

DEDICATION

Int.

1. Aim: To show why and how we must have dedication in our service to the Lord.
2. 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. 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.”
 - a. Present bodies - “Living sacrifice”
 - b. Living for righteousness - Holy = devoted to God
 - c. No command of God, no service to God can be rendered without the use of the body
3. 1 Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”
4. Let us notice the meaning of dedication and the essentials of dedication

Discussion

I. MEANING OF DEDICATION

A. Definition of Dedicate

1. To devote exclusively to the service or worship of a divine being
2. To set apart formally to a definite particular purpose
3. Become committed to as a constant goal or way of life or action
4. Self-sacrificing devotion to a cause !

B. Uses of Word in Old Testament

1. Dedicating of Altar when the tabernacle was completed

a. Numbers 7

b. Notice these facts:

- (1) Each of the 12 tribes brought their offering in the order in which they were encamped about the tabernacle

Day 1 = Judah	Day 7 = Ephraim
Day 2 = Issachar	Day 8 = Mannasseh
Day 3 = Zebulon	Day 9 = Benjamin
Day 4 = Reuben	Day 10 = Dan
Day 5 = Simeon	Day 11 = Asher
Day 6 = Gad	Day 12 = Naphtali

- (2) All of the tribes brought the same kind and same amount of offering

(a) Meat Offering

<p>Silver Charger - 130 Shekels Silver Bowl - 70 Shekels Both full of fine flour mingled with oil</p>
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(b) Incense Offering

<p>Golden Spoon - 10 shekels Filled with Incense</p>

(c) Burnt Offering

<p>One Bullock One Ram One lamb of 1st year</p>

(d) Sin Offering - A kid or goat

(e) Peace Offering

<p>Two Oxen Five Rams Five He-goats Five lambs of 1st year</p>
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(3) All were equally indebted and had equal responsibility to God !

c. Altar was dedicated to God

(1) By anointing the altar it was consecrated to God

(2) It was solemnly appointed to that service for which it had been built

(3) Numbers 7:10 "And the princes offered for dedicating of the altar in the day that it was anointed, even the princes offered their offering before the altar."

(4) Numbers 7:88 "And all the oxen for the sacrifice of the peace offerings [were] twenty and four bullocks, the rams sixty, the he goats sixty, the lambs of the first year sixty. This [was] the dedication of the altar, after that it was anointed."

d. This offering cost the people something -

(1) It was the best they had

(2) The flour = not left-overs but the finest flour they had

(3) II Sam. 24:24 "...neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing."

2. Offerings - teach something about Dedication

a. Five Sacrifices

- 1 - Burnt Offering
- 2 - Meat Offering
- 3 - Sin Offering
- 4 - Trespass Offering
- 5 - Peace Offering

b. We will notice some things about the Burnt offering - **Lev. 1:9,13, 7:8**

(1) It was wholly consumed except the skin which was given to the priest

(2) This signifies entire self-surrender on the part of the offerer

(3) Christ completely surrendered himself

(a) John 4:34 "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."

(b) John 10:18 "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."

(c) John 17:4 "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."

(4) Every Christian must surrender himself wholly to the Lord

(a) Matt. 22:37 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

(b) Matt. 6:24 "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

(c) Matt. 12:30 "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad."

(d) Jas. 4:4 "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

c. The burnt offering followed the sin offering

- (1) To withhold the burnt offering would have been the deepest expression of ingratitude
- (2) Christians have accepted the mercies of God in forgiveness of sins.
- (3) This calls for a complete surrender - Rom. 12:1 "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."

