

March 2011 Theme: **“ACCORDING TO THE COUNSEL OF HIS WILL”**

EVENING WORSHIP

6 March 2011

Title: **“BY THE WILL OF GOD”**

Text: **Colossians 1**

(I) DEFINING THE WILL OF GOD

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother” Colossians 1:1

1. Meaning of the word “will” (thelema)

- a) Simply, it is what one wishes or desires
- b) It has to do with one’s desire or will to do something

2. Man’s will

- a) Superficial
- b) Most uncertain
- c) No guarantee
- d) Many times the will of man remained unfulfilled

3. Some elements of God’s will

- a) It is the wishes and the desires of God
- b) Much thought involved
- c) Planning
- d) Depth
- e) Always fulfilled
- v) Most certain

(II) AN EXAMPLE OF APPLYING THE WILL OF GOD

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother" Colossians 1:1

How do we see the will of God being applied in Paul's life?

1. Paul's life was determined by the will of God

- a) By... "dia" ...by means of, instrumental
- b) "Means" would indicate that Paul's life was pre-determined by the will of God

2. The will of God was decreed as His calling for Paul

- a) He was specially chosen and called by God

"But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel." Acts 9:16

- b) It was God's will for Him

"Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will,'" Acts 22:14

3. The will of God was confirmed in the life of Paul

- a) The direction for his life
- b) The destiny of his life

(III) THE CHALLENGE OF FULFILLING THE WILL OF GOD

1. Paul was able to respond to God's will

- a) He had a deep understanding of the will of God
- b) He submitted to the will of God
- c) He proved himself by following the will of God
- d) He could speak of being an apostle of Christ by the will of God

2. A personal challenge

- a) Do we truly understand by definition what the Will of God is?
- b) Do we have an example as to how we should apply the will of God?
- c) Do we have the outworking of the will of God in our lives?