Voluntarily Against My Will

I. Introduction and Definition

A. Voluntary words and expressions.
   1. ἑκών #1635: unforced, voluntary, willing; of one’s own will; of one’s accord (Rom. 8:20; 1st Cor. 9:17).
   2. ἑκούσιος #1595: voluntary (Philem. 14).
   3. ἑκουσίως #1596: willingly (Heb. 10:26; 1st Pet. 5:2).
   4. προαιρέω #4255 τῇ καρδίᾳ: in the heart (2nd Cor. 9:7).
   6. προθύμως #4290: of a ready mind; willingly, with alacrity (1st Pet. 5:2).

B. Involuntary words and expressions.
   1. ἄκων #210: not of one’s own will; unwillingly (1st Cor. 9:17).
   2. ἐκλύπης λύπη #3077: sorrow, pain, grief (2nd Cor. 9:7).
   3. ἐξ ἀνάγκης ἀνάγκη #318: necessity, calamity, distress (1st Cor. 9:16; 2nd Cor. 9:7; Philem. 14).
   4. ἀναγκαστῶς #317 Hapax: by force, under compulsion (1st Pet. 5:2).
   5. ἀναγκάζω #315: to compel, force, constrain (Matt. 14:22; Mk. 6:45; Lk. 14:23; Acts 26:11; 28:19; 2nd Cor. 12:11; Gal. 2:3,14; 6:12).
   6. δεῖ #1163: to be under a necessity; must, ought, need (Used 106x incl. Lk. 2:49).

C. Involuntary ≠ Inviolable
   1. Involuntary means “against someone’s will.”
   2. Inviolable means “unable to be disobeyed” (unable to violate).

II. Development and Application

A. Either/Or versus Both/And
   1. Grace Giving must be EITHER voluntary OR involuntary (2nd Cor. 9:7). Giving voluntarily is rewardable.
   2. Goodness must be EITHER voluntary OR involuntary (Philem. 14). Voluntary goodness is rewardable.
   3. Shepherding must be EITHER voluntary OR involuntary (1st Pet. 5:2). Shepherding voluntarily is rewardable.
   4. Evangelism is BOTH voluntary AND involuntary (1st Cor. 9:16,17).
      a. The voluntary aspect is rewardable.
      b. The involuntary aspect is the stewardship entrustment.

B. Involuntary service is developed as the “Have to-s” of the Christian Way of Life.
   1. Jesus Christ “had to” go to the cross (Matt. 16:21; Mk. 8:31; Lk. 9:22).
   2. Believers bearing witness under martyrdom “have to” communicate the Holy Spirit’s message (Lk. 12:11-12).
      a. Believers may not “want to” suffer martyrdom (Demas? 2nd Tim. 4:10).
      b. Voluntarily submitting to involuntary martyrdom is rewardable (Rev. 2:13).
      c. The involuntary martyrdom may be voluntarily disobeyed (Rev. 2:10b).
   3. Believers “have to” celebrate and rejoice for a returned prodigal (Lk. 15:32).
      a. Believers may not “want to” celebrate a returned prodigal (Lk. 15:28).
      b. The involuntary celebration may be voluntarily disobeyed (Jon. 4:10,11).
   4. Believer priests “have” to pray without ceasing (Lk. 18:1).
      a. Believers may not “want to” pray.
      b. The involuntary prayer obligation may be voluntarily disobeyed (1st Thess. 5:17).
   5. The increases and decreases of ministries are “have to-s” in God the Father’s sovereign plan (Jn. 3:30).
   6. Experiential tribulations are “have to-s” in the Christian Way of Life (Acts 14:22).
   7. Pleasing God the Father is a “have to” in the Christian Way of Life (1st Thess. 4:1).
      a. Believers might “want to” please themselves instead of pleasing God.
      b. Believers might voluntarily disobey the involuntary obligation to please God.
C. Voluntary service is developed as the “Want to-s” of the Christian Way of Life.
1. Jesus Christ “wanted to” go to the cross (Jn. 4:34; 8:29 cf. 8:44; 14:31).
2. Jesus Christ “wanted to” feed the multitudes (Matt. 15:32).
3. Sometimes a “want to” gives way to a “have to” (Matt. 23:37; Lk. 13:34).
4. Sometimes a “want to” gives way to circumstances beyond our control (Mk. 7:24; 1 Thess. 2:18).
5. Believers may experience a difference of opinion in the “want to-s” (Acts 15:37-38).
6. Sometimes a “want to” loses out to our carnality (Rom. 7:16,19,20,21).
7. Acceptable Christian service (grace giving) is according to what a believer “wants to” do (give) (2nd Cor. 9:7).
8. Acceptable Christian sacrifices include “doing good” and “sharing” (Heb. 13:16).
   a. Doing what good? What do I have to do? What do I want to do?
   b. Sharing what? What do I have to share? What do I want to share?

D. Biblical illustrations of the “Have to-s” and the “Want to-s.”
1. Moses (Ex. 3:10).
   a. Come now, and I will send you (Ex. 3:10). Who am I? (Ex. 3:11)
   b. I will be with you (Ex. 3:12). Who are you? (Ex. 3:13)
   c. Go (Ex. 3:16ff.). What if they will not believe me? (Ex. 4:1). Here are some miracles (Ex. 4:2-9).
   d. Please, Lord, I am not eloquent (Ex. 4:10). You are as I made you (Ex. 4:11-12).
   e. Please, Lord, send somebody else (Ex. 4:13). (With anger) Aaron will go with you (Ex. 4:14-17).
   f. Aaron’s encounter with the Lord was much shorter (Ex. 4:27).
2. Jonah.
3. Jeremiah (Jer. 20).
4. Jesus Christ “had to” be in His Father’s house (Lk. 2:49), and yet He returned to His father’s house (Lk. 2:50-52).

III. Summary and Conclusion
A. “Want to-s” (Voluntary service) are rewardable and boastable.
B. “Have to-s” (Involuntary service) are neither rewardable nor boastable.
C. Voluntary service is still God’s work and not man’s (Phil. 2:13).
D. Involuntary service still maintains expectations of obedience and consequences for disobedience (1st Cor. 9:16).