3. Dedication of the Temple

a. Completed -

- (1) I Kings 6:37,38 - it took 7 years to build
- (2) II Chron. 5:1 "Thus all the work that Solomon made for the house of the LORD was finished: and Solomon brought in [all] the things that David his father had dedicated; and the silver, and the gold, and all the instruments, put he among the treasures of the house of God."

b. Solomon and the people dedicate the temple

(1) 1 Kings 8:2, 12-14, 22-24

(2) 1 Kings 8:63 (NKJV) "And Solomon offered a sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to the Lord, twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the Lord"

(3) The temple was dedicated exclusively to the worship and service of God

(4) Today Christians are the temple of God and we are to be dedicated to His service

(a) 1 Cor. 6:19-20 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

(b) 1 Cor. 3:16-17 "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

(c) 1 Cor. 10:31 "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

(d) As the Temple was dedicated to God, so should our body be dedicated.

II. STUDY OF ROMANS 12:1

"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."

A. Beseech

1. It means to beg, to entreat, to implore
2. The source of the beseeching is..
 - a. "I"
 - b. Paul who had prayed constantly in their behalf Rom. 1:9
 - c. He longed to see them Rom. 1:10-11
 - d. Paul the one who was indebted to all men - Rom. 1:14
3. To whom is the beseeching addressed ?
 - a. Note the words "you" and "brethren"
 - b. These were members of God's family
 - c. These were "saints" in Rome
4. Now look at the importance of the word "therefore"
 - a. This word is a connecting link between this passage and the preceding chapters.
 - b. In chapters 1-11 Paul has discussed doctrinal matters relative to God's plan for man's righteousness
 - c. He now shows that points of doctrine are designed to find application in living.
 - d. There has to be the proper relationship between doctrine and life

5. What are the grounds for the beseeching?
 - a. This beseeching is issued upon consideration of the "Mercies of God."
 - b. "Mercies of God" and the "therefore" must relate to the same things
 - c. It refers to God's matchless love in providing for man's deliverance from condemnation - Rm. 5:5-9

- B. The Object of the beseeching is "...to present your bodies as a sacrifice unto God."
 1. The word "present" means to offer, to give, to dedicate, consecrate - it means to place at God's disposal.
 2. Who is to do the presenting ?
 - a. During the Jewish system the offerer had to seek out a priest, of the tribe of Levi.
 - b. But, in New Testament Christianity each person is his own priest.
 - c. Each person must make his own presentation
 - d. Christianity is uniquely personal.
 3. What is to be presented ?
 - a. One's own body.
 - b. The New Testament has much to say about the Christian's body
 - (1) 1 Cor. 6:19-20
 - (2) Rom. 6:12-14
 - c. Our bodies must be dedicated completely to the cause of Christ.
 4. The nature of this presentation is a "sacrifice" - something offered completely and unreservedly unto God.
 5. This presentation is made to God Himself.

C. The Description of this sacrifice

1. It must be a "living" sacrifice
 - a. In the Jewish system the offerer selected a choice "live" animal, which was then slain
 - b. Christians must be alive
 - c. The Lord sent a special letter to a church was dead - Rev. 3:1
 - d. We must be alive to work, to serve, to worship
 - e. Rom. 6:11 "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."
2. This sacrifice must be "holy"
 - a. The Christian is to be a "saint"
 - b. He is "called out" - he is dedicated to His Master
 - c. He puts the Kingdom of God first
3. It must be "acceptable unto God"
 - a. It must be "well-pleasing to Him.
 - b. We must not strive to please ourselves.
 - c. We must not be primarily concerned about pleasing men.
 - d. We must aim to please God - in our work and in our worship
4. And it is described as "Your reasonable service"
 - a. This means that it involves the mind
 - b. The presentation must be genuine, sincere
 - c. God's mercy is wonderfully great
 - d. Our bodies belong to God, and must be used in His service and to His glory
 - e. We must constantly strive to be a sacrifice unto God - living, holy, acceptable

- f. Our obligations grow out of our blessings
- g. It is reasonable to give ourselves entirely to God.

Conclusion

1. Become committed to as a constant goal or way of life or action = Dedication
 - a. Attendance
 - b. Living
 - c. Working
 2. Rom. 12:1 "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."
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Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Jan. 20, 2008 - Sunday Evening
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