

Fully For The Lord

We who are Christians wish (or at least we should wish) to be completely devoted to the Lord.

Luke 16:13 “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

The degree to which we are to do this is seen in Paul’s goal in preaching:

2 Cor. 10:5 “We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ”

I. Converted To The Lord

A. Jesus Preached And Believed

Jesus must be known before He can be believed in.

2 Cor. 4:5 “For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus’ sake.”

Acts 16:30-32 “and after he brought them out, he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

31 And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household.”

32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house.”

Acts 8:35 “And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.”

The converts believed in Him when told.

Acts 8:36,37 “And as they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?”

37 And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.””

Acts 8:12 “But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.”

B. United With Jesus

Those believe are united in Jesus.

Gal. 3:26,27 “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”

Rom. 6:3-6 “Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection,

6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin”

Or as Paul explained more simply this same effect in another place:

Gal. 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.”

II. Made For The Lord

A. Called And Selected

None of this was without the plan of God to choose us to be this way.

Rom. 1:6 “among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ”

Tit. 1:1 “Paul, a bond-servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness”

Jude 1 “Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ”

1 Pet. 2:9,10 “But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.”

B. Sanctified And Sealed

Made holy.

1 Cor. 1:1 “to the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:”

1 Cor. 6:9-11 “Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,

10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.”

And staying holy with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Eph. 1:13,14 “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.”

III. Living For The Lord

A. Living Up To The Calling

This is a high calling. We must make sure we live up to it.

Eph. 4:1 “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called”

1 Pet. 1:15,16 “but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;

16 because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

Careful Life

Eph. 5:15 “Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise,”

B. Avoiding Fleshly Lusts

This is the life of the Lord, not of the flesh.

Eph. 5:3,4 “But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints;

4 and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.”

Eph. 5:18 “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit”

The called have been cleansed – and must stay that way.

IV. Living For Others As The Lord

A. Submitting To Authority

This is just as Jesus did.

Heb. 10:7 “THEN I SAID, ‘BEHOLD, I HAVE COME (IN THE ROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME) TO DO THY WILL, O GOD.’”

We obey since God is the source of authority.

Rom. 13:1,2 “Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

2 Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.”

We also obey because God told us to.

1 Tim. 6:1,2 “Let all who are under the yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine may not be spoken against.”

B. Leading By Serving As The Lord

Elders

1 Pet. 5:1-4 “Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,

2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

Husband love wife as Christ

Eph. 5:23-26 “Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.

24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;

26 that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word”

C. Submitting As To The Lord

Wife submit as to husbands as to the Lord

1 Pet. 3:5,6 “For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands.

6 Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.”

Children

Col. 3:20 “Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.”

Servants

Col. 3:23,24 “Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men;

24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.”

All

Heb. 13:17 “Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”

Eph. 5:7 “With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men”

Eph. 5:21 “and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.”

V. With Urgency Looking For The Lord

A. Scoffers Argue For Unlimited Time, Lethargic Christians Live It

2 Pet. 3:3,4 “Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts,

4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.”

B. Faithful Recognize Shortness Of Time

1 Cor. 7:29-31 “But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none;

30 and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess;

31 and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.”

Jas. 5:8,9 “You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.”

Heb. 10:25 “not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.”

C. Faithful Confidently Prepared For The End

Rom. 16:20 “And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.”

D. Faithful Are Victorious In The End

Phil. 3:20,21 “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”

If this is the end of those who are devoted, why wouldn't we do it?

Why wouldn't we fully live it?

Why wouldn't we do everything to achieve it?

2 Cor. 5:8,9 “we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

9 Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.”