TOTAL COMMITMENT

INTRODUCTION:
1. COMMITMENT means, "A promise or pledge to do something": "Act of doing or performing something".
2. TOTAL means, "comprising or constituting a whole; entire"
3. To have TOTAL COMMITMENT to Christ and His cause means to do what the Lord requires with our entire being -- Col. 3:23; Eccl 9:10
4. Christ requires His followers to give up self and be totally committed to Him:
   (1) Matt. 16: 24 - 25 -- Sacrifice and Serve -- Rom. 12:1; I Cor. 15:58
   (2) Luke 9:23
   (3) Matt. 6: 21 - 24-- Undivided Heart
   (5) Matt. 10:37
   (6) Matt. 6:33

I. HOW SOME MEMBERS ARE COMMITTED
1. Some are HALF-HEARTEDLY committed
   (1) John Mark departed from Paul and Barnabas at Perga in Pamphylia and went back to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13): Paul was much displeased with him for this -- Acts 15: 36 - 39
      1. John Mark was half-heartedly committed to the work
      2. When the going got hard he went back.
      3. Many are like John Mark today.
   (2) The Hebrew Christians half-heartedly were committed.
      1. They were not studying to develop -- Heb. 5: 11 - 14
      2. Some were forsaking the assemblies -- Heb. 10: 24 - 25
   (3) The church at Laodicea -- Rev. 3: 14 - 22
      1. "Neither cold nor hot"-- "Lukewarm"-- Rev. 3: 15 - 16
      2. Their half-hearted service made the Lord sick -- Rev. 3:16
      3. This half-hearted service had spread to the whole congregation.
      4. "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump"-- I Cor. 5:7

2. Some are VERBALLY COMMITTED
   (1) They always know WHAT needs to be done and HOW to do it.
   (2) But, they never DO very much but TALK.
   (3) Talk is easy and cheap.

3. Some are committed to PREACHERS
(1) Some at Corinth were committed to preachers -- I Cor. 1: 11 - 15; I Cor. 3: 1 - 6; I Cor. 4: 6

(2) Preachers, because of their position of influence, can be instruments of much harm or of great good.

(3) Preachers must not preach themselves -- II Cor. 4: 5; I Cor. 2: 3 - 5
   1. A church that is converted to a preacher instead of the gospel of Christ is a weak and unstable church.

(4) People who are committed to a preacher will fail when the preacher fails or leaves.

4. Some are committed at their CONVENIENCE.
   (1) They are like Felix -- Acts 24: 25
   (2) When it is not convenient they do not:
      1. Attend Bible Study -- II Tim. 2: 15
      3. Do not Give -- I Cor. 16: 1 - 2
      4. Do not Sing -- Eph. 5: 19
      5. Do not Visit -- James 1: 27; Matt. 25: 36
      6. Do not Work -- Phil. 2: 12

5. Some are EMOTIONALLY committed.
   (1) They can get all worked up over something for a while, and when the enthusiasm dies they lose interest.
   (2) They have not seriously considered the future and what may be involved.
   (3) Jesus talked about these kind of people in Matt. 13: 20 - 21

II. TO WHOM AND WHAT IS OUR COMMITMENT?

1. WHOM?
   (1) Our commitment is to Jesus Christ the Son of God, and to God.
      1. We are the disciples of Christ -- John 8: 31 - 32; Acts 6: 1; 11: 26; 20: 7
      2. He is our Savior -- Luke 19: 10; Matt. 1: 21
      3. He loves us -- Rev. 1: 5; John 3: 16
      4. He died for us -- I John 2: 2; Eph. 5: 25
      5. By His name we are saved -- Acts 4: 12

2. WHAT?
   (1) Our commitment is TOTAL
      1. It is not a cheap, nominal, half-hearted commitment.
      2. It is a daily commitment -- Luke 9: 23
      3. Christ lives in us daily -- Gal. 2: 20; Phil. 1: 21; Eph. 3: 17
      4. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"-- Matt. 6: 21
      5. Seek first the kingdom -- Matt. 6: 33
III. WHAT TOTAL COMMITMENT WILL DO:

1. It puts JOY into your life -- Phil. 4:4
   (1) Happiness and peace of mind -- Phil. 4:7; I Pet. 5:7
2. It puts CHRIST in control of your life -- Phil. 3:16; Eph. 1: 22 - 23
3. It moves the kingdom of God to FIRST priority -- Matt. 6:33
4. It show up in your daily life
   (1) Christ-like attitude in all associations -- Phil. 2:5
   (2) You become a BETTER husband, wife, child, parent, brethren -- Col. 3: 17 - 23
6. Will assure a CROWN OF LIFE -- Rev. 2:10

CONCLUSION:

1. Is your life committed to serving the Lord?
2. If you have made commitment, is it TOTAL?

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