

#1: The Will of God concerning the All-inclusive, Extensive Christ

(Thanksgiving Conference) 2020/1/13-19

Overview: Our God has a will, a wish. God's economy was designated through the counsel of His will (or by consultation). We need all the spiritual wisdom and understanding in order for us to perceive the will of God and to know the all-inclusive and extensive Christ (I, II). For Christ to be the Firstborn of the old creation, the creation of universe and all things, the new creation, and the church means that He is both all-inclusive, and extensive. God's will is for us to walk in the all-inclusive, extensive Christ in our daily life. The all-inclusive, extensive Christ desires to replace every element of our natural life and culture with Himself. That we may be the one new man as His corporate expression (III).

I. God is a God of purpose, having a will of His own pleasure, and He created all things for His will that He might accomplish and fulfill His purpose:

Rev. 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.

A. God's will is God's wish; God's will is what He wants to do. **Eph. 1:9** Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself.

B. God's good pleasure is of God's will; His good pleasure is embodied in His will.

C. God's will is His determination for the carrying out of His purpose. **Eph. 1:11** In whom also...having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will.

D. God has made known to us the mystery of His will through His revelation in Christ, that is, through Christ's incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.

E. God works all things according to the counsel of His will; God's will is His intention, and His counsel is His consideration of the way to accomplish His will.

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II. Colossians is a book concerning the great, eternal will of God: **Col. 1:9** Therefore we also, since the day we heard of it, do not cease praying and asking on your behalf that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. **4:12** Epaphras, who is one of you, a slave of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

A. The will of God mentioned in this book is not His will in small matters—it is the eternal will of God, the great will of God.

B. Colossians reveals what God's will is according to His desire and intention in the whole universe, in creation in redemption, in the present age, in the coming age, and in eternity.

C. We need to be filled with the full knowledge of God's will: **1.** God's will in Colossians 1:9 is His will regarding His eternal

purpose, regarding His economy concerning Christ. **2.** To have the full knowledge of God's will is to have the revelation of God's plan so that we may know what God plans to do in the universe: **a.** God's plan is to make Christ everything in the divine economy. **b.** The revelation of God's plan opens the way for us to have more experience of Christ. **3.** To know and experience the all-inclusive, extensive Christ requires "all spiritual wisdom and understanding": **a.** Spiritual wisdom and understanding are of the Spirit of God in our spirit. **b.** Wisdom is in our spirit to perceive God's eternal will; spiritual understanding is in our mind, renewed by the Spirit, to understand and interpret what we perceive in our spirit.

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D. Walking worthily of the Lord issues from having the full knowledge of God's will; such a walk is one in which we live Christ. **Col. 1:9-10** ...that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. To walk worthily of the Lord to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and growing by the full knowledge of God. **Eph. 1:17** That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him.

E. We need to stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

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III. The will of God for us is that we know the all-inclusive, extensive Christ, experience Him, and live Him as our life:

Col. 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation, **17-18** And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him; And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

A. The will of God is in Christ, concentrated in Christ, and for Christ; Christ is everything in the will of God.

B. For Christ to be the Firstborn of both the original creation and the new creation means that He is both all-inclusive and extensive: **1.** The extensive Christ is the Christ who is more vast than the universe and who is everything to us. **2.** Christ, the Savior and Lord in whom we believe, is limitless and inexhaustible; since He is without limitation, the revelation concerning Him must also be without limitation.

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C. The Christ unveiled in Colossians is the all-inclusive, extensive, preeminent One, the centrality and universality, the center and the circumference, of God's economy:

Col. 1:17-18 And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him; And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things; **1.** Colossians reveals the all-inclusive Christ—the One who is God, man, and the reality of every positive thing in the universe. **2.** In God's economy Christ is everything; God wants Christ and Christ alone—the wonderful, preeminent, all-inclusive Christ, who is all in all. **3.** The all-inclusive, extensive Christ is the center of God's economy; God's dispensing is altogether related to Christ and focused on Him.

4. God's will, His intention, in His economy is to work the

wonderful, all-inclusive, extensive Christ into our being as our life and everything so that we may become the corporate expression of the Triune God. **Fr**

D. The will of God is that the all-inclusive, extensive Christ be our portion, our life, our constituent, and our peace: **1.** In 1:9 God's will refers to Christ; the will of God is profound in relation to our knowing, experiencing, and living in the all-inclusive, extensive Christ. **2.** God's will for us is that we would know Christ, experience Christ, enjoy Christ, be saturated with Christ, and have Christ become our life and person. **3.** God's will is that we, having the all-inclusive, extensive Christ, should walk in Him: **a.** To walk in Christ is to live, act, behave, and have our being in Him. **b.** As we walk in Christ, we will be rooted in Him to have downward growth and be built up to have upward growth.

