

"The Doctrine of Consecration"

Part 2

Romans 12:1-15:7

Introduction: Last week in our study of Romans we started into chapter 12 which takes us into the Doctrine of Consecration. The word "consecrated" means to be set apart as sacred or the act of being dedicated to God for His service. Paul has presented eleven chapters of theology and now he will challenge us as to how to apply the theology. To begin tonight we are going to review a little of what we considered last week and then pick up where we stopped.

I. The Introduction to Christian Service

Part 2

Romans 12:1-8

A. The Challenge

Notice Romans 12:1

Here in this verse we looked at how God desires for us to be completely given over to Him. We know this because we are "beseeched" to give our bodies as living sacrifices. To give the body is to give the entire person of ourselves over to Him. Our Lord desires us to live lives of surrender. This "beseeching" is based upon the mercies of God as presented in the first eleven chapters of Romans. God gave the very best He had when He gave His Son to die for us and therefore it should come natural for us to want to live for Him.

The idea of a sacrifice means something must die. It is not that we die physically but the idea is that we die to our desires, our wills and sometimes our plans. This is a daily sacrifice that must be offered. Notice what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 15:31

³¹ *I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.*

Every day we must be willing to die to the will of our sin nature. The sin nature is all about SELF gratification but here in Romans 12:1 God is asking us to live to please Him. It is important to also note that our sacrifice is to be HOLY. This means that if we desire for God to accept our sacrifice, we must present ourselves as HOLY, which means separated. In other words, God will not accept a contaminated sacrifice. He wants ALL of us and the BEST of us. He does not want what is left over after we have fulfilled our own wills which is the offering that is presented by most.

B. The Change

Notice Romans 12:2

The "world" spoken of here is not the globe we live on. It is the world's sinful, ungodly system. It is the teachings and the philosophies that are pushed by a system that is being driven by the god of this world/Satan. Today the world's system is being greatly influenced by the spirit of the anti-Christ.

It is this very system that we are not to be conformed to. Satan would love to cause us to be shaped by this present world system. He would desire to see us to be filled with fear and to compromise our stand for the Lord. Paul goes on to tell his readers that instead of being conformed to the world they were to be transformed by the renewing of their minds. The word "transformed" is the very word we get the word "metamorphosis" from. The idea is that just as a lowly worm changes into a beautiful butterfly, so we are to be transformed into people who show forth the life of Jesus Christ. We too were once "lowly worms" but now we have within us the power of God and we are now new creations.

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Notice Romans 12:2 again.

I want you to notice that in order to manifest the life of Jesus Christ our MINDS must be transformed. This means our thinking must be changed. This happens as a believer saturates his or her mind with the Truth of the Bible. Let us remember the Word of God is alive and it is powerful. When we get a steady diet of God's Word it changes the way we think. It changes the very way in which we see things. Our perspective becomes transformed. Let me remind you of something we considered last week.

The idea for us here is that we are not to conform to the pressures of the world, but we are to change from the inside out. It's a mental process described by Vine as "the adjustment of the moral and spiritual vision and thinking to the mind of God, which is designed to have a transforming effect upon the life."

And there is more.

Notice Romans 12:2 again.

The word "THAT" here in this verse introduces the result of presenting our bodies as living sacrifices and being transformed as we saturate our minds with God's Word. It is then we "PROVE" which means "to test or discover" the will of God for our lives. God's will in this verse is described in three ways but the three ways in which it is described is NOT a

description of the attributes of God's will but instead these three descriptions tell us what the will of God is for each believer.

1. It is good.

The will of God is the best place we can be. It is Satan that does his best to convince us that the will of God is not good and to be in the will of God is keeping us from that which will bring joy to our lives.

We see Satan's deception in Genesis.

Genesis 3:1-5

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

² And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

³ But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

⁴ And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

⁵ For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Satan convinced Eve that walking in the will of God was robbing her of that which would benefit her. Satan convinced Eve that God's will was not good. Another example of Satan's deception was when Israel came to Kadesh Barnea to enter Canaan. When the spies brought back the evil report of the land Satan convinced the people of Israel it was too dangerous to walk in the will of God. He made it look as though the will of God was bad.

The will of God is the place where we need to be living because it is good.

2. It is acceptable.

This means the will of God is "well pleasing". To put this another way, we could say that the will of God is "very satisfying/fulfilling" to the believer. This Truth is so enlightening, and it really needs to be known within the body of Christ. There are so many believers that are missing this in their lives. There is little satisfaction because they are caught up in the philosophies of the world. This is what so many people are looking for today. Many

believers have bought into the lies, of Satan which say money, stuff, relationships and entertainment bring satisfaction and joy. These are the very things which Solomon tried.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity.

² *I said of laughter, It is mad: and of mirth, What doeth it?*

³ *I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.*

⁴ *I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards:*

⁵ *I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits:*

⁶ *I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:*

⁷ *I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:*

⁸ *I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts.*

⁹ *So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me.*

¹⁰ *And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.*

¹¹ *Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, **all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.***

Solomon found no lasting satisfaction in any of this. Everything he tried left him empty. Then in chapter 12 he reached a conclusion.

Ecclesiastes 12:13

¹³ *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole **duty** of man.*

The word "DUTY" has been added by the translators here. The verse actually reads, "This is the whole of man". In other words, this is what man was made for. This is what brings wholeness to a person's life.

3. It is perfect.

There is no better place for the believer to be than in the will of the Lord. So, it is good for us, it is fulfilling for us and it is the absolute perfect place to be. This is where we need to abide.

Now we must keep in mind that until we are surrendered, separated, and transformed by the Word of God we will not know the will of God. Many people look for the will of God, but they are not surrendered, they are not living separated lives, and they are not filling their minds with the Word of God. For these reasons they are like a ship on the sea with no anchor. The ship is driven with the wind and the wind changes frequently. The believer is controlled by feelings which also change frequently. These people are double minded. They want to know the will of God, but they are not willing to be fully committed to the Lord. They live for the world and then they give to God whatever is left over.

James 1:8

⁸ *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*

These people are unstable in all their ways. Isaiah spoke of people who were double minded.

Isaiah 29:13

¹³ *Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me,*

Let us notice what Hosea said concerning Israel.

Hosea 7:8-11

⁸ *Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned.*

⁹ *Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not.*

¹⁰ *And the pride of Israel testifieth to his face: and they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him for all this.*

¹¹ *Ephraim also is like a silly dove without heart: they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria.*

Let us notice an example that applies to many people. It comes from Samson and Delilah.

Judges 16:18-20

18 And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand.

19 And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.

20 And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.

Samson did not know the Lord's power had departed from him. There are many believers who are double minded, and they too do not understand that they have no strength. They are like the silly dove flying aimlessly through life.

Conclusion:

We need to give present ourselves as living sacrifices which is the will of God, we need to stand against the world's philosophies and ways, we need to be transformed by the renewing of our minds by saturating our minds with the Bible. It will be through all of this that we will discover the good, acceptable and perfect will of God.

Let me give you something important to know about the will of God. **Circumstance do NOT determine the will of God.**

I point this out because many people are looking for an easy path to walk. The will of God can be very trying and painful. Let us remember the path of Joseph, Paul and Jesus.