



## **The Law and the Will of God** **John 7:14-24**

*If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself (John 7:17—KJV).*

*If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself (John 7:17—NASB).*

*Anyone who resolves to do the will of God will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own (John 7:17—NRSV).*

First, consider what Jesus did not say. Jesus did not say, “Anyone who resolves to do the law of God will know,” because this was the standard of judgment used by the scribes and Pharisees. The main occupation of the Pharisees was debating, defining, and defending the law of God as they understood it from previous teachers over hundreds of years. Based on their interpretation of the Law of Moses, they had already decided that Jesus was breaking the law of God. They accused Jesus of breaking the law of the Sabbath when He healed the sick on the Sabbath and of desecrating the name of God when He called God His Father.

Now, consider what Jesus truly promised, “Anyone who resolves to do the will of God will know.” But what is “the will of God”? In general, we would say, “Love God and love your

neighbor,” but that was the Law of Love the Pharisees also debated, so Jesus told them the Parable of the Good Samaritan to explain it (see Luke 10:25-37). Those Jesus spoke to desperately needed to understand and resolve to do the will of God as declared by the prophet in Micah 6:8, “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” If people truly resolve to do the will of God, they will understand whether Jesus’ teaching or anyone else’s teaching is from the Father, the Person who sent Jesus, or human philosophers and speculators.

### **Thinking Further**

1. What is the Law of God?
2. Is there a problem with the Law of God? Explain your answer.
3. What is the Will of God?
4. Is there a problem with the Will of God? Explain your answer.
5. How can someone know if Jesus, or anyone else, was sent from God or not?