



The Good News

February 21st, 2021

Volume 21, Issue 7

Examining our Commitment to the Lord

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When we look at our relationship with God, what do we see? For those of us who are Christians, we should see a prosperous, growing soul who thrives on the word of God and lives to serve the brethren, his neighbors, and his God. Yet, how easy it is to fall victim to the devil's traps. Perhaps some of us try to believe that God is satisfied with mediocrity, and that all we need to do is just enough to skate by. Perhaps just going through the motions is enough for us. Yet, Scripture shows us that this is not the attitude we are to have.

As a new creature, what commitment have I made? **I Cor. 6:11** reads, "*but you are washed, but you are sanctified, but you are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*" Paul says we were washed free of sins, sanctified, being made holy, set apart, and justified, being shown innocent and just. In doing so, we have made a commitment to remain washed, set apart, and justified. Paul says, "*Likewise you also, reckon (consider) yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord*" (**Rom. 6:11**)

Yet, there is more. We read in **Col 2:11**, "*In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ.*" What does circumcision have to do with the Christian? Was not circumcision in the Old Law? Indeed, but we can understand that Paul is saying that we were circumcised in baptism spiritually, and doing so we gave ourselves over to Christ, pledging our life to Him. For Paul writes, "*Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you, which you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*" (**I Cor. 6:19-20**)

We realize that, whether Christians or not, all will be judged by the same standard, the same Law that God has placed into effect. Baptism is the means by which we find ourselves within the ark of safety. Peter says, "*For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the Gospel of God?*" (**I Pet. 4:17**). All will be judged by the Gospel.

Considering this, what kind of service should I be offering? **II Pet. 2:5**, "*you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*" Brethren, what kind of service do we render to God when we do only what we have to? Does God accept mediocrity? Paul tells Titus that Jesus Christ "*gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*" (**Titus 2:14**) We are a special people, set apart for Him, redeemed from our lawless deeds, commanding our minds to think of only what is godly. In our effort to please Him, we are zealous for every good work. Finally, in **Rom. 12:1-2**, Paul says, "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*" This is the commitment of a Christian. Seeing as how we are no longer our own, let us serve Him, not giving him mediocrity or "just enough", but giving Him our whole body, heart, mind, and soul.