

THE LORD'S WILL (Part 4)

Deductive Will: Contingencies

1. His DETERMINED Will

"For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed."
Acts 17:31

2. His DESIRED Will

"He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." 2
Peter 3:9

This week we continue our focus on **DEDUCTIVE WILL**.

What is a DEDUCTIVE WILL?

Our decisions and choices in this life through which God accomplishes His will.

<i>DETERMINED WILL</i>	<i>God's decision--independent of us</i>
<i>DESIRED WILL</i>	<i>God's decision--Our participation</i>
<i>DEDUCTIVE WILL</i>	<i>Our decisions--God's participation</i>

There are three specific areas of deductive reasoning that affect our decisions in this life:

CIRCUMSTANCES CONTINGENCIES COUNSEL

CIRCUMSTANCES require us to make decisions on the path we will take. In our lesson last week, we looked at the possibility that not all circumstances are presented by the Lord. Here is a brief summary:

1. Not all circumstances are good for us...

--Jesus' temptations were not presented by God!

2. Circumstances may be opportunities...

--How we respond to circumstances can accomplish the working of the Lord's will in our lives!

3. How can I know what is good?

--"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." (James 1:5)

What is a contingency and how does it affect the will of God?

- *An event that may occur but that is not likely or intended; a possibility...*
- *Given the definition, we are considering the notion that our decisions need to include the possibility of events that have not yet taken place.*
- *To illustrate, let's read Matthew 17:24-27.*

Jesus clearly employed a contingency in His decision to pay the temple tax. If He is exempt—why did He feel the need to pay it?

"...so that we may not _____ them..."

Thinking of others...first

Let's read some direction from the Spirit of God in this matter. Turn to Philippians 2:1-4.

- united with Christ...fellowship with Spirit...tenderness...
- consider others better than yourselves
- look to the interests of others

We also see this direction in Romans 14:13-18.

- verse 14 states that no food is unclean—just like Jesus claimed exemption from the temple tax.
- BUT—just as Jesus chose to pay because of a contingency—not to offend the tax collectors—we are directed to consider before we eat how it may affect our brothers in Christ.
- You may have a right to do whatever you wish—but as a Christian, you care how it affects others!

Let's make the connection!

- Jesus made a decision based on a contingency...His actions could have offended the tax collectors.
- The Spirit of God directs us to make our decisions contingent upon others.

**“...anyone who _____ Christ in this way
is _____ to God and approved by men.”**

(Romans 14:18)