

“Why We Believe in Total Consecration”
(1 Corinthians 10:31)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. Paul warns in this chapter of being divided between the Lord and the things contrary to Him.
 - a. He points out to Corinthians first
 - (i) That their fathers were all baptized into Moses
 - (ii) In the cloud and sea.
 - (iii) They all ate the same spiritual food,
 - (iv) Drank the same spiritual drink,
 - (v) All of which pointed to the same Savior.
 - b. And yet most of them God destroyed
 - (i) With fiery serpents,
 - (ii) By His destroying angel.
 - c. Why? Because having all these privileges
 - (i) They craved evil things.
 - (ii) They were idolaters.
 - (iii) They were immoral.
 - (iv) They grumbled against the Lord.
2. Paul's point is, they were counted among God's people and yet in the end they were destroyed.
 - a. Why?
 - (i) It is because eternal security
 - (ii) Isn't true after all? No.
 - (iii) It's because they didn't trust Him
 - (iv) And give their lives to Him.
 - b. You can be a member of the church
 - (i) Baptized, attend worship, participate in the sacraments
 - (ii) And still be unconverted.

B. Preview.

1. How can you prevent this from happening to you?
 - a. One way is by listening to Paul's warning.
 - b. He said these things happened as an example to us –
 - (i) They were written down so we could learn –
 - (ii) So that we would always be careful
 - (iii) When we think we stand that we don't fall.

- c. How can we do this? Paul gives us several ways.
 - (i) First, realize that with every temptation
 - (a) God will provide the way out
 - (b) So that you can endure it.
 - (c) Make sure you're looking for that way.
 - (ii) Second, make sure you steer clear of idolatry.
 - (a) If you're going to eat from the table/altar of the Lord,
 - (b) You can't be eating and drinking from another altar at the same time –
 - (c) Not that of demons or of the world.
 - (d) You must be the Lord's and His alone.
 - (iii) Third, you also need to make sure
 - (a) You don't stumble your brothers and sisters.
 - (b) Paul said they could eat meat
 - (1) Sacrificed to an idol,
 - (2) As long as they understood
 - (3) That idols were just wood and stone
 - (4) And not real deities.
 - (c) But if your eating stumbles a brother or sister
 - (1) Who isn't convinced in their own minds
 - (2) That eating that meat offered to idols isn't sinful
 - (3) And that by your eating
 - (4) You encourage them to eat against their conscience
 - (5) Then you're actually causing them to sin.
 - (d) It might be lawful for you to eat all things.
 - (1) But when you use your liberty
 - (2) To stumble your neighbor,
 - (3) You're no longer living according to love.
 - d. Paul's conclusion is,
 - (i) "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (v. 31).
 - (ii) In your eating and drinking,
 - (iii) In everything you do,
 - (iv) Do everything out of love
 - (v) For the Lord and for your brothers and sisters.
 - e. This is the definition of a life
 - (i) Totally consecrated to God.
 - (ii) This is how He calls you to live.
2. This evening, let's consider three things:
- a. The Lord wants all of you – your whole life.

- b. Why He wants your whole life.
- c. How you can give Him more of your life.

II. Sermon.

A. First, the Lord wants all of you – your whole life.

1. We have to admit

- a. That consecration is one thing
- b. That is seriously lacking in the church today.
- c. Perhaps it's something we struggle with.
- d. So many who profess to know and love Jesus Christ
 - (i) Live their Christianity from 11:00 – 12:00 PM on Sundays,
 - (ii) But live the rest of their lives for themselves.
 - (iii) They've promised to give their whole lives to Him
 - (iv) But they won't even spend the day
 - (v) He has set aside to spend with them.

e. How can we honestly say

- (i) That we're looking forward to spending eternity with God
- (ii) When we're unwilling to spend one day a week with Him?
- (iii) We should stop and evaluate why we want to be in heaven at all.
 - (a) Is it because we love Him?
 - (b) Or is it because we don't really want to spend eternity in hell?

f. If we have trouble spending a day with God

- (i) What about everything else He desires from us?
 - (a) We are to do everything for His glory (1 Cor. 10:31).
 - (b) We are to present ourselves as living and holy sacrifices (Rom. 12:1).
 - (c) Jesus said, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me" (Matt. 16:24).
 - (d) "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:27).
- (ii) If we can't deny ourselves long enough
 - (a) To give Him even one day of our lives,
 - (b) How will we ever be able
 - (c) To give Him our whole lives?

2. The Lord wants all of you –

- a. All your time,
- b. All your strength,
- c. All your gifts,
- d. All your resources,
- e. He wants your whole heart, mind, and soul.
- f. Everything you have,
- g. Everything He has given you.