E. We should estimate and evaluate everything according to the all-inclusive, extensive Christ:

Col. 2:8 Beware that no one carries you off as spoil through his philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ; **1.** Christ is the governing principle of all genuine wisdom and knowledge, the reality of all genuine teaching, and the only measure of all concepts acceptable to God.

2. Only when we have a clear view of the place of the all-inclusive, extensive Christ in God's economy will we be able to see through delusion and deception.

F. We need to be infused, saturated, and permeated with the all-inclusive, extensive Christ until in our experience He is everything to us:

Col. 3:10-11 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all. **1.** The all-inclusive, extensive Christ is in us, but we need to see Him, know Him, be filled with Him, be saturated with Him, and be absolutely one with Him. **2.** We should allow the all-inclusive Christ to fill our whole being and to replace our culture with Himself: **a.** The more Christ replaces our natural life and culture with Himself, the more we will be able to declare, "To live is Christ"; to us, to live will be the Christ who takes full possession of us, occupies us, and fills us with Himself. **b.** The all-inclusive, extensive Christ desires to replace every element of our natural life and culture with Himself so that we may be the one new man as His corporate expression; this is the message of the book of Colossians. **Sat**

Crucial Point(1):The life to experience the all inclusive and extensive Christ by knowing God's will

OL1: God's will is God's wish; God's will is what He wants to do.

OL2: God has made known to us the mystery of His will through His revelation in Christ, that is, through Christ's incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.

OL3:God works all things according to the counsel of His will; God's will is His intention, and His counsel is His consideration of the way to accomplish His will.

OL4:To know and experience the all-inclusive, extensive Christ requires "all spiritual wisdom and understanding".

In God's plan Christ is the Head to head up all things. The whole universe is for Christ. Whatever God has planned, whatever God has done, and whatever God is doing are to make Christ the Head, the center, and everything. This is God's eternal purpose. The phrase to head up all things in Christ indicates the divine economy.

Many times the saints came to me to praise someone by saying that he was humble or lovely. But after 1933 whenever I heard this kind of praise about a person, I always had a question within me. What do you mean by being humble? What do you mean by being lovely? Do you mean that here is a part of the old Adam that is so humble? Or here is a man in Adam who is so lovely? The real humility and loveliness of a Christian must be Christ Himself. Our love toward others must be Christ. Our patience, our humility, our wisdom, our knowledge, and our insight must be Christ.

The revelation of God's plan opens the way for us to have more experience of Christ.... Thus, we need to spend more time to learn about Christ in the plan of God. This is one of the most important reasons why we have to read the Scriptures. We read the Scriptures not to receive doctrine or teachings but to receive the revelation of Christ and the full knowledge of God's eternal plan.

The Bible is a book of revelation. The Bible opens the universal curtain, the universal veil, to show what is in the mind of God and what it is that God plans to do in this universe. This plan is to make His Son everything. God's desire, plan, and mind is to make Christ everything. This is the content of the entire Scriptures.

Application to the new ones

If you have the full knowledge of God's will, you would know what God is doing in the universe. What a wonderful thing is this! If you don't know God's economy which is according to God's will, your life will be full of contradiction and confusion. But once you realize what God is doing right now, your view about your life would be full of light and there would be no contradiction and confusion.

To realize God's economy, you should **(1)**read the Bible, **(2)**receive the Word of the Bible by prayer and pray to understand the Word with the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. According to your natural concept, Christ has died on the cross to forgive your sins. This is correct, but God's salvation does not stop at the cross. So the veil of your natural concept concerning Christ needs to be taken away to know the wonderful and excellent Christ in God's economy by the revelation of the mystery and when you read the Bible, your heart needs to love the Lord, open your heart and exercise your spirit to pray. If you do so, you will see that your going to your company is to experience the all inclusive and extensive Christ.

Many people have sullen face in the packed train to work because they don't have such vision and realization, they. Americans say "Oh, God, it is Monday(OGIM)!", "Thank God, it is Friday(TGIF)!" This

means “It is already Monday, I need to work”, “It is finally Friday, my job is done”. But you should call upon the name of the Lord and pray-read the Word, get revived every morning and go to work with joy as those who have vision. **Rejoice in the Lord always** φ Phil. 4:4). If you go to work with the purpose of experiencing Christ, you will experience “going up” in your business results.

