

The Brown Street Beacon

"...Shine out among them like beacon lights,

holding out to them the Word of Life" (Phil 2:15-16)



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ARE YOU COMMITTED TO THE LORD?

Paul paid a wonderful compliment to the brethren at Macedonia. He said of them, "For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; Praying with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God." (2 Corinthians 8:3-5). Serving God became second nature to these Christians because they gave themselves to Jesus. They were committed to God.

Are you committed to God? All of us should be able to answer "yes" to this question. If we are not committed to God, we are not what He would have us to be. Let us observe what we need to do and be in order to say we are truly committed to God.

COMMITTED TO TRUTH

God's word is truth (John 17:17). We should zealously defend the truth in the face of error. Paul said, "...I am set for the defense of the gospel" (Philippians 1:17). Certainly that should be the attitude of all of us. Indeed, if we are committed to God as we should be, we will have such an attitude. Men are constantly trying to change the word of God, substituting "I think" for truth. Upholding truth should be of the utmost importance to us. If you have taken a stand for a position that is wrong, your commitment to truth should allow you to change when you see the error of your position. Too many are more concerned with winning an argument or not being wrong than they are in knowing, believing, and standing for truth. Being committed to truth sometimes means we must swallow our pride.

Commitment to truth also means being willing and ready to preach all truth, and refute false teachings. We must declare the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:20, 27), and be prepared to earnestly contend for the faith (Jude 3). This commitment to truth is a part of being committed to God.

COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH

Jesus said we are to "seek first the kingdom of God..." (Matthew 6:33). The kingdom of God is the church that Christ built (Matthew 16:18; Colossians 1:13). One becomes a member of the church and a citizen of the kingdom at the same time, i.e., upon obedience to the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16; Mark 1:15). The Bible, of course, also speaks of the church in a local sense (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:2, etc.). While one is added to the universal church that was established on the first Pentecost after the ascension of our Lord (Acts 2), a person joins a local church (Acts 9:26). While one has no choice about the church he is added to, for in the universal sense there is only one church (Ephesians 4:4), one makes a personal decision as to which local church of Christ he will

join. Once one makes a choice and becomes a member of a local church, he or she is then obligated to be an active, working member of that church. One who is not committed to the local church of which he is a member is not committed to God. Are you committed to your local church? Do you use your talents to help the local church and further the cause of Christ on earth? If you can sing, you should help lead the singing. If you have knowledge of God's word and you can teach, you should be teaching in the local church. If you have a talent to exhort, you should be involved in the business of exhorting. If you have a home, you should practice hospitality. If you have been blessed financially, you should give as you have been prospered by God. Every member should do what he or she can in making the local church successful (Romans 12:4-13).

COMMITTED TO LOVE

Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" (John 13:34). Paul indicated that without love we are nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). John revealed the importance of love when he said, "...whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother" (1 John 3:10). These passages, and many others as well, show us that one cannot be committed to God without being committed to love. God is love. Since He has demonstrated His love for us so vividly, we should also demonstrate our love one for another. We should remember that love is more than lip service. It involves action (1 John 3:16-18). To love someone is to always act in that persons best interest. Here is the practical application of that truth. We will not steal from or cheat our fellowman. We will not engage in gossiping or backbiting. We will not ignore the sins of brethren. We will not neglect our responsibility to preach the gospel to the lost. All these things would show a lack of love, for they are not in the best interest of others. Read carefully what Paul said in Romans 13:8-10. Love acts a certain way. Paul tells us how love acts in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Learn from Paul's inspired pen how love acts and then be committed to that way.

COMMITTED TO BIBLE STUDY

We have already seen that commitment to God involves commitment to truth. Quite naturally, then, we should be committed to studying truth (2 Timothy 2:15). Do you want to grow in knowledge? Are you committed to knowing more about God and His will? Those questions can be answered by another question. How much time do you spend in Bible study? Our commitment to God should involve a daily search of the scriptures. Do forget that faith comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17).

If you are not committed to God, continued service to Him will not exist and heaven will be lost. If you are, you will draw closer to heaven every day.

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