

New Testament by Larry Perry

Hebrews 9:16-17 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.

If in my last will and testament I were to leave the state of Colorado to a friend because he loves the mountains; the Gulf of Mexico to brother because he loves to fish; the New York Stock Exchange to accountant because he loves to dabble in stock trading; the state of Montana to my son because he loves to hunt; and made my six month old granddaughter the executor of my estate; how likely is it that the terms of my will could be executed?

You might now ask me what that has to do with the New Testament of the Holy Bible and I would have to tell you, everything.

Matthew 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

The Greek word in use here for testament is *diatheke* Strong's number G1241 which has a primary definition of a disposition, arrangement, of any sort, which one wishes to be valid, the last disposition which one makes of his earthly possessions after his death, a testament or will.

Whereas Jesus referred this testament to be new, it begs to ask what was the old testament?

Exodus 24:8 And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.

Wait, hold on, the word used here is covenant, not testament. Why are they related? In its use in the Septuagint the Hebrew word meaning a "covenant" or agreement (from a verb signifying "to cut or divide," in allusion to a sacrificial custom in connection with "covenant-making," e.g., Gen 15:10, "divided" Jer 34:18,19). In contradistinction to the

English word "covenant" (lit., "a coming together"), which signifies a mutual undertaking between two parties or more, each binding himself to fulfill obligations, it does not in itself contain the idea of joint obligation, it mostly signifies an obligation undertaken by a single person. (Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words) As such the custom with the Jews was to eat together in covenant making. Reference Genesis 31:54 where Jacob made a sacrifice unto the LORD and then called his brethren together to break bread together. Tie this together with Passover Lamb which was eaten in its entirety, one can relate the two together by virtue of Jesus's words, this is my body, take, eat.

But the covenant of Exodus 24:6 concerned all the words of the law and keeping them. If we look to Jesus's own words, nothing in the law had changed. The law was still in effect and still is until this day. Before you start yelling at me that we are no longer under the law, but under grace, let us look at just how that can be, if the law is still in effect.

In any court action there must be legal steps taken. Evidence is collected to accuse the suspect. A conviction has to be made. A sentence must be pronounced. The sentence has to be executed. Justice would then be served.

We have lived a sinful life. Our very life is evidence of our guilt. The knowledge of our sinful life is our accusation. Our conviction is confirmed by our confession, guilty Your Honor. The sentence for sin, all sin, is death. Here comes the good part, the execution.

Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

The law has been fulfilled. We have been executed for our sins. We cannot be tried again for our sins; we have already been executed!

Here is an interesting observation. A will can be modified as long as the testator is still alive. As with any will, a condition of acceptance can, and in this case is used to identify qualified recipients. That condition of acceptance is laid out by Jesus Himself in John 3:16.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

This condition of acceptance, much like my leaving the state of Colorado to Morgan, has to demonstrate the power to execute the condition of the will. There cannot be a gift eternal life if there is no such thing as eternal life. When Jesus rose from the grave He demonstrated eternal life. Now the power to execute that condition is another matter.

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

The power is in the blood. Not just any blood, it has to be the blood of the testator because that blood is tied to His last will and testament by virtue of His death. Just like Moses did in Exodus 24:8 by sprinkling the blood upon that present congregation to identify who was covered by that sacrifice of atonement, the blood of Jesus Christ, which we demonstrate by faith in receiving His blood during communion, is our covering. Considering the demands of that covenant on the blood of God Himself could have the power to save. This is why Jesus had to be the incarnation of God, God made flesh.

Matthew 19:25c, 26 Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Only God can save.

Now we come to that portion of my will where I named my granddaughter as the executor of my estate. Obviously she had no power to execute my invalid will. So who is the executor of Jesus Christ estate? The Holy Spirit of course.

Consider the length of time required to identify all the recipients of grace. No man could live long enough to see that all the provisions of His testament are executed. It would once again fall in the hands of the living God in the person of the Holy Spirit.

The only question left unanswered at this moment is; when you come before the judgment seat will plead your innocence or will you plead the blood?