INTRODUCTION

1. “TOTAL” – Pertaining to the whole; complete.
2. “COMMITMENT” – A promise or pledge to do something; the state of being committed.
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.
5. This commitment demands:
   a. Sacrifice and Service – Rom. 12:1; I Cor. 15:58; Phil. 2:12.
   d. Self-control – I Cor. 9:27.

I. THE DEVIL’S EFFORTS TO DESTROY COMMITMENT TO CHRIST:

a. The Devil is trying to prevent people from becoming Christians – 2 Cor. 4:4; Matt. 13:19.
b. The Devil uses FALSE DOCTRINE to prevent many from being committed to Christ:
   i. Some of the doctrines of men that destroy commitment to Christ:
      2. Grace only – Eph. 2:8; Gal. 1:15; 2 Thess. 2:14.
   c. The Devil tries to destroy the commitment of those who learn and obey the truth:
      i. Satan wants members to be HALF-HEARTEDLY COMMITTED.
         a. Paul was much displeased with him for this – Acts 15:36 – 39.
            i. John Mark was half-heartedly committed to the work.
            ii. He went back when the going got hard.
            iii. Many are like John Mark today.
      b. The church at Laodicea was half-hearted – Rev. 3:14 – 22:
         i. This half-hearted service had spread to the whole congregation.
         ii. “a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” – I Cor. 5:7.
      c. Some are VERBALLY COMMITTED:
         i. They always know what needs to be done and how to do it.
         ii. But, they never do very much but talk.
      d. Some are committed at their convenience:
         i. They are like Felix – Acts 24:25.
         ii. When it is NOT convenient, they do not:
            1. Attend Bible study – 2 Tim. 2:15.
            3. They do not Give – I Cor. 16:1 – 2.
4. They do not Sing – Eph. 5:19.
5. They do not Visit – Matt. 25:36.
6. They do not Work – Phil. 2:12.

e. Some are EMOTIONALLY COMMITTED:
   i. They can get all worked up over something for a while, and 
      when the enthusiasm dies, they lose interest.
   ii. Jesus talked about these kind of people in Matt. 13: 20 – 21.

II. CHURCHES SUFFER FROM LACK OF COMMITMENT.
   a. Across America the Lord’s churches (local congregations) are being destroyed by lack of 
      commitment to Christ and His Word – 2 Tim. 1:13.
   b. Evidence of this lack of commitment:
      i. The lack of attendance in Bible Study.
      ii. Members who forsake the regular worship services – Heb. 10:25.
      iii. Members who won’t attend Gospel Meetings.
      iv. Members who don’t read and study their Bibles – 2 Tim. 2: 15.
      v. Teachers who half prepare to teach – Heb. 5: 12 – 14.
      vi. Members who excuse themselves from worship to attend:
          1. Recreational activities
          2. Business matters
          3. To rest
          4. School functions
          5. To be with kinfolk
      vii. Members who are involved in Worldliness:
          1. Fornication and Adultery – Gal. 5:19.
          2. Lasciviousness, immodest dress, petting, and dancing – Gal. 5:19; I Tim. 2: 9 
             – 10.

III. PREACHERS ARE TEMPTED REGARDING THEIR COMMITMENT TO CHRIST:
   a. The preacher is tempted to close his eyes to the problems within the congregation because his 
      dealings with them might jeopardize his job, and he would be required to move.
   b. Preachers need to ask, “Is my preaching a commitment to a job, or a commitment to Christ?”
   c. Preaching a good “positive” sermon on love and grace might win friends and influence, but will 
      I fulfill my commitment to Christ without addressing such subjects as:
          i. Divorce and Remarriage
          ii. Social drinking
          iii. Mixed swimming
          iv. Immodesty
          v. Dancing
          vi. Gambling
          vii. Institutionalism
          viii. Denominationalism

IV. CONCLUSION
   a. What TOTAL Commitment will do:
i. It puts Christ in control of your life – Col. 3:17
ii. It moves the Kingdom of God to FIRST priority – Matt. 6:33.
iv. It will assure you of a crown of life – Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:8.

b. Is your life committed to serving the Lord?
c. If you have made commitment, is it total??
d. Won’t you commit your life NOW to Christ???