

## NOTES ON THE WILL OF MAN AND SALVATION

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

<b>Deciding How Salvation will be provided</b>	<b>Deciding on what terms salvation will be offered</b>	<b>Deciding on what benefits will be given to the saved person</b>	<b>Deciding on whether or not to receive salvation</b>
<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 - 1 Cor. 15:3,4; Mt. 26:39.</p>	<p>2. God's will, not man's will, decides on what terms salvation will be offered. God could have decided that baptism or circumcision would be the means by which salvation was received. God could have decided that good works would be the way that the salvation He provided through Christ would be received. Instead he decided it would be received by faith. This is the meaning of Romans 9:16. Paul was pointing out that man's will did not decide how salvation would be received.</p>	<p>3. God's will, not man's will, decides what God will do for the person when he receives by faith the salvation God provided through Christ. This means that God decides what benefits and works He will do for the one who has used his will and trusted Christ. This is the idea in John 1:13. People are said to be born not of the will of the flesh which means it is not using our will to put forth the self-effort to make this happen (i.e. being born of God). People are not born of the will of man. This means man does not will or choose this benefit of the new birth from God. It is simply something God does by His own will.</p>	<p>4. Man's will, not God's will, decides whether or not he will receive the salvation Christ provided in the manner which God prescribed. Rev. 22:17 makes it very clear that it is man's will that decides to receive salvation by faith. On the other hand, John 5:40 makes it clear that it is man's will which keeps people from salvation by trusting Christ. God is not willing that any should perish but that everyone come to repentance and be saved (2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:4). Yet it is clear that people do use their will to reject God's will and fail to be saved (John 3:18).</p>