

## THE WILL OF MAN AND SALVATION

The question: In what sense is salvation strictly God's will and in what sense is it man's will?

Deciding how salvation will be provided	Deciding on what terms salvation will be offered	Deciding on what benefits will be given to the saved person	Deciding on whether or not to receive salvation
<p>1. God's will, not man's will, decides how salvation will be provided. God decided that salvation would be provided by the bloodshed death of Christ in our place and His bodily resurrection from the dead.</p> <p>1 Corinthians 15:3, 4 – <i>For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.</i></p> <p>Matthew 26:39 – <i>And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but <u>as thou wilt</u>.</i></p>	<p>2. God's will, not man's will, decides on what terms salvation will be offered. God could have decided that good works, baptism or circumcision would be the means by which this salvation provided by Christ would be received. Instead He decided that it would be received by faith.</p> <p>Romans 9:15, 16 says: <i>For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that <u>willeth</u>, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.</i></p> <p>Paul was pointing out that God's will not man's will ("willeth") nor man's works/efforts ("runneth") decide how salvation would be received.</p>	<p>3. God's will not man's will decides what benefits God will give to the person who trusts Christ for salvation. John 1:12, 13 is a good example of this:</p> <p><i>But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born not of blood, nor of the <u>will</u> of the flesh, nor of the <u>will</u> of man, but of God.</i></p> <p>The benefit of the new birth is God's will - not man's will ("will of man") nor man's works/efforts ("will of the flesh") nor natural/physical descent ("blood").</p>	<p>4. Man's will not God's will decides whether or not he will receive the salvation Christ provided and in the manner God prescribed. Revelation 22:17 states: <i>And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever <u>will</u>, let him take the water of life freely.</i></p> <p>John 5:40 makes it clear that man's will keeps people from salvation by trusting Christ. It says: <i>And ye <u>will</u> not come to me, that ye might have life.</i></p> <p>The responsibility to believe or not to believe in Christ rests with man.</p>

**Note:** The word "will" or its various forms are underlined in the verse above. This is the idea of "will" in the sense of one's choice and does not express future action such as "I will go to the store to buy bread tomorrow."

### A Helpful Illustration

When you seek medical help for an illness:

1. Who decides what the provision for remedying the illness will be? Answer: the medical profession.
2. Who decides how the remedy will be received? Answer: the medical profession
3. Who decides what the benefits of the remedy will be? Answer: the medical profession
4. Who decides whether the patient will receive the remedy or not? Answer: the patient.