

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF JESUS CHRIST

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the importance of making sure of our eternal life.
2. Heb. 9:11-18 v. 16 & 17 "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."
3. There comes a time in everyone's life when they should make a will.
 - a. A will is a document in which a person owning property makes a declaration of his intentions concerning the distribution of his property when he dies.
 - b. We usually don't like to consider the thought of dying; thus, we put off making wills.
 - c. If we would seriously contemplate death, it would do us much good. Ps. 90:12 "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."
4. There are several requirements for a legal will. These, of course, would vary a little from state to state, but most have these requirements:
 - (1) The testator must be of proper age.
 - (2) Must be in one's right mind. [Sober, not mentally deranged]
 - (3) Must have something to give.
 - (4) The will must be plain with reference to the conditions.
 - (a) Ex. Who are the beneficiaries?
 - (b) What is to be given? etc.
 - (5) The will must be recorded, witnessed, and sealed.
 - (6) An executor or administrator must be chosen to prorate the will.
 - (7) The testator must die before it becomes effective.

5. Notice that All of the requirements of a proper will were possessed by Jesus.
6. In this lesson we want to consider the last will and testament of Jesus Christ.

Discussion

I. He was of proper age. Luke 3:23. "And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was [the son] of Heli,"

II. He was of sound mind

- A. Col. 2:3 "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."
- B. His wisdom far excelled that of His enemies. Matt. 22:15-22
 1. Pharisees were trying to trap or entangle him
 2. Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar or not?
 3. Coin -- Give unto Caesar what is Caesar's and give unto God the things that are God's.

III. He had something to give

- A. Many blessings in this life -
 1. Mark 10:29-30 "And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, 30. But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."
 2. Eph. 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:"

- B. In the world to come, eternal life - John 4:14 "But 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."

IV. The conditions or stipulations must be stated

- A. Who are the beneficiaries? (The ones who benefit from the will)
1. Most wills of men leave everything to the family, but sometimes to some person who has rendered some kind of service.
 2. Ill. A man had a rich Aunt who had died. One's name had to be on the will to receive anything. He said that he hardly knew her, but his name was on the will simply because he was a nephew.
 3. Regarding the spiritual beneficiaries of the Christ's will:
 - a. One must be a child - Rom. 8:17 "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."
 - (1) By a new birth - John 3:5
 - (2) Adopted - Gal. 4:4-7 -- adoption of sons
 - b. Must be a faithful child - Rev. 2:10; Matt. 10:22
 - (1) A testator has a right to disinherit a son or daughter, and this is often done.
 - (2) Christ has the right to disinherit unworthy children. Matt. 7:21-25; 25:41-46.
 - (3) One can become an accursed child. 2 Pet. 2:14

B. What is being given away in the will? What are the benefits for the child of God?

1. There are blessings obtainable now

- a. Matt. 7:11
- b. Luke 6:38;
- c. I John 3:22 "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."

2. There are blessings that will come later.

- a. "Heirs" - Eph. 3:6; Titus 3:7; James 2:5
 - (1) EPH 3:6. "That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:"
 - (2) TIT 3:7. "That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."
- b. "Inherit" -
 - (1) Heb. 6:11-19 -- inherit the promises
 - (2) Matt. 25:34 -- inherit the kingdom
 - (3) Rev. 21:7 -- inherit all things
- c. "Inheritance"
 - (1) 1 Pet. 1:4 -- incorruptible, and undefiled
 - (2) Col. 1:12; 3:24 - inheritance of the saints
 - (3) Acts 20:32; 26:18 -- inheritance among all them which are sanctified

V. A will must be recorded, witnessed, and sealed

A. Recorded.

1. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Cor. 14:37; - Inspired from God
2. See the beginning page of the N.T. Mark 1:14-15.

B. Witnessed.

1. John the baptist - John 5:32-35 v.33 "Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth."
2. His works - John 5:36 "But I have greater witness than [that] of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me."
3. The Father - John 5:37 "And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath born witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape."
4. The Scriptures - John 5:39-40; "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. 40. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." Acts 10:43
5. The Holy Spirit - Heb. 10:15
6. The apostles -
 - a. John 15:26-27; "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, [even] the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: 27. And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning."

b. Acts 10:39-42 "And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: 40. Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; 41. Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. 42. And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead."

C. Sealed. (Ex. properly notarized or written by a lawyer).

1. The first will was sealed with the blood of animals. Heb. 9:18
2. The second was sealed with the blood of Christ. Heb. 9:11-17
 - a. The things in the N.T. are sacred because they are sealed with His blood.
Matt. 26:28
 - b. The priest of the O.T. made no distinction between the sacred and the common.
Ezek. 22:26.

VI. The administrators of the will must be chosen. (Those who will prorate the will).

A. Prorate

1. The word "prorate" means "to divide, distribute, or assess proportionately--ex. to make prorata distribution." (Webster)
2. The word "prorata" means "proportionately according to an exactly calculable factor (as share or liability)." (Webster)
3. Divide the inheritance correctly

B. The apostles and prophets were his administrators.

1. They were appointed.
 - a. Matt. 18:18 "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."
 - b. 2 Cor. 5:20
2. They were inspired so they could not make a mistake. John 16:13; I Cor. 2:12-13
3. They would deliver unto all the world His last will and testament. Mark 16:15-16
4. The conditions were expressly mentioned.

VII. There must be the death of the testator

- A. Christ's will did not become effective until after His death. Heb. 9:16-17
- B. Christ's will could be altered by Christ Himself prior to His death. Mark 2:5 [man with palsy]; Luke 23:43 [thief]
 1. After His will was ratified by His death, it can never be changed.
 2. Ill. After the death of some rich people, others try to tamper with the will. That is forgery and a very serious crime.
- C. Before one's death, a will can be changed if desired.
 1. While living, one can give any portion of His estate to whom he may choose.
 2. Christ could forgive sins (he could save the thief on the cross), even though that one may not have obeyed the basic steps of the gospel.
 3. Once Christ's will went into effect, one could obtain the blessings through no other means.

CONCLUSION

1. Sometimes people receive a large inheritance from their families or friends.
2. Many would try to meet the conditions, if there were any, to inherit some vast fortune.
3. Everyone who wishes may become an heir of eternal life.
 - a. There are better and greater riches to be inherited to those who are faithful to God.
 - b. All earthly possessions will mean nothing in the great judgment day.
4. If you are not a child of God, you are not an heir. You can become an heir by being baptized into Christ. Gal. 3:26-29
5. Unfortunately some children have been disinherited by unfaithfulness. You can be reconciled by repentance and prayer. Acts 8:22
6. Heaven is the inheritance for Christians. 1 Pet. 1:4

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