

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **John 17:9-19**.
- B. From Roy Enoch (5-2-93).
- C. Let's talk about the "C" word today! That word is COMMITMENT. When one makes a commitment to X, other things fall into order.
- D. My purpose is not to scare one away from commitment, but to seriously talk about that commitment.

I. COMMITMENT.

- A. Why talk about commitment?
 - 1. To cause non-Xians to make a commitment to X.
 - 2. To cause Xians to re-examine their commitment.
 - 3. To cause erring-Xians to repent and return to their commitment.
- B. The NT does not use the word commitment but focuses on the concept with the word--consecration.
 - 1. COMMITMENT is:
 - a. The act of binding to a charge or trust.
 - b. An agreement or pledge to do something in the future.
 - c. The state of being obligated or emotionally impelled.
 - d. Some synonyms: entrust, confide, consign, relegate.
 - 2. CONSECRATION is.
 - a. Believers becoming so by X (Jn. 17:17; 1Pet. 2:9).
(Jn 17:17) "Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth."
(1Pet 2:9) But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
 - b. Christ himself (the supreme example); (Jn. 17:19; Heb. 7:28; 10:10).
(Jn 17:19) "And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth."
(Heb 7:28) For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, made perfect forever.
(Heb 10:10) By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
 - c. Believers who are urged to consecrate themselves (Rom. 12: 1; 2Tim. 2:21).
(Rom 12:1) I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.
(2Tim 2:21) Therefore, if a man cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.
 - d. That which finds result in a new priesthood (1Pet. 2:9).
But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
 - e. Having direct access to our heavenly Father (Eph. 3:11-12).
This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, **12** in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

II. JESUS REQUIRES COMMITMENT FROM ALL HE CALLS.

- A. First, commitment is **doing the Father's will**:
 - 1. "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men" (Mt. 4:19). Life is not the same anymore!
 - 2. The Samaritan woman at Jacob's well had to worship in truth (Jn. 4:23).
"But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; **for such people the Father seeks** to be His worshipers."

3. Paul recognized that X called him for a purpose (Phil. 3:12).
Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but **I press on in order that I may lay hold** of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.
- B. *Second*, the commitment is **a whole new way of life**:
 1. The Lord never calls us to passive agreement.
 - a. He requires active service.
 - b. Saying we believe Him is not saving faith.
 2. He urges us to consider the cost of changing our lives.
 3. Repentance is the change in our heart that results in a change in our lives.
 4. The main focus in the world is on self, the focus of Xians is to be on X and others.
- C. *Third*, commitment is **discipleship**:
 1. Disciple: a learner, a pupil; to become a pupil; or transitively, to instruct, teach.
 2. Several scriptures show the commitment of discipleship (see Mt. 10:32-39):
 - a. The Lord requires that we confess Him. He becomes the one and only Lord of our lives.
 - b. Jesus demands that we not deny Him. We may deny others, but we cannot deny (reject) Him. Actually, we are to reject all others; and remain devoted to X alone.
 - c. Jesus requires that we stand by Him against our family.
 - d. We must bear our cross and follow Jesus.
 - e. If we try to avoid persecution to save our life, we will lose it.
 3. Discipleship is really a walk of following Jesus completely:
 - a. He is our Lord and Master--we MUST obey Him (Lk. 6:46).
"And why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"
 - b. He is our Teacher--we MUST learn His way.
 - c. We forsake all others and listen exclusively to X.
- D. *Fourth*, commitment is **for a lifetime**:
 1. It requires that we be holy, pure, and godly (Mt. 24:13; Rev. 2:10).
(Mt 24:13) "But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved."
(Rev 2:10) "Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."
 2. It is a dedication to service rather than gratification. We forsake all others and self.
 3. It is a willingness to suffer (Rom.8:17; Phil. 3:10).
(Rom 8:17) and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.
(Phil 3:10) "...that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;..."

III. COMMITMENT TO X BRINGS MANY BENEFITS.

- A. Xians have **leadership and direction** (Jer. 10:23; Mt. 28:20).
(Jer 10:23) I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself; Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.
(Mt 28:20) "teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
- B. Christians have **an anchor for our soul**: a safe mooring.
 1. We often feel adrift trying to get along with men.
 2. The world is always in a bewildering turmoil.
 3. We must have our trust in something stable, solid, and secure (Heb. 13:8).
- C. Christians have **a best friend**.
 1. Many, like Paul, tried being an enemy of X.
 - a. He had the praise and glory of men.
 - b. The world supported him.

2. When he became the friend of X he was persecuted.
 - a. He found that persecution brought greater blessings while serving X.
 - b. Self-denial brings greater happiness than self-gratification.
- D. Christians have **a Savior**.
 1. We cannot have salvation without commitment (see Mt. 10:32).
 2. He wants to save the whole world, but the gospel contains the conditions of salvation.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. If you are not a NT Xian, why?
- B. Why not use this opportunity to accept the invitation of X?
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.