B. Second, why does He want it all?

1. First, because it all belongs to Him.
 - a. He made you.
 - b. He gave you all you have.
 - c. It's only right to give yourself back to Him.
2. Second, because He also redeemed you.
 - a. When we fell away from Him
 - b. He sent His Son
 - (i) To give His life
 - (ii) For the single purpose
 - (iii) That we would stop living for ourselves
 - (iv) And begin to live for Him again.
 - c. That's what redemption is all about:
 - (i) He set us free from sin
 - (ii) To walk again in holiness –
 - (iii) That we might give ourselves to Him.
3. Third, it's the only right thing to do.
 - a. For the reasons already given,
 - b. But also because being God
 - (i) He deserves far more
 - (ii) Than all of us together could give Him
 - (iii) The rest of our lives.
 - (iv) The least – the very least we could do –
 - (v) Is give Him what we can.
4. Fourth, because this is the means He has chosen to bring blessing to others.]
 - a. If we do give ourselves to Him
 - (i) Not only will we glorify Him
 - (ii) And answer the reason He saved us,
 - (iii) We will be the means of blessing others.
 - b. As long as we live for ourselves
 - (i) Others won't be reached
 - (ii) With the blessings the Gospel can give.
 - (iii) But if we give ourselves
 - (iv) To advance His kingdom
 - (v) There will be those who will be saved –
 - (vi) Souls who won't spend eternity in hell,
 - (vii) But live with the Lord forever in heaven.
 - (viii) If only one soul is saved through all our efforts,
 - (ix) It will be worth it.
 - (x) Spurgeon once wrote, "If there existed only one man or woman who did not love the Saviour, and if that person lived among the wilds of Siberia,

and if it were necessary that all the millions of believers on the face of the earth should journey there, and every one of them plead with him to come to Jesus before he could be converted, it would be well worth all the zeal, labour, and expense. If we had to preach to thousands year after year, and never rescued but one soul, that one soul would be full reward for all our labour, for a soul is of countless price.”

5. Fifth, because this is God’s means of bringing blessing down to ourselves.
 - a. The Lord withholds His blessings from those children
 - (i) Who will not do what He calls them to do.
 - (ii) Discipline is reserved for them.
 - b. But He does those who will serve Him –
 - (i) To those who will give of their time
 - (a) He gives more strength and energy
 - (b) To make better use of the time they have.
 - (ii) To those who give of their gifts, He gives them greater power in those gifts.
 - (iii) To those who give of their resources, He gives more resources.
 - (iv) Not to mention the fact
 - (a) That the more you give to Him
 - (b) The more you store up riches in heaven.
- C. Finally, how can you give more of yourself to the Lord?
1. The first thing you need is the desire.
 - a. If you don’t love the Lord
 - b. Enough to give yourself wholly to Him
 - c. You’re never going to do it until you do.
 2. How can you love Him more?
 - a. Consider what we saw this morning:
 - (i) Meditate on what He has done for you.
 - (ii) And use the means of grace
 - (iii) To build yourself up in the Holy Spirit.
 - b. As your love grows, you will be able to give yourself more to Him.
 3. Second, purpose that you will be the Lord’s and do His will
 - a. No matter what persecution or suffering comes your way.
 - b. Believe what Jesus says: “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:10).
 - (i) It’s always better to suffer for doing what’s right
 - (ii) Than to be safe by doing what’s wrong.
 4. Finally, know how God wants you to live

- a. And determine that you will live
 - (i) That way without compromise.
 - (ii) Resist temptation and sin!
- b. Find the way God has provided to escape that temptation and take it!
- c. Do not allow your heart
 - (i) To go out after the things
 - (ii) You know God does not approve of.
 - (iii) Stay faithful to His table.
- d. And be careful not only for yourself
 - (i) But for your brothers and sisters in the Lord.
 - (ii) Don't stumble them by the things you do,
 - (iii) But encourage them by your example
 - (iv) To live a godly life.
- e. Sin quenches the Spirit and saps your strength.
- f. But living according to His Word will build you up in Christ.
 - (i) Jesus lived His life strictly according to God's commandments.
 - (ii) His meat and drink was to do the will of His Father.
 - (iii) He did this not only to save your life
 - (iv) But to leave you an example to follow:
 - (a) That you might obey them as well
 - (b) And find them to be more precious
 - (c) Than your meat and drink.
- g. Next week,
 - (i) We'll begin looking at why we believe
 - (ii) We need to keep God's commandments.
- h. But for tonight remember:
 - (i) God calls you to complete consecration –
 - (a) He doesn't want part of you,
 - (b) Part of your time, your strength, your gifts and resources –
 - (c) He wants all of you.
 - (ii) This is why He made you.
 - (iii) This is what you owe Him by virtue of creation and redemption.
 - (iv) This is how you will be blessed and become a blessing to others.
 - (v) And so begin to take inventory of your life.
 - (a) Where are you living according to God's commandments?
 - (b) Strengthen those areas even more.
 - (c) Where are you not?
 - (d) Begin to pray that God would give you the strength
 - (e) To turn from your sins and give yourself wholly to Him.

- i. For those here who haven't yet given yourself to the Lord,
 - (i) Remember, what Jesus said, "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matt. 16:25).
 - (ii) If you hold onto your life
 - (iii) And live it in rebellion against Him,
 - (iv) You will eventually lose it forever.
 - (v) But if you will trust Him
 - (vi) And give your life to Him,
 - (vii) You will find eternal life –
 - (viii) He will save you.

- j. Don't take another step toward hell,
 - (i) But turn to the Lord in faith,
 - (ii) Receive His free gift of eternal life,
 - (iii) And then begin to serve and follow Him
 - (iv) With all you have to give Him.
 - (v) May the Lord help us all to do so. Amen.

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