point clearly by raising His Son from the dead. "Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification" (Rom. 4:25). We have clear-

cut evidence that Christ's work on the cross has been accepted on our behalf.

Friend, you may claim your share of this inheritance by identifying yourself as one of those named in the will. And contrary to popular opinion, the beneficiaries are not people who are naturally good, but those who are without moral strength, the ungodly, the enemies of God. While we were "yet sinners," "when we were enemies" of God, "Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8-10).

The Last Will and Testament of Jesus Christ: I recommend to you a careful reading of the full document available in most bookstores under the title *New Testament*. You see, friends, when Jesus died on the cross the world was given a new hope.

Today, during His heavenly ministry, Jesus serves as our High Priest, Mediator, and Advocate. (Heb. 4:14-16; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 John 2:1.)

We have the word "concede"; it means to "go with."

We have the word "precede"; it means to "go before."

We have the word "intercede"; it means to "go between."

Today Jesus is our "go between." He ever lives to make intercession for us. (Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34.) "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5).

The way into God's presence has been established. This is true because a death has taken place. Believers can now approach God "by a new and living way" which Jesus has opened up for us. (Heb. 10:20.) This availability to the throne of God was unknown to God's people in the Old Testament. But the death of Christ has fully satisfied all redemptive requirements and this makes possible forgiveness and eternal inheritance.

The New Testament is viewed as a Testament (or covenant, or will) that has been sealed by the death of Him that made it. His shed blood assures both parties, God and us, that ratification has taken place. That event secures both forgiveness and eternal inheritance in the coming Kingdom of God. Although none of us deserve it, it is abundantly free to all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise God for His grace!

The death of Christ divides the Old Testament from the New Testament. That is where we get the names for the two divisions of the Bible.

The day before Jesus died He called the disciples together in the upper room and explained what was about to happen. He blessed the bread and cup and called the cup “my blood of the New Testament” (Matt. 26:26-30). We have a covenant relationship with our God.

Calvary was not an afterthought of God. It was God’s forethought, since He had planned for the atonement by “the lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Rev. 13:8). Believers in this age of the church have a “better covenant [testament], which was established upon better promises” (Heb. 8:6). The law covenant made with Israel has now been superseded and displaced. Jesus Christ, by offering His own blood once and for all, has satisfied the justice and holiness of God eternally. (Heb. 10:9-14.)

When we accept Christ, we enter into the benefits of the new covenant, and we become God’s covenant people in the church age. Our security is guaranteed by the blood of Christ. You and I would be lost forever apart from His sacrifice, for “without shedding of blood is no remission” of sin. (Heb. 9:22.) Our only hope for eternity is on this basis.

**Atlanta Bible College
Church of God General Conference
P. O. Box 2950
McDonough, GA 30253
678-833-1839**

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