

*In OT - circumcision -- Gen 17:12 He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised...So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant.*

*- now no more blood*

*Colossians 2:11-12 "In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ. 12 Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead."*

### **Sign and Seal:**

#### **SIGN**

- 1) Signifies being washed of old sinful nature and given the new nature of Christ;*
- 2) Allows us to publicly profess our faith, for ourselves and in God for our children;*
- 3) Believers: Outward sign of inward transformation;*
- 4) Children: Outward sign of child being included in covenant and church body.*

#### **SEAL**

*Mysteriously and powerfully marks that person as a part of the covenant, infusing grace blessings;*

*Not Salvation*

*If you aren't sure about babies...that's ok.*

*If you have never been baptized but know Jesus...*

*If you have, let this remind you of yours*

### **Acts 21**

And when we had parted from them and set sail, we came by a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. 2 And having found a ship crossing to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. 3 When we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, for there the ship was to unload its cargo. 4 And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. 5 When our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city. And kneeling down on the beach, we prayed 6 and said farewell to one another. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home.

7 When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais, and we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for one day. 8 On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. 9 He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied. 10 While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. 11 And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" 12 When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. 13 Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." 14 And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done."

Like last week: made for value...  
but only found in Him and not in our behavior

This week: made for fulfillment,  
but found in Him not in safety, comfort....

## READ

## The Heart of Our Will

### WHY WE WANT WHAT WE WANT

The Heart of Our Will	
<i>21:1 And when we had parted ("torn away") from them and set sail...</i>	
<i>5b And kneeling down on the beach, we prayed</i> <i>6a and said farewell to one another.</i>	
<i>21:12 When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem.</i>	
Potential Storms	Actual Storms
Cut corners to keep from experiencing pain.	The real-life pain that really frustrates and hurts us.

### Potential Storms

- 1) People Pleasing
- 2) Forgiving
- 3) Repenting
- 4) Serving/Giving Sacrificially

**DON'T** b/c it may bring hardship  
GARDEN - Did God Really Say

### Actual Storms

**God = powerless  
or mean  
OR  
...I don't have the  
whole picture.**

My son got mad at me when I put apple chunks in his oatmeal after he just asked for apple chunks in his oatmeal

This is my toddler all the time. He doesn't want toast. Yells at me the entire time I make toast for myself or his sister.

I remember taking my middle son to get new shoes when he was a toddler because he outgrew his favorite pair. We got the same exact pair but in a larger size. He was excited until he realized that getting new shoes meant saying good-bye to his old shoes that he could barely squeeze his foot in. He yelled that it was all my fault for making his feet grow and demanded a list of foods that make your feet grow so he could take them off his menu.

Designed for Unity  
Pain Contradicts

Become Selfish = Pain Avoidance

"My Will Be Done"

Darkness brings out the light  
- **Speed Painting**

# The Hope for Our Will

God is  
 Wise enough to know what is best  
 Good enough to desire what is best  
 Powerful enough to create what is best

"If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world."  
 C.S. Lewis

**EBENEZER**

Here I raise my "Ebenezer"  
 Hither by Thy help I come.  
 And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
 Safely to arrive at home.

**Mission Honduras**

See past the storm to the HOPE  
 Currently past your previous storms.

HOPE is NOT feeling better, but trusting.  
 Something better than feeling good

# The Healing of Our Will

Solution is NOT to just to WILL a better WILL

**The Healing of Our Will**

Luke 22

*41 And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, **not my will, but yours, be done.**" 43 And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. 44 And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

Jesus submitted his will under the Father's; to be separated from Him so we would never have to experience Divine separation again.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

- 1) Your bad things will turn out for good,
- 2) Your good things can never be lost,
- 3) The best things are yet to come.

One Day....all pain, separation, anxiety, fear gone

Why don't I?

Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
 Wandering from the fold of God;  
 He, to rescue me from danger,  
 Interposed His precious blood.

**DRAMA**

**How to Live in Trust**

*"Let the will of the Lord be done."*

Not avoidance, buying your time until heaven.  
 Not ignorance, pretending like pain isn't painful.

<b>Head:</b> Remember your <u>Ebenezers</u> as we live this side of heaven.	<b>Heart:</b> Cry out to God with honesty, asking for a gift of faith.	<b>Arms:</b> Hold on to and pray with one another, like they did on the beach
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*"I believe but help my unbelief"*  
 Mark 9

"rescue me **FROM** danger" -- **not into**