

- B. Accept the challenge of Holiness. That is the challenge to live in a way of being God's person. The vessels in the temple were holy...the servants in the temple were holy and in the practical realm of things we are also holy. We are "sanctified" and it is not something we hope will happen some day. Hebrews 12 informs us of this and as we see ourselves in this holy light we can see ourselves being used by God and in a proper sense being useful to God and His people.
- C. Give yourself to the testimony of God and His people. This is a highly personal matter and not one that can be legislated although some may try to do it that way. Knowing you belong to God and that your life is set apart to Him gives the basis for service and witness. The particular manner of expression (what you will do) will become increasingly clear when one sees oneself as being dedicated to God...like the vessels in the temple.

III. Conclusion: If you want to be useful to the family of God and the witness of the Lord, consecrate your life to Him and allow the Spirit of God to exercise in you the gifts He has given. It is easy to be "showy", I think, and to be of little visible usefulness. It is also easy to boast and not be very useful either. Quiet consecration is the test of usefulness and it may well give you a career like Mark who, at first, did not have the favor of Paul but, as time went on and his consecration grew, the Apostle could speak of him and say his ministry was profitable to him.

MESSAGE # 5: THE TEST OF LIFE

Biblical Passages: 1 John 5:12 (an in the broad context)

I. Introducing the Subject:

I suppose, because the flesh is weak, the world is tempting, and the spirit is often taken up with meaningless things (!) we may wonder sometimes if we are really God's children after all. This may come to us after we have failed in some spiritual task or when the allurements of the world about us tries to make us think there is something better than being "saved." May it never be part of your experience but some years ago, in the middle of a big nervous breakdown, it was part of mine and I cried and worried in a senseless fashion until someone helped me