

# Colossians Series

## Lesson #60

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Dean Bible Ministries

[www.deanbible.org](http://www.deanbible.org)

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A landscape photograph showing a field of bare trees in the foreground, a dark hill in the middle ground, and a range of mountains in the background under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

**COLOSSIANS:**  
**Jesus Christ is All-Sufficient**

**How to KNOW**  
**the Will of God – Part 2**  
**Colossians 3:15**



## **You have heard it said....**

- **That God has a perfect will for every decision in our lives**
- **That we should live in the “center” of God’s will**
- **That God reveals to us precisely what this will is**
- **And that one of the keys to discerning this will in an inner state of peace or tranquility when that decision is made.**

**But I say to you...**

- **This is not biblical**
- **This is a form of mysticism**

**Col. 3:15, “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”**

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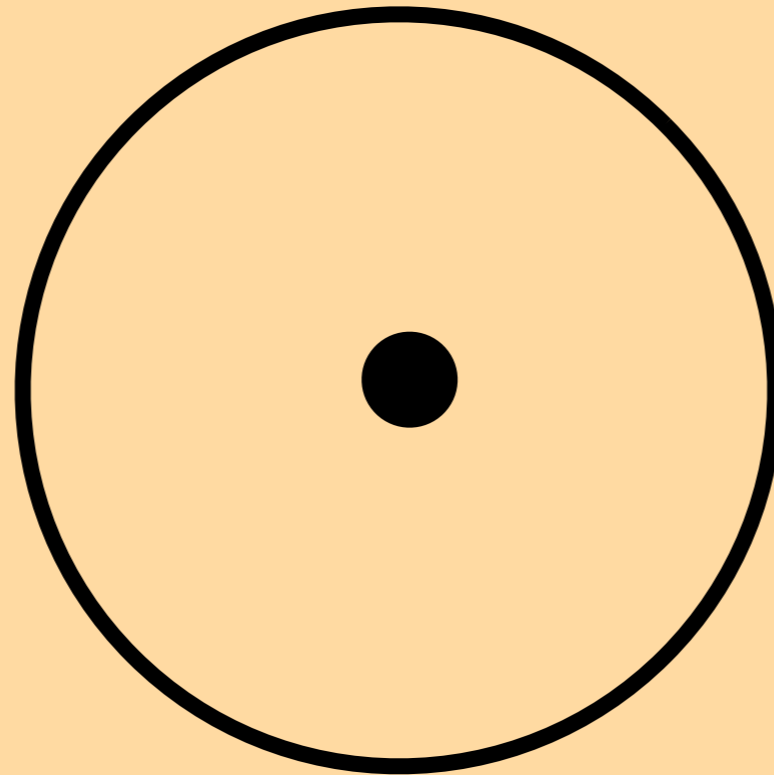
**βραβεύω *brabeuō*  
pres act impera 3 sing  
to arbitrate; to act like a  
judge or umpire**

