

The Biblical Meaning of Dedication

Text: For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. Ezra 7:10

Introduction

- A. You can tell a good deal about a person if you know his or her priorities.
- B. Dedication is one important way whereby correct priorities **are established**.
- C. Too **often** "dedication services" are only the expression of an **emotion**. It is necessary to see that dedication is related to decisions of faith and that these decisions have Biblical content*

I. The Importance of Dedication.

- A. Because of the Biblical exhortation, Romans 12:1,2.

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.

- B. Because of the dedication of the Lord Jesus Christ, Hebrews 10:7.

Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of Me,) to do Thy will, O God.

- C. Because of who we are. We do not belong to ourselves, I Cor. 6:19,20.

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price, therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

- D. Because of the greatness of our task and the necessity of having goals to fulfill that task, Matt. 28:18-20.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth, Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have ~~commanded~~ **commanded** yen, and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world, Amen.

- E. Because of the examples of dedication which are given in the Scripture and seen in life, Ezra 7:10.

- F. Because of the call of God, II Timothy 1:9.

Who hath saved us and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.

II. The Content of Dedication.

A. There is a calling to be recognized and to be fulfilled, Eph. 4:1.

I therefore the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation (calling) wherewith ye are called.

B. There are qualifications to be met, Eph. 4:2,3.

With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.

C. There is an orthodoxy to be maintained, Eph.4:4-6.

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, Who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

D. There are gifts to be accepted and used, Eph. 4:7-10.

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ

E. There are divinely ordained relationships between the recipients of these gifts and callings, Eph. 4:11,12.

And He gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

F. There are personal and corporate goals which are to be achieved, Eph. 4:13-16.

Till we all **COM** in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ. From Whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

III. The implementation of Dedication.

And that servant, which knew his lord's will and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. Luke 12:47

A. I must assume responsibility for my own spiritual life before God. This means learning the truth of how to live before God and then to practice it.

B. I must assume responsibility for the task God has given me.

1. What is the commission God has given me so I may fulfill my call?

2. What does it mean to practice my commission and fulfill **my** call today?

Conclusion: Dedication is a correct response to God according to the pattern of the Scripture*

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