






## Hebrews 9:16-17


The Gospel of Christ:  
Legal Aspects of His Last Will &  
Testament ... and Ramifications


- 
- Hebrews 9:11-22
  - Covenant: agreement or contract between two parties. In classic sense, the superior gives to the inferior a contract, and the inferior accepts its demands and responsibilities, and the superior promises to take care of the inferior
  - Hebrews 9:16-17 – covenant translated “testament” in the sense of a last will and testament


- 
- Features of a last will or testament:
    - Testator
    - Gift or gifts to be bestowed
    - Conditions upon which the will and its directives will be administered
    - Death of the testator in order for the will to go into effect
    - Probation or approval for the will to be executed
    - Appointed executor(s) of the will
    - Heir or heirs, recipients, beneficiaries


*We find all of these in the will or testament of Christ*

- 
- The last will or testament of Jesus Christ is the new covenant, the New Testament, the gospel of Jesus Christ
    - v.15
    - 2 Corinthians 3:6
    - Romans 15:16


- 
- The testator is Christ
    - v.11
    - Hebrews 1:1-2
      - Heaven's spokesman in the last days
    - Hebrews 10:9
      - Came to do the will of His Father
    - In our context, Jesus is not only the testator but the High Priest, the Sacrifice, and the Mediator of the testament


- 
- The gift to be bestowed by this last will and testament is salvation with all of its accompanying blessings and promises
    - Hebrews 10:22; 9:14
      - Cleansing
    - Hebrews 2:10
      - Salvation
    - Hebrews 10:10
      - Sanctification
    - Hebrews 8:6
      - Better promises
    - Hebrews 7:19
      - Better hope


- 
- The last will or testament of Christ specifies conditions upon which the benefits are to be received
    - Matthew 28:18-20
    - Mark 16:15-16
    - Luke 24:46-49
    - Summarized:
      - Gospel preached
      - Hear
      - Repent
      - Be baptized
      - Obtain remission of sins
      - Taught to observe all things commanded
    - No exceptions given nor shown!
    - Remain faithful
      - Hebrews 10:36-39
      - Hebrews 5:8-9


- 
- In order for the last will or testament of Christ to be in force, there must be the death of the testator
    - Hebrews 9:12, 28
    - By His death:
      - Hebrews 10:9-10
        - Took away the first that the second could be established
        - Could not establish, enact, put into force, the will unless He died
        - Could not establish, enact, put into force, the will unless the first covenant was taken away
      - Hebrews 9:14; 1:3
        - Purged our sins
      - Hebrews 9:15
        - Purged sins that were committed under the first covenant
    - But He lives forever
      - Hebrews 7:24



- 
- The last will or testament, the new covenant, could be said to have been probated or approved
    - Romans 1:4
    - Hebrews 9:24; 1:3


- 
- A will names executors of the will. Before Jesus died, He appointed men who would administer the gospel of Christ. They were His apostles.
    - John 14:26
    - Matthew 10:19-20
    - Great commission given to them – Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24
    - Clothed with power from on high in Acts 2
      - Acts 2:42
    - Ambassadors for Christ – 2 Corinthians 5:20

- 
- The will of Christ specifies the heirs, the beneficiaries of the gifts to be bestowed.
    - Hebrews 1:14; 6:17
    - Galatians 3:26-29
    - No partiality
      - Acts 10:34-35




There is a great dividing line to be acknowledged regarding the last will or testament

- The death of the testator
  - The death of Jesus upon the cross
- That death established the new will and did away with the first
  - Hebrews 10:9-10
- Cannot go back to the old covenant for authority in religion
  - Burning of incense, mechanical instruments of music, etc.




During the lifetime of the testator, the testator is free to dispense blessings as He chooses...and  
Jesus did

- Understood: Christ always did the will of His Father.
- Consider the thief on the cross
  - Luke 23:39-43
- And others...
  - The paralytic, Mark 2:5
  - The sinful woman, Luke 8:48
- Such cases before the death of the testator have no bearing upon the conditions of the will!




During the lifetime of the testator, the will can be taught and made known...and Jesus did.

- Yes, a law can be made known before it goes into effect, before it is in force
- Hebrews 2:1-4
- Matthew 4:23
- Luke 16:16
- Must accept the teachings of Jesus in the accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John as part of His last will and testament!
  - Matthew 19:9 applies to all men





The legality of a will or testament does not nullify or diminish at all the grace of the testator

- The last will and testament with its conditions does not nullify the grace of God
- It is through that will or testament of Christ, that second covenant, the gospel of Christ, that we...
  - Know, believe, obey, and receive the blessings

- 
- “You are being very legalistic when you keep going back to what is written in that will”
    - Really?
    - You mean you want the testator’s last will and testament, for it specifies the gifts the testator wants dispensed, but you don’t want the part in His last will and testament that tells of the conditions to receive them?



- 
- “You are being very legalistic about this will when you talk about conditions being in that will. Where’s the grace then? You are limiting the grace of God.”
  - The grace is in the testator who made the will!
    - John 10:10
    - John 6:63
  - The grace is in His blood He shed to enact that will!
    - Matthew 26:28
    - John 15:13
  - The grace is in the teachings of that will!
    - Titus 2:11-14
  - Reject any of these, and ask yourself: “Who is limiting the grace of God?”




Just as nobody outside the conditions of a man's will receives its blessings, so with the will of Christ – the will has said who will receive the blessings, and no man has a right to grant or deny any beyond that.

- Therefore...
  - Abide by the terms of will
  - Preach terms of will
- “What about the person who dies on the way to being baptized; will he be condemned because he was not baptized?”
  - You and I cannot go outside the terms of the will



When men discard or ignore any part of the will, the testament, they are violating that last will and testament.

- ALL of the last will and testament of Christ must be accepted and followed.
  - John 12:48
  - Romans 2:16
  - His will was revealed, confirmed, sealed, is perfect, and unchangeable
- Those who reject or violate His last will and testament are subject to some other terms of the will.
  - Hebrews 6:4-6
  - Hebrews 10:26-29



What will you do with the last will and testament of Jesus Christ?

Will you be an heir by responding to its terms?

Will you remain in its grace or will you cast away your inheritance?