

# Colossians Series

## Lesson #62

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Dean Bible Ministries

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A landscape photograph showing a valley with a field of trees in the foreground, a large hill in the middle ground, and mountains in the background under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

**COLOSSIANS:**  
**Jesus Christ is All-Sufficient**

**How to KNOW the Will of God –**

**Part IV**

**Wisdom**

**Colossians 3:15**

**Col. 3:15, “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”**

**So,**

**How DO we know God's will?**

**You have heard it said....**

- **That God has a perfect will for every decision in our lives**

**But I say to you...**

- **This is not biblical**
- **This is a form of mysticism**

**Heb. 12:14, “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:”**

- 1. The term “will of God” describes three aspects of divine volition in relation to His creation.**

- a. **God's sovereign will** with regard to His creation, where He brings to pass what He wills and what He has decreed.

**Decretive will of God**  
**Sovereign will of God**  
**Secret will of God**

**We only know this after the fact.**

**b. God's moral will sometimes also called His revealed will: this refers to what God has revealed man is to do. This is also called God's desired will.**

**The Torah expressed God's moral will for Israel, not for the Gentiles.**

**God expressed His specific geographical will or specific operational will through special revelation.**

**God's specific will, functional, operational, or geographical is always expressed through special revelation.**

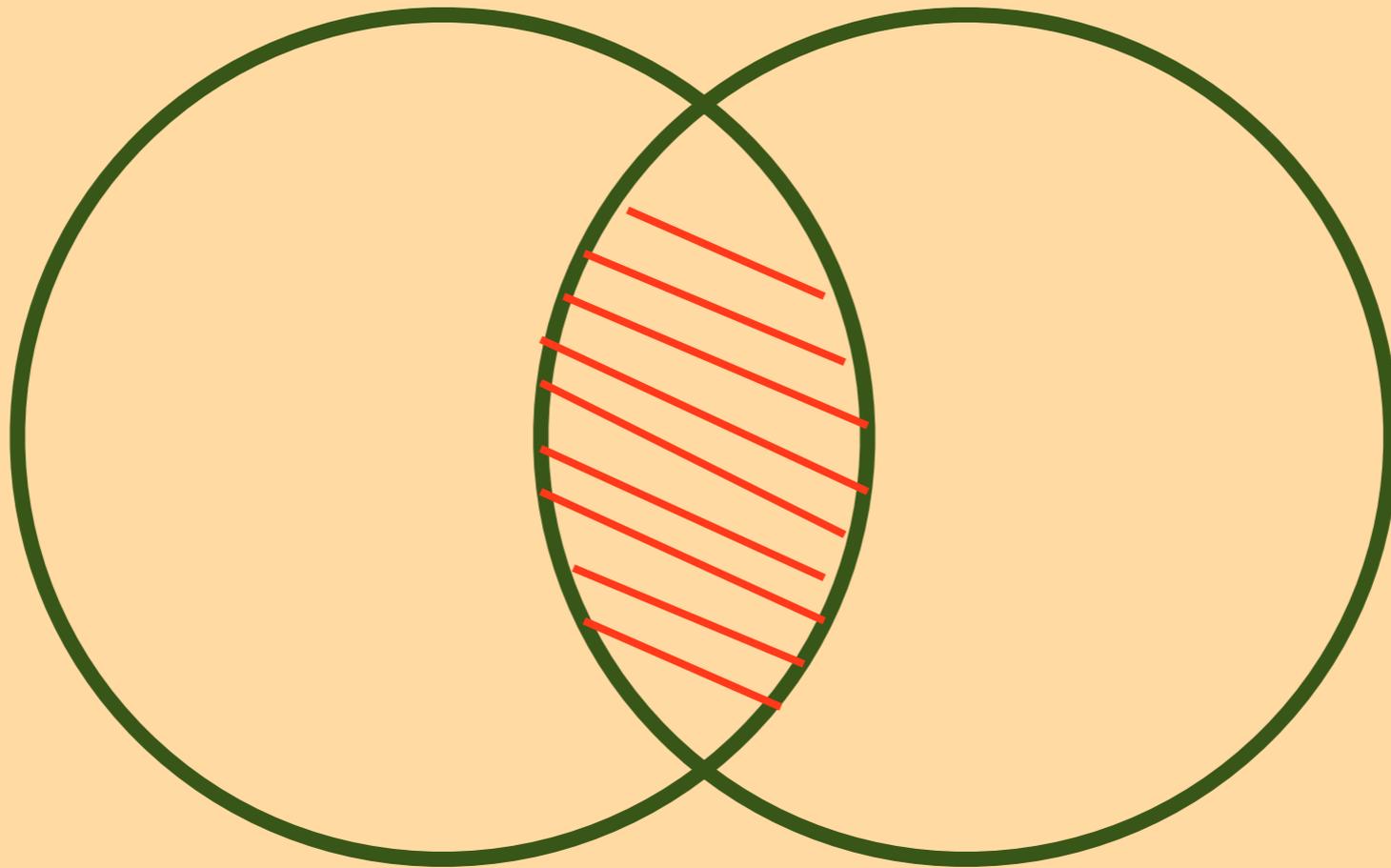
**c. God's overriding will.**

**When we make decisions contrary to God's sovereign will He prevents us from accomplishing those decisions.**

**Example: Jonah**

**God's Sovereign  
Will**

**God's Moral/  
Revealed Will**



# God's Moral/ Revealed Will

Boundaries defined  
by the mandates,  
imperatives,  
prohibitions in  
Scripture



Inside of God's  
moral, revealed will

Outside of God's  
moral, revealed will

**10. Knowing God's will is based on the knowledge of doctrine that has been assimilated in the soul, that God the Holy Spirit teaches us doctrine and through that He guides and leads us (Gal. 5:18).**

**Col. 4:12, “Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bondslave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured [mature and sufficient, complete] in all the will of God.”**

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

