

MESSAGE # 3: THE TEST OF COMMITMENT

Biblical Passages: Romans 6, Romans 12:1-5, Philippians 3:13-16

I. Introducing the Subject:

The idea in commitment is that one is dedicated to some purpose or object and that results in the giving of oneself to the attainment needed for that goal. But commitment has a necessary side to it that prevents it from becoming criminal or obsessive in its reality. Commitment that does not have that corrective is not commitment but obsession and as such may transcend the bounds of what is right in the pursuit of what may be accomplished. Paul warns Timothy that the one who runs in a race or strives for a prize is not crowned unless he does so in a lawful fashion (2 Timothy 2:5). There is a lot to be said on this subject but the test of commitment is yieldedness to the standard or authority or the issuing party. Commitment is therefore governed by law and becomes an honorable way of attainment and not merely a pushy forcefulness.

II. Discussion:

- A. In yieldedness we present ourselves. That is the point of Romans 12 and a rejoinder to Romans 6. We give ourselves to God in the sense of a "living sacrifice" and we will view all of the things that come to us in life as being given to Him. This truth is seen in many places in the Scripture and our commitment is seen in our willingness to yield. This will bring us to the understanding of God's will and since He is a God of truth we will act to the desired end in truth.
- B. In yieldedness we serve the body. The thought is that we are equipped by God to function and we see the body as the place where this function is meaningful. Whatever gift is given us we use it to the strengthening of the whole. Commitment means that there is no withholding on our part of what may be needed for the completion of the task given by the Spirit of God. Because the body is "Christ" it will not expect of us what is not right or within our means of fulfillment.
- C. In yieldedness we will submit and work with one another. We will all submit to God and to others as the stationing of life requires.