

COMMITMENT

AUGUST 19, 2018

Num 12:7 My servant Moses is not so, who is *faithful* in all mine house.

- Committed people of God will be faithful.
- In our society commitment is almost an unimportant and flippant matter.
 - Illustration. In 2003 the Anaheim Ducks were in the Stanley Cup championship series. Before one of the games they interview a man who said he would marry his girlfriend whom he has been dating for 5 years, if the Ducks won the Stanley Cup Championship.
 - They lost, and I wonder if they're married today.
- Commitment is important because it is the fuel of our faithfulness.

Phi 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.

- Commitment is also the difference in success from one person to the other.

1 Cor. 9:24-27 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

- If we are going to keep the firm foundations of our faith that we have learned about in the past several weeks, then we need to be committed.

1. What is Commitment?

- The problem is many don't understand what commitment is.
- And because of that we are double minded.

a. Decision.

- You will not be committed to anything unless you decide to be.
- Maybe have made the decision to trust Christ as Savior, but if you have made the decision to be committed to him life.
- A committed person is one who has decided to be committed.

b. Desire.

- It must involve something that you want to do or become.
- When we desire to become what God wants us to be then we can commit to become what he wants us to be.
- But desire can be used on the wrong things.
 - Self.
 - This World.

c. Determination.

- Making a decision and having a desire is easy, but following through takes determination.
- Any commitment that we make will be tested.
 - It is at a time of testing that we find out whether or not our commitment will be real.
- Many are okay with being committed to Christ as long as it doesn't cost anything.
 - What commitment does cost and if we don't realize that going in we are setting ourselves up for a fall.

d. Death.

- It's something that will be a part of your life forever.
- It should be like marriage, til death do us part.
- Jesus is not looking for casual fans, he's looking for committed followers.

e. Direction.

- Commitment is a direction for it will determine the course of your life.
- The direction you are going determines the destination you will arrive at.
- Commitment puts us on the right course and guarantees we will arrive at the right place.

2. What should we commit to?

- There are several areas the Bible tells about that are worthy of our commitment.

a. Your Lord.

1 Cor 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

- Because he bought us being committed should come naturally.

- It shouldn't be a hard decision to make.

b. Your Spouse.

Eph. 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

- You did say till death do us part.
- There will always be reasons why we feel justified in breaking our commitment.

c. Your Children.

Mal 4:5-6 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

- Anybody can have a child but it takes diligence to be apparent.
- Everybody is excited when the child is born, but that's just a beginning where the work begins.
- The best commitment you can make for your child is to be committed to their mom or dad.

d. Your Growth.

1 Pete. 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

- You will not grow if you do not commit to grow.
- Commit to the spiritual disciplines;
 - Bible reading.
 - Prayer.
 - Church attendance.
 - Soul Winning.
 - Serving.
 - Giving.

e. Your Church.

Heb 10:24-5 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

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.

- Remember the church was Jesus idea not man's.
- You will never be as close to God as you should without a good Church you are a member of.

3. What are the negatives of being uncommitted?

a. You're not stable in any area of life.

Gen 49:4 Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.

b. You'll have problems in relationships.

Pro 17:17 A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

c. You'll become dissatisfied with church.

d. You'll eventually walk away from God.

- Commitment is the key to any successful relationship, especially one with God.

e. You'll never grow into a mature Christian.

f. You'll never accomplish anything of any value in life.

Pro 21:25 The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.

g. You're a disobedient Christian.

Mar 12:28-31 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: 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. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

4. How do I grow in Commitment?

a. The starting point begins when we become Christians.

- Before this there is no relationship with God.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

- At salvation we commit our eternal destiny to Jesus Christ.

b. We become committed Christians when we decide to live the obedient Christian life.

- We will not grow without making a decision to do so.

Rom 12:1 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.

- We follow through on that decision by ignoring our circumstances and feelings and just being obedient.

Josh 3:13-16 And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the LORD of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap.

And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people;

And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,)

That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho.

c. When we follow through on our commitment to Christ we become Disciples.

- Not everyone who is a Christian is a disciple.

Matt 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Luke 14:26-27 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

- **What is involved in being a disciple?**
 - ***Denying.***
 - We put the things of God above all else.
 - We should have a supreme love for God that goes before anything else.
 - By placing God as the priority in our life and schedule.
 - ***Difficulty.***
 - The Christian life is not always easy. It is always right.
 - Don't quit at the first sign of resistance.
 - ***Direction.***
 - Just follow Christ.