

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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A Deep Commitment

(Michael Baker)

One of the most difficult things people face in their lives is spiritual commitment. Many people embrace a “free spirit” mentality and despise the idea of being tied down. However, if we desire to enter into God’s Kingdom, we must be committed to Christ. Not only must we be committed to Christ as a Christian to be saved, but our level of commitment must be firm. Let us see why we should be motivated to develop a deeper commitment with Christ.

Let us first realize that the Lord demands total commitment. Elisha committed fully to his role as a prophet of God when he was called. In 1 Kings 19:19-21, Elijah approaches Elisha as he is plowing a field, places a mantle upon him signifying God’s authoritative calling for him as a prophet. He wastes absolutely no time in bidding his farming career and family farewell. He slaughtered a yoke of oxen he was working with, boiled them, and followed Elijah as his servant. He willingly made provision for his commitment to the Lord by getting rid of his past priorities that would have demanded his attention. Other important priorities can strain our commitment to Christ if we allow them to. Jesus says in *Luke 9:42* “No one putting

their hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God.” We that are Christians have been tasked with being totally committed to Christ. Not on what was, is, or is going to be around us.

Since God demands that we commit entirely to Him, let us realize we will have to endure hardships. This is why we need a deep level of Commitment. Paul tells Timothy he needed to expect difficulty throughout his life as a Christian. He says “*Those who desire to live godly will suffer persecution*” in *2 Tim. 3:12*. Some of us may have already faced trials for living godly, but be assured more will come.

The reward of total commitment makes any sacrifice well worth all that has to be endured. If our commitment does not run deep, then we will fail in dealing with the many stresses, trials, and disappointments in this life. We must be grounded with a genuine commitment to serve God. We must remember He alone is God. Only He can save. We must prioritize His will above the will of our parents, family, spouses, or friends. While we can love and appreciate them, our commitment ultimately is shown unto God. When our loved ones break their

commitment to God and no longer follow Him, we cannot waver. We must remain grounded having a deep connection with God.

Let us also see we must be sincerely committed to God for the entirety of our lives. In *2 Chronicles 25:2*, King Amaziah did what was right in the sight of the Lord with a heart that was not loyal. He carried out the Law as it was intended at the beginning of his reign. But his heart did not remain committed to God, for he brought in idols from the Edomites and “*set them up to be his gods*” *2 Chron. 25:14*. Our commitment to God cannot be one that only lasts when we are following the commandments we want to, but one that lasts our whole life.

We must live a life fully committed to God if we desire to be saved by Him when this world comes to an end. Otherwise when things get difficult, we’ll simply walk away. Let us be like Elisha and be willing to “boil our oxen” so we can develop a deep level of commitment to God. In so doing, we shall be able to stand through the painful trials of persecution, and pain of loved ones growing dark in their commitment. Let us follow the Lord so we can be saved.