**Heb. 12:14, “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:”**

# **The Doctrine of the Will of God**



# Living in the Center of God's Will



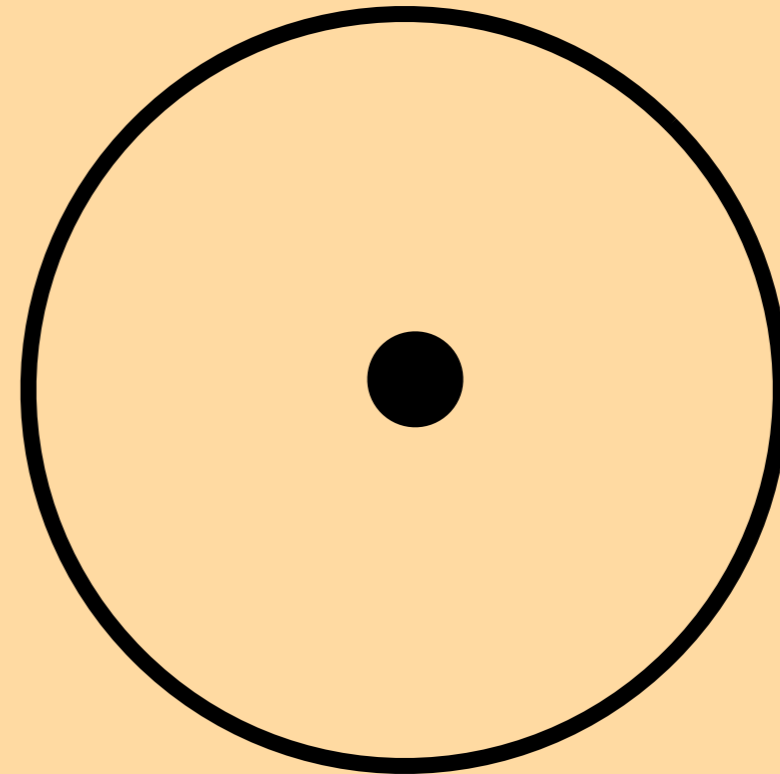
# Living in the Center of God's Will

God has a specific will for how and what each believer thinks.

God has a specific operational will for each believer.

God always has a specific geographical will for every believer.

God always has a specific will for every decision we make in life.



**1. The term “will of God” describes three aspects of divine volition in relation to His creation.**



**a. God's sovereign will with regard to His creation, where He brings to pass what He wills and what He has decreed.**

**Decretive will of God  
Sovereign will of God  
Secret will of God**

**We only know this after the fact.**

**b. God's moral will sometimes also called His revealed will: this refers to what God has revealed man is to do. This is also called God's desired will.**

**The Torah expressed God's moral will for Israel, not for the Gentiles.**

**God expressed his specific geographical will or specific operational will through special revelation.**

**c. God's specific will, functional, operational, or geographical is always expressed through special revelation.**



**Ezek. 4:1, “You also, son of man, take a clay tablet and lay it before you, and portray on it a city, Jerusalem.**

**Ezek. 4:2, “Lay siege against it, build a siege wall against it, and heap up a mound against it; set camps against it also, and place battering rams against it all around.**

**Ezek. 4:3, “Moreover take for yourself an iron plate, and set it as an iron wall between you and the city. Set your face against it, and it shall be besieged, and you shall lay siege against it. This will be a sign to the house of Israel.**

**Ezek. 4:4, “Lie also on your left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it. According to the number of the days that you lie on it, you shall bear their iniquity.”**

**Acts 10:3, “About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, ‘Cornelius!’**

**Acts 10:4, “And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, ‘What is it, lord?’ So he said to him, ‘Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.**

