

## **Commit To Being Committed**

- *Psalm 37:5; Acts 20:22-24*

- **There are times where God uses certain sermons from this pulpit to directly convict others of sin in their lives. There are other times where sermons are preached & God is able to teach us something & change our thoughts & our lives. And then there are sermons that are preached where God warns us of the dangers of not following after Him.**
- **This sermon will hopefully be one of those that include all 3 segments.**
  - If you have sin in your life today & you need God's forgiveness, I trust that you will call upon Him today.
  - I also want God to teach us some things today that will cause us to love Him more.
  - But I think the sermon today could also be used as a warning.
- **Commitment is one of the things that I believe is missing in our world today.**
  - It's missing in a lot of corporations today,
  - It's missing in families,
  - But unfortunately, it is also missing among Christian people.
- **Commitment or Determination: to have one's mind made up; to become unwavering in ones actions & attitude.**
- **3 QUOTE SLIDES**
- **We are told that there are right at 100 million Church members in America and yet, why are we not making more of a moral and spiritual impact?**
  - Why is it, that on Sunday morning, hundreds of churches have empty pews?
  - Why are so many churches having just a few at service on Wednesday and Sunday nights?
  - Why are more & more churches turning from the truths of God's Word & instead preaching a man-made, feel-good sermon that avoids the issue of sin & "thus saith the Lord"?
  - The Holy Bible is the inspired, inerrant word of God, and yet, why is it that so few read it?
  - If God is a prayer answering God, and He has commanded us to ask, seek, and knock, then why is so little praying going on?
  - If you and I believe there is a heaven & hell, why do we keep so quiet about the gospel?
  - Why are Christian lives continuing to be wrecked through the consequences of personal sin in their lives?
- **The answer to all of these questions is tragically simple! God's people have made a decision about Jesus....but have never made a commitment to Him."**
  - I want Jesus. I want what He has to offer. I want forgiveness. I want His blessings. I want a home in Heaven. But do we want all these things enough to commit our lives to Him?
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
  - **In his testimony, Paul was committed to the ministry God had given to Him and he was determined not to quit, but would go to Jerusalem to die for Jesus Christ if necessary.**
  - **Paul could say, "None of these things move me!" because he knew what he was as a minister of Jesus Christ, and as an accountant would do, he examined his assets and liabilities and still decided to put Jesus Christ ahead of everything else.**
- **There are some things worthwhile to be committed to in this life. Let's take a look at a few of them tonight.**

### **I. Be Committed To God**

- **Mk. 12:30 - "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment."**
- **Matt. 6:33 - "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."**
- a. **Real commitment is not conditional.**

- i. Real commitment is not a Sunday thing, its 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, with no vacations or off days. You are the same person on Monday through Saturday as you are on Sunday.
- b. Real commitment is seen by others.**
  - i. If we are really committed to God, It will show. Others will see the fruits of your commitment.
  - ii. Let me also say in the same token, if we are not committed, it shows just as much.
    - 1. I don't have to look at an attendance sheet or a tithing statement to tell you who is committed to this ministry. Do you know why? It shows in your life.
- c. Dr. M.R. DeHaan – “To come to Christ costs nothing; to follow Christ costs something; but to serve (commit to) Christ will cost you everything.”**

## **II. Be Committed to family**

- a. Be committed to your vows.**
  - i. **If it is true that close to 50% of marriages today will end in divorce, what is the driving force behind this terrible trend? Answer ... a lack of commitment.**
  - ii. **There is of course a difference between a decision to be married and a commitment to be married.**
    - 1. Unfortunately many couples today, even inside the church, made a decision to get married, but they never made a commitment.
    - 2. When people get married today, they go into it with the idea, “I hope it works out, but if it doesn't, we'll get a divorce.”
    - 3. They stand before a preacher and made promises and recited vows. They made a decision, they kissed each other and walk down the aisle as husband & wife, not as death shall part them, but until they are no longer happy.
  - iii. **So why did they divorce? The answer is that they made a decision, but they did not truly commit their lives to each other. But when a couple marries and makes a commitment to one another that is a different story.**
- b. Be committed to your children.**
  - i. **Children see no commitment to family from their parents.**
  - ii. **Certainly this means loving for them & caring for them.**
  - iii. **The Bible defines the way a family should be. (Col. 3:18-20), 18) Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.**
    - 1. A husband has no problem loving a submissive wife.
    - 2. A wife has no problem being submissive to a loving husband.
    - 3. Children will love and honor parents who love them and teach them according to the Bible.

## **III. Be Committed To Your Church**

- **Why aren't our churches just absolutely exploding today? One of the greatest reasons that the church is not making more of an impact in our society is that many church members made a decision about Christ, but have not made a commitment to Christ, nor to the church.**
- **Preacher Earl was a Navy pilot, you may or may not know that. But Preacher, often times when you took off on a plane, especially in the Navy, you took off from an aircraft carrier, right?**
  - Now I can't think of a better example of commitment than this.
  - Sitting in the cockpit of that plane on the aircraft carrier, you seem as though you mean business & you are ready to fulfill your duties.
  - You may even throttle the engine & make a little noise to show that you are ready to follow through with your mission.