Prayer: “Oh Lord Jesus, grant me the spirit of wisdom and revelation to know God’s will and God’s economy. In God’s economy, Christ is all inclusive and extensive. Thank the Lord that my going to work, or school, today is to experience Christ. I will go to work with joy to gain Christ.! What excellent the Christian life is with the realization of **God’s will!**”

Crucial Point(2): Christ having preeminence in both the old creation and the new creation shows that He is all-inclusive and extensive. Christ needs to be experienced as the center and the circumference in our school life.

OL1: The will of God is in Christ, concentrated in Christ, and for Christ; Christ is everything in the will of God.

OL2: For Christ to be the Firstborn of both the original creation and the new creation means that He is both all-inclusive and extensive. (For Christ to be the Firstborn in the creation of the heaven, the earth and all things in the universe shows Christ is extensive as the universe is expanding without limitation. For Christ to be the Firstborn of the new creation, the new man shows that Christ is all-inclusive as written, “...the new man...where...Christ is all in all (Col. 3:11).”)

OL3: The Christ unveiled in Colossians is the all-inclusive, extensive, preeminent One, the centrality and universality, the center and the circumference, of God’s economy.

The revelation concerning Christ in Colossians is both all-inclusive and extensive....For Christ to be the Firstborn of both the original creation and the new creation means that He is both extensive and all-inclusive. In the new man there is room only for Christ; Christ is all and in all. This shows His all-inclusiveness. However, the fact that He is the Firstborn of all creation indicates His extensiveness.

Many Christians think that to receive Christ is simply to believe in Him. Receiving Christ, however, is not as simple as this.... According to our concept and according to traditional doctrine, Christ is rather simple. Many believers only realize that Christ, the Son of God, is the Savior who loved us and died for us. If we believe in Christ, we are saved. However, the receiving of Christ in a book such as Colossians involves a great deal more than this.

Receiving Christ can be compared to breathing. Just as breathing is a continual process, so our receiving of Christ should take place continually. Regrettably, however, a great many Christians have had only the initial receiving of Christ. They do not receive Him continuously....If we do not receive Christ continually, we shall not enjoy the full benefit of the Christ we have received initially.

Application to young people and college students

In God’s creation, there are the old creation and the new creation. The old creation is creation of the heaven, the earth and the all things in the universe and creation of man. The new creation is the church as the one new man. Christ is the Firstborn of the all creatures. The Firstborn here is telling

about excellency of Christ. Moreover, all things cohere in Him. In other words, without Christ, all things including the solar system and the galaxy will fall into great confusion. But we praise the Lord. All universe coheres in Christ.

Col. 1:15 (the Son....) **Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation, 17 And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him;** Without Christ your school life will also go into piece. But with Christ, it will be well organized.

Christ is also the Firstborn of the new creation, the church. **Col. 1:18** **And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;** In order to experience the excellency of Christ in your school life, you need to pray. Prayer is to claim and reconfirm that you are no longer you but Christ. Christ has become the life-giving spirit in His resurrection. You need to call on the Lord’s name, open your heart to Him, return to your spirit and then pray. What God is seeking in us is Christ. Please take Christ as the center and everything in your school life.

As an example, while you are preparing for exams, please experience Christ as wisdom, understanding, or concentration for your study. Not only that, experience Christ as your relief, your mental calmness and peace, and your good sleep. When you study, it is not good to keep studying from morning through evening. Besides proper concentration, you also need proper amusement, something for relief. Otherwise, your study will not be effective. Even you are busy in studying, coming to the meeting to enjoy Christ become good relief for you. Every excellent student brothers and sisters are able to testify this. This is to take Christ as your center and circumference in your study for exam.

Prayer: “O Lord Jesus, Christ revealed in Colossians is beyond our limited concept or understanding, but He is all-inclusive and extensive. Praise the Lord. I want to continually open to you and receive you, so that I may be able to know this Christ and to walk in Christ. In my real school life, may I take Christ as centrality, that is understanding and concentration, and experience Him as universality, that is proper relief for me. Amen!”

Crucial Point(3): God can gather us (the scattered and divided people) in Christ to become one new man

OL1: The more Christ replaces our natural life and culture with Himself, the more we will be able to declare, “To live is Christ.”

OL2: The all-inclusive, extensive Christ desires to replace every element of our natural life and culture with Himself so that we may be the one new man as His corporate expression.

The enemy within us is subtle. We have certain standards, either the standards we have inherited or those we have made for ourselves. Because these standards are good, we do not condemn them.

The time has come for all of us in the churches to hear this message, to see this vision, and to condemn our cultural standards. Then we shall realize that what God wants is Christ and that Christ today is the lifegiving Spirit mingled with our spirit. Instead of living according to a certain standard, we should simply live by the Christ who dwells in our spirit. As we

live in the spirit, we should let Christ have a free course throughout our whole being. Then we shall enjoy Him, experience Him, and be delivered from our culture.

