

A STEWARD OF SERVICE

2 Corinthians 5:14, 15

Introduction: *"For the love of Christ controls and urges and impels us, because we are of the conviction that if He died for all, then all died; and he died for all, so that all those who live might live no longer to and for themselves, but to and for Him who died and was raised again for their sake."*

There is an obligation each Christian owes back to the Lord Jesus Christ and it is a life of dedication to the one who made it possible for the Christian to have eternal life. Each Christian owes to the Lord Jesus a stewardship of service.

I. THE CHRISTIAN IS COMPELLED TO CONQUER SIN

1. The first Christians are examples for all others to follow.
 - What gave them joy in hardships, hazards and sufferings?
 - What drove them towards being mobbed, scourged, imprisoned and even put to death?
 - *"The love of Christ constraineth me..."* holds the secret.
 - They found unwavering sufficiency in the Cross.
 - And so shall we when we have given ourselves as they had done.
2. It is one thing to take the cross for granted, to not realize its' importance, but one cannot be used by God until he/she has surrendered his/her all.
3. The cross stands between the Christian and God's wrath but it also stands between the Christian and the world of sin in which all live.
 - We need to think in terms of the cross.
 - We need to apply the cross in our judgments.
 - We need to carry the cross daily.
4. Too many who call themselves "Christians" are slaves of wrong values. They are bound by sin and they love the rewards of sin, but don't care for the risks of the Christian life.
 - They have not given themselves to Christ completely.
 - They wear the cross as an ornament but do not bear the cross in service.
5. Do we talk of the bleeding sacrifice of Calvary?
 - Do we praise the martyred Christians whose blood was spilled in the Roman arenas?
 - Do we speak highly of the saints who went to the stake and prisons?
 - When the time comes for us to act as a Christian, do we act as if we are only playing Christian? Do we act as if we can put on or take off Christianity whenever we want?
6. When we sing of the crucifixion, do we realize what we are singing about?
 - Do we seem to be ignorant of the thorned crown and the nail pierced hands of Jesus?
 - Are we aware of the wreck and needs of the world around us?

- How can we say "I know Christ" if we remain unconcerned? If we do not have a sorrow for sin and compassion for souls, can we possibly know Jesus Christ?
7. A Jewish Rabbi once said, "The Jews have rejected Jesus and the Christians have disgraced Him."
 - A missionary who spent 30 years in the fields once said, "The greatest missionary problem is the failure of Christian people to live up to their professions." Is he right?
 - Another missionary said: "The chief obstacle to the spread of Christianity is not Hinduism, not Buddhism, not even paganism, but the rotten behavior of the people who call themselves Christians." Has he spoken the truth?
 8. Such things could never be TRUE if we would not hold anything back from God.
 - Such things could never even be thought of if we would let the Cross of Christ show in every stage of our lives.
 - If we would give to God our time, tithe and our talents, such things could never be spoken of a Christian.

II. THE WORLD IS WAITING FOR CHRISTIANS TO LIVE WHAT THEY PROFESS

1. Countries filled with burdened and bitter people who are always in the shadow of war.
 - Countries filled with age-old superstitions, our neighbors who should be our Christian brothers and sisters.
 - Countries freed by wars but not freed from their ungodly ways and sin.
 - Millions who have been sleeping in idol and ancestor worship for centuries are trying to awaken to the cross.
2. We have been commissioned: *"Go and disciple all nations..."*
 - We have our assurance: *"...I am with you..."*
3. We have tried many methods and systems of trying to please God.
 - Having big conventions is not what God wants.
 - Having big numbers in Church is not what God commanded.
 - Having only a faint notion of what the cross means will not do.
 - None of these things will do.
 - Nothing but laying down our lives, COMPLETELY, giving everything to God, THIS and only THIS will do.
 - Will you give your total self to God?

III. WHAT KIND OF CHRISTIANS ARE WE IN TRUTH?

1. We call ourselves Christians yet are not completely dedicated to Jesus. We have not given to God the strings to our pocketbooks, the keys to our talents or the handle of our lives.
2. What hope have we if we sing "Onward Christian Soldiers" and yawn, looking at our watches?
 - What hope have we if we thank the pastor for his fine sermon but do not surrender our lives to God?

- What hope have we if we can see the craters on the moon but lose sight of Jesus?
- What hope have we if we can hear the sounds of t.v. and the radio but cannot hear the voice of God?
- What hope have we if we have big, comfortable buildings but we forget that "*other foundations can no man lay than that is laid which is Jesus Christ.*"?
- What hope have we if we call ourselves Christians and have not surrendered our lives, our talents and our total selves to Jesus?
- The Lord calls such people "hypocrites."
- The Bible says that there are many who will call out "*Lord, Lord*" but God will not recognize them for they refused to let themselves be used by God.

CONCLUSION:

1. Much time has already gone from your life, how much time do you have left? Won't you let Jesus have the rest of your life?
2. There is a place of service for YOU and every Christian in the work of Jesus Christ.
3. Will you not surrender you all to the Lord Jesus?