- But as the catapult releases you & the throttle of that jet thrust you forward and you head toward the end of that air strip, there is a certain point where staying on the ground is no longer an option.
      - When he crosses that line, he is committed to the air, he will take off or a disastrous crash is ahead.
      - At that point, the pilot can no longer change his mind ... he is committed.
  - **We are living in a day where churches are filled with members who have never got off the ground.**
    - They have been sitting there gunning their engines, making noise but getting nowhere.
    - They have been planning on it, meaning to, wanting to, trying to, going to, aiming to, hoping to. But they have never got off the ground.
  - **What I want for these new members that that have joined today & next week & what I want for this church is for us to be a people who are continually committed to live for God. I want to challenge you this morning to “get off the ground.”**
    - Romans 12:1-2, the Apostle Paul issues a clear call for commitment when he says, - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
  - **The word “present” is a technical Greek word used for offering a sacrifice. This is a voluntary act, it is not a command. This is something that is completely up to you.**
    - God will not make us commit, the Pastor cannot make us commit, your mate cannot make you commit, but it should be our desire more than anything to be committed to a Holy God.
  - **And Paul reminds us that as we reflect on the goodness of God, how can we be anything other than committed?**
  - **Paul goes on to mention another important term when he calls us to sacrifice ourselves.**
    - Under the sacrificial system the animal to be sacrificed was committed to the priest, was killed and consumed on the altar.
    - The believer’s are told that they are to present themselves as “living sacrifices” with the understanding that there is no such thing as “partial sacrifice or a partial commitment.”
    - It is impossible to be “sort of committed.” You are either committed or you are not committed. It is not possible to be a partial sacrifice.
      - When you sign the dotted line to be in our armed forces, you are no longer might be interested. You have just committed completely.
      - You are not kind of a Gamecock fan or a Clemson fan, right?
  - **To commit ourselves to God means that we are to yield ourselves to him, surrender to him, abandon ourselves to him, entrust ourselves to him and place ourselves at his disposal. True commitment is not something that you can take back.**
    - Just this past week, a Sudanese court convicted a 27 year old expecting mother on the grounds of apostasy, or the renunciation of faith.
      - She is a professing Christian, her husband said. But the court considers her to be Muslim.
      - The court also convicted her of adultery and sentenced her to 100 lashes because her marriage to a Christian man is considered void under Sharia law.
    - The court gave her until Thursday to recant her Christian faith -- something she refused to do, according to her lawyer.
- a. Committed To Personal Growth**

- i. We are called to commit ourselves as disciples. Disciples are learners. We should never reach a point in life at which we are no longer learners.
- ii. Even Paul said about himself “Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: ... Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended.” (Phil 3:12-13)
- iii. Make a commitment to continue to grow spiritually. Take positive steps to do so.
  - 1. Start a Bible reading plan.
  - 2. Set aside time each day to pray.
  - 3. Get involved in Sunday School.
  - 4. Be a witness to others.
  - 5. Read good Christian literature.
  - 6. But whatever you do, never give up on learning.

**b. Committed to Church Attendance.**

- i. The local church is the first level of commitment outside of our personal relationship with the Lord. The local church with all its imperfections is still the Lord’s major avenue through which he accomplishes his work. The church gathers for worship, teaching and fellowship to gain power to carry out the ministry as each member is scattered to their various places of responsibility in the world.
- ii. But some people just do not see church attendance as a necessity. What is a necessity in your life?
  - 1. Working, sure.
  - 2. Eating, absolutely.
  - 3. What else???
    - a. Yard work?
    - b. Fishing?
    - c. Rest?
    - d. When you stand before God, are these real excuses that you are going to present to Him?
- iii. Heb.10: 25 - “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”
  - 1. Does your family need to ask, "are we going to church today?"
  - 2. Do you experience "Sunday fever":
    - a. 1 sneeze and back to bed you go, but On Monday grab a hanky and go to work.
    - b. Just too tired on Sunday night. When you get too busy to go to church you are too busy.
    - c. Wednesday night too many things to do. God can take some things away, so you won’t have an excuse.

**c. Committed to Church needs.**

- i. Mal. 3: 8-10 - “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”
- ii. We need to be committed, to giving to the church. It’s more than tithing, it’s supporting the Church, with our love, our prayers, our time, our availability, and our finances!
- iii. The ministries or programs don’t just happen by themselves. We need to be committed.

1. Let me tell you a story using four typical Church Members. I'll name them: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to do and everybody thought that somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but none of them did it, so it didn't get done. Somebody got angry because it was everybody's job. Everybody thought for sure that somebody would do it, but nobody asked anybody. In the end the job wasn't done, and everybody blamed somebody when nobody asked anybody. Is that not like a lot of committee meetings today?

**d. Committed to Soul winning.**

- i. Prov. 11:30 – "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."
- ii. Matt. 28:19 – "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"
- iii. Some may say: I can't talk to people about the Lord...but they have no problem talking about everything else. Some may say: I don't know enough about the Bible.
  1. Whose fault is that?
    - a. II Tim. 2:15 - "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
    - b. James 1: 5 - "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."
    - c. James 4: 2-3 - "...yet ye have not, because ye ask not. 3) Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss..."
    - d. Mt. 7: 8 - "For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."
  2. It all boils down to ... Commitment.
- iv. I heard on the radio Friday that a Christian pastor in a foreign country was sentenced to prison for his testimony & his witness to others. While in prison, he has continued to win several to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. However, last week he was demanded to stop & if he did not stop witnessing, for every person that was saved, they would extend his prison sentence. What would you do?

➤ **In closing, let me ask you tonight to make a commitment.**

- **If you have not committed yourself to the Lord, then you need to begin there.**
- **Once you have committed yourself to the Lord will you commit yourself to personal growth, institute some practical steps to do so beginning today.**
- **Will you commit yourself to this local church? Be in your place. Don't allow yourself to be distracted from being a part of the church.**
- **Be Involved. Find a Sunday school class. Commit yourself to begin building some new relationships within the church.**
- **Be loyal. You will never get your neighbor to visit a church that you are constantly finding fault with.**
- **Will you make a commitment that you are going to look for opportunities to put your talents and abilities to work? Don't wait for someone to ask you, volunteer to help.**

➤ **If we all make those commitments today, the church would be a different place. The church would be what the Lord intended it to be!!!!**