

## Principles of Spiritual Growth – 04/05/20

### Consecration

**TEXT – Gal 2:20** *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I,*

**INTRO – Consecration is not the same as dedication.**

**The devoting or setting apart of anything to the worship or service of God**

Separated from a common to a sacred use; devoted or dedicated to the service and worship of God

**"The modern teaching of consecration, which is tantamount to the consecration of the 'old man,' seeks to bypass the death sentence and, therefore, only leads to frustration and failure. When, however, you and I are prepared, in simple humility, to make the FACT of our death with Christ our daily basis of life and service, there is nothing that can prevent the uprising and outflow of the new life, and meet the need of thirsty souls around us." - J.C. Metcalfe**

- The Christian enjoys a new sense of who he is **2 Cor. 5:17**
- He has a new relationship to God: he belongs to God
- He has adopted a new mind, a new way of thinking: the basis of faith
- In addition to these things, the Christian lives in "newness of life"

**Rom 6:4** *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

**Sanctification is the result of consecration**

**Rom 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. 2 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.*

**We must initiate consecration!**

### I. Consecration Cannot be Accomplished by Self-effort

**A. Lists of rules and standards will not result in consecration.**

**B. Through the flesh believers consecrate, re-consecrate, surrender, re-surrender, commit, recommit himself to Christ and all resulting in failure**

**C. Identification with Christ in His death cannot be omitted.**

**Rom 7:18** *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

### II. Crucifying the flesh must be a daily practice

#### **A. Challenges That Require Consecration**

**Rom 6:11** *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**1Co 15:31** *I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.*

**Joshua 3:5** *And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you.*

#### **B. God will do something great**

The Bible is replete with examples of those who prepared themselves for God to do something special:

-- **Joshua told the people of Israel who about to cross the Jordan to enter the Promised Land, to prepare themselves that God might do wonders among them.**

— **In Exodus 19:10, 11 before God gave the people of Israel the 10 Commandments, He told Moses:** *"And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai."*

#### **C. We must first experience a cleansing**

**James 4:8** *Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*

**2 Co 7:1** *Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

#### **D. Ultimately we must make a commitment**

**Consecration is a choice**

**"The will to win is not nearly as important as the will to PREPARE to win."**

### III. Consecration is a normal outflow of a crucified life

**The old self-life ↔ The new Christ-life**

**Gal 2:20** *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

**Mat 16:24-25** *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*

**God has drawn the line of demarcation between two races -- the fleshly and the spiritual man.**

## **Seth vs. Cain**

In the days of Noah the two races had mingled and intermarried,  
The end of all flesh is come before me; I will destroy them with the earth.  
After the flood God chose a separate family, the line of Abraham,

## **Isaac vs. Ishmael,**

## **Jacob vs. Esau,**

**Lot's unnatural daughters**, the Moabites and the Ammonites.

**Esau** and **Amalek** were the representatives of the flesh and the world.

Their cry is like the **prodigal**, "*Give me the portion of goods that falleth to me*"

The very first thing you need in order to be of any use anywhere is to be thoroughly broken, completely subjected and utterly crucified in the very core and center of your will.

God has determined that the race of **Amalek and the house of Agag should be utterly exterminated**. They were not to be spared, but to be destroyed.

There was nothing good in them.

**1 Pe 2:9** *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

**CONCLUSION – Let us ask God to expose our hearts.**

**1 Oh, the bitter shame and sorrow,**

**That a time could ever be**

**When I let the Saviour's pity**

**Plead in vain, and proudly answered,**

**"All of self, and none of Thee."**

**2 Yet He found me; I beheld Him**

**Bleeding on the accursed tree;**

**Heard Him pray, "Forgive them Father;"**

**And my wistful heart said faintly,**

**"Some of self, and some of Thee."**

**3 Day by day His tender mercy,**

**Healing, helping, full and free,**

**Sweet and strong, and ah! so patient,**

**Brought me lower while I whispered,**

**"Less of self, and more of Thee."**

**4 Higher than the highest heavens,**

**Deeper than the deepest sea,**

**Lord, Thy love at last has conquered:**

**Grant me now my soul's desire,**

**"None of self, and all of Thee."**