The book of Colossians reveals that God wants Christ and Christ alone.... God does not care for philosophy, religion, ordinances, observances, or any kind of ism. God wants only the wonderful, preeminent, all-inclusive Christ, the One who is all in all. Although Christ is all-inclusive, He dwells in us as our life. As the indwelling One, He is waiting for the opportunity to live in us. He is living, real, practical, and available. On the one hand, on the throne He is the Lord of all; on the other hand, He is the life-giving Spirit in us. Both in the Christian life and in the church life, Christ is everything.

If we see this, we shall stop all our doing. In the church life, God does not want us to be doing so much; He simply wants Christ to live in us and grow in us. If I have a vision of [Galatians 2:20](#)—that it is no longer I, but Christ who lives in me—I shall never assume that I can do anything. I shall spontaneously cease from all my trying, for I shall realize that I am nothing and nobody and that Christ is everything. As the One who dwells in us to be our life, He is everything to us. He is our holiness, our power, and our wisdom. But He needs to be given the opportunity to be everything in us. If we give Him the ground, He will come in to be everything and to do everything.

Application to young working saints and graduate students

God wants Christ alone. In the one new man, the goal of God's economy, Christ is all the members of the Body and in all members. Therefore, God does not accept your natural abilities, humbleness, loveliness, etc. Because there is no life and nature of God in them, it cannot be part of one new man. The purpose of knowing and experiencing the all-inclusive, extensive Christ revealed in Colossians is for the emergence of one new man. The greatest hindrance to the new man is the good cultural standards. There are no standards other than Christ in the new man.

In recent years, as businesses become globalized, global companies have realized and promoted the importance of diversity among their employees. But it is extremely difficult for them to do it.

True diversity is in one new man. Around 2000 years ago, the New Testament has said, "[Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all. \(Col.3:11\)](#)" Satan's principle is to divide us, but God's principle is to bring us together and unite us. Outside of Christ, there is no true diversity and Oneness. It is a gospel and a great testimony to the world to experience the all-inclusive, extensive Christ and to carry out the church life of the one new man. [Prayer](#): "O Lord Jesus, you are living in me. I want to live Christ, not according to my cultural concepts, but according to Christ. Outside of Christ, we are only scattered and divided. I will grow into Christ and carry out the church life of the one new man. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!"

[One researcher says that a person who can answer Yes to the following seven questions is a successful](#)

[businessman. By answering these questions from a Bible perspective, we will explain that if we follow God's revelation, we can succeed in business and so on.](#)

1. [Do you have a best friend who will listen to your concerns sincerely?](#) **Yes.** The Lord Jesus is your closest best friend. You can open to the Lord and fellowship with Him in anything (Hymn8409). In addition, you can open your heart to your spiritual partners of your generation and the brothers and sisters who are leading you and fellowship with them.
2. [Do you accept different types of people around you at work?](#) **Yes.** If you only associate with people who are personally friendly, you may be less stressed, but you won't be able to get help from experts (many of them are odd and have a strong self-assertion). Because the church life is a group of people gathered by Jesus, there are people who do not fit naturally. But this is necessary for you to go forward in a balanced way.
3. [Do you have enough funds to enjoy your freedom?](#) **Yes.** The Lord has already paid your unpaid debt on the cross. Now you can fellowship with the Lord and the brothers and sisters at no cost and benefit from it because the Lord has invested a huge amount of money (the price of blood).
4. [Do you really think failure is an opportunity to learn?](#) **Yes.** People can learn many things by failure. So, don't take a strategy of no challenge no failure. Even if you challenge and fail, you can learn a lot and move forward. You cannot deny those who have failed.
5. [Have you been given useful information to others?](#) **Yes.** To prophecy in the church meeting is to speak building up and encouragement and consolation to men with Christ as building, encouragement, and comfort. Exercising your spirit and speaking the prophecy prepared with the fresh inspiration is to bless others with Christ.
6. [Can you honor the achievements of others?](#) **Yes.** As [Phil. 2:3~4](#) said, "[Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves; Not regarding each his own virtues, but each the virtues of others also. \(Phil. 2:3~4\)](#)" praise each other in the church life. This will increase your capacity and allow you to contribute to the success of others. In the company, almost everything is done with people, so praising the achievements of others is an important ability.
7. [Is the goal to aim for clear?](#) **Yes.** To go to the company to work is for us to experience the all-inclusive Christ. While experiencing Christ can improve your performance, the ultimate goal of experiencing Christ is to carry out the church life of one new man.