**Acts 10:5, “ ‘Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter.**

**Acts 10:6, “ ‘He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do.’ ”**

**d. God's overriding will.**

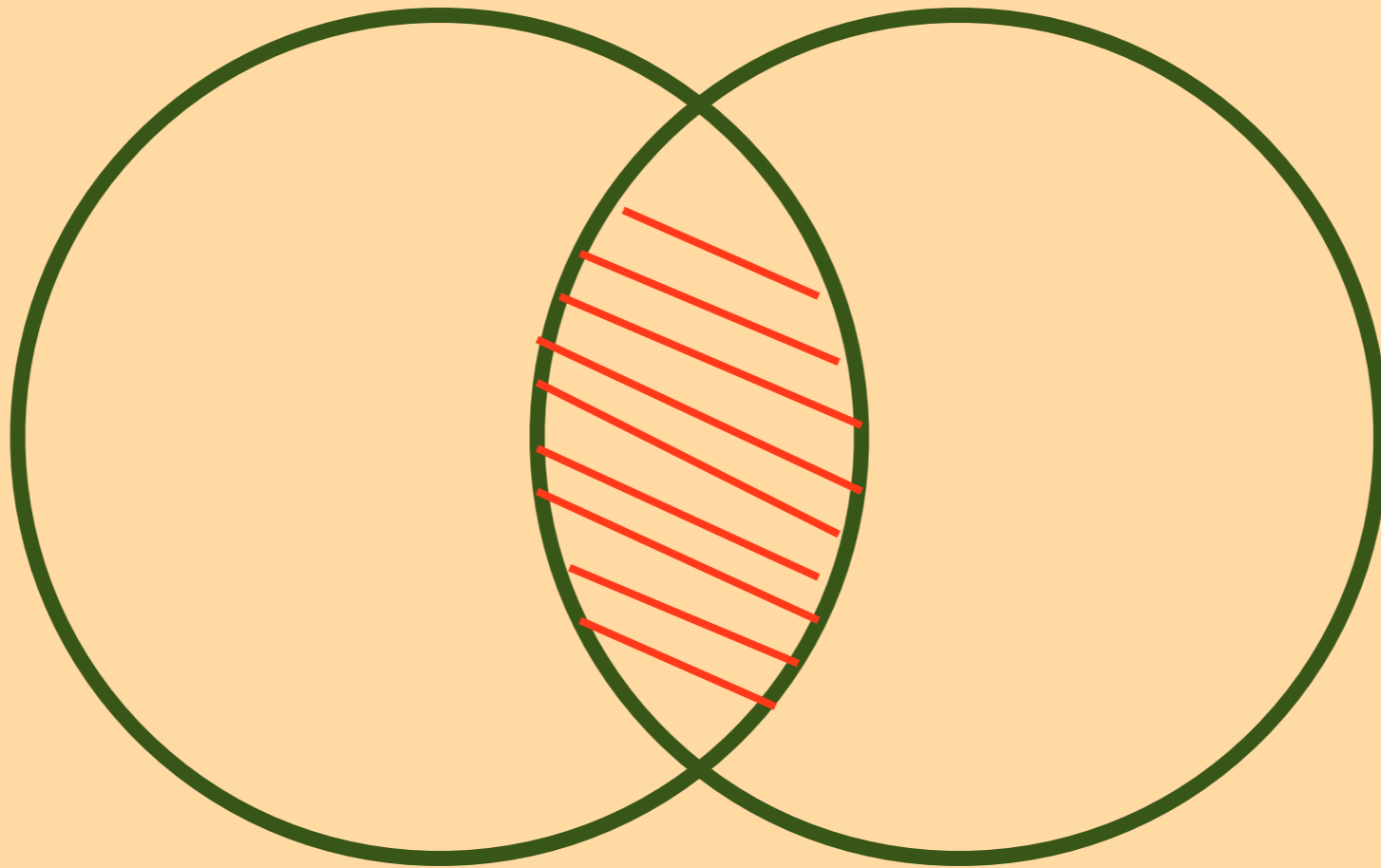
**When we make decisions contrary to God's sovereign will He prevents us from accomplishing those decisions.**

**Example: Jonah**



**God's Sovereign  
Will**

**God's Moral/  
Revealed Will**



# God's Moral/ Revealed Will

Boundaries defined  
by the mandates,  
imperatives,  
prohibitions in  
Scripture



Inside of God's  
moral, revealed will

Outside of God's  
moral, revealed will

**Dan. 4:35, “And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven, and among the inhabitants of earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, ‘What hast Thou done?’ ”**

**Prov. 21:1, “The king’s heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.”**

**Rev. 4:1, “After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, ‘Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.’ ”**

**Eph. 1:11, “also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,”**



**Rom. 9:19, “You will say to me then, ‘Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?’ ”**

**3. The specifics of God's decreed/sovereign will are secret, unrevealed, and unknown. They cannot be known until after the fact. Human history once transpired is the outworking of God's decree.**

**God's sovereign will includes His permissive will, which allows for the actions of volitionally free, moral agents (you and I), to make decisions contrary to His revealed moral will.**

## **God's Moral Will**

**Do not eat from the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil.**

**Abraham, Go and leave your family behind.**

**Israelites to enter the land and destroy the Canaanites.**

**Do not murder.**

## **God's Sovereign Will**

**Adam and Eve ate.**

**Abraham took his father and Lot along.**

**Israelites fear the Canaanites and fail to trust God.**

**The illegal execution of Jesus.**

**4. We can only know the specifics of God's revealed or moral will. This includes all the precepts, mandates, and prohibitions of the Scriptures.**

**In the NT there are 565 imperatives (including prohibitions). There are also other ways through imperatival participles and hortatory subjunctives to express mandates.**