**Eph. 5:17, “So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”**

**Eph. 6:6, “not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.”**

**The will of God is fixed in our souls and lives through the ministry of God the Holy Spirit.**

**11. As we learn doctrine and the HS stores the doctrine in our soul–RETENTION, then in decision making the Holy Spirit is involved in retrieving the information for application–RECALL.**

**12. Along with specific teaching for specific situations there is also doctrine which produces WISDOM—spiritual skills for decision making.**

**A wisdom decision is related to application of doctrine to a decision where the test is not the final decision but the decision-making process itself.**

**Stored doctrine gives us the discernment to recognize when some decisions *may* involve a distinct geographic or operational will from God.**

**13. The geographical will of God relates to operating in a specific location.  
Example: Jonah in Nineveh, Paul in Rome.**

**14. The operational will of God includes both your spiritual gift and your natural talents and abilities.**

**15. Numb. 22:12–26 reveals three categories of God’s will.**

**a. The revealed will of God – Balaam do not go to Moab,**

**Numb. 22:12, “And God said to Balaam, ‘You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.’ ”**

**b. The permissive will of God,**

**Balaam was allowed to go to Moab,**

**Numb. 22:20, “And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, ‘If the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only the word which I speak to you—that you shall do.’ ”**

**c. The overruling will of God, Numb. 23:5, 15, 26;**

**God did not allow Balaam to curse Israel.**

**Numb. 22:26, “Then the Angel of the Lord went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left.”**

**Even if you make the wrong decision related to God's geographic will or operational will, His overriding will kicks in and resolves the problem.**

## **16. Decision making and wisdom, Acts 15:6–22**

**Acts 15:36, “And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.’ ”**

**Acts 20:16, “For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus in order that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.”**

**Rom. 1:10, “always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.**

**Rom. 1:11, “For I long to see you in order that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;”**

**Rom. 1:12, “that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other’s faith, both yours and mine.**

**Rom. 1:13, “And I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented thus far) in order that I might obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.”**

**1 Cor. 16:4, “and if it is fitting for me to go also,  
they will go with me.”**

**17. In every incident of a specific will of God it is known only through special revelation. . .**

**Through visions, the direct communication of the Holy Spirit, the audible voice of God, by direction of a prophet.**

**18. In some Old Testament cases, God directly put thoughts into the mind of a leader, cf., Neh. 2:2; 7:5; God put certain thoughts or ideas into the “heart,” i.e., the mind of Nehemiah.**