

A lot of friction is avoided this way and our commitment is shown to be true as we are willing to set self aside and labor within the bands of the Spirit.

- III. Conclusion: Yieldedness is the test of commitment. We may profess being committed to the Lord or to a task or to a fellowship but if we are not yielded on godly principles to that end, our profession is not valid.

MESSAGE # 4: THE TEST OF USEFULNESS

Biblical Passages: 2 Timothy 2:19-22, 3:17, 4:11; 1 Peter 1:16 ff,

I. Introducing the Subject

In any sort of arrangement there are some things that are useful and some things that are not. I save things and at times someone will ask "Why are you keeping that" and the answer is simply that I may need it some day....but, as you likely know, it is most probable I will never use it at all and it is really totally useless. Now in a kind way there are people like that in a practical area. Every believer is useful to God and to His people but the test of the reality of usefulness is in consecration. Even worthless things may have meaning in the realm of object lessons but there are no "worthless" people among the people of God. There are some, however, whose usefulness is very limited (consider the brother in 1 Corinthians 5 as an example) and what is missing in their ability to be useful is consecration. Consecration means simply to be set aside for a particular purpose and in a spiritual context, that purpose is holiness. The area in which one will serve is not so important as the reality of being ready to serve and the key to that is consecration so that one may fill the place assigned by the Master as a good steward.

II. Discussion:

- A. See that you belong to God. This is the great truth for every believer. We are bought with the blood of Christ, we are claimed by the Spirit of God, and we are joined to the family of God by Divine decree. It is the greatest of all possible blessings and the finest of all positions. But we need to see it, to reckon it so and to live it.