

THE WAY OF CONSECRATION VICTORY OVER THE CHOICE OF SIN

Message Four

jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

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Romans 6:12-23

1. In the first message in this series we saw that those who are born of God overcome the world.
2. We have gone on to discuss:
 - a. The way of death, or victory over the dominion of sin.
 - b. The way of life, or victory over the law of sin that works in our members.
3. Having been set free from the dominion of sin and having been indwelt with the Spirit of God's Son we now must choose, by an act of the will, to be enslaved to God.
(Note: What Jesus Christ accomplished enables us to obey.)
4. The verses we just read in Romans 6 can be obeyed because of what Paul had already declared to be true and commanded us to do in verses 1-11.
 - a. We are identified with Christ's death to sin and to this world so that we might walk in newness of life.
 - b. We have died to sin.
 - c. We are no longer the slaves or servants of sin.
 - d. We are no longer under sin's authority.
 - e. We are to reckon or consider ourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
5. We are to no longer:
 - a. Let sin reign in our mortal bodies.
 - b. Go on presenting the members (and faculties) of our bodies to sin as instruments of unrighteousness.
6. Rather, we are to:
 - a. Present (consecrate, make available to) ourselves to God as those alive from the dead. 13
 - b. Present our members (and faculties) as instruments (weapons) of righteousness to God. 13
 - c. Present ourselves as slaves of obedience to God rather than to sin. 16
7. The word **consecrate** is appropriate because it means "to declare sacred; to devote irrevocably."
8. It has been my experience that many are willing to commit time, talents, money, and effort, but few are willing to consecrate themselves wholly to God by obeying Romans 12:1.

"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by (in light of) the mercies of God, to present (consecrate) your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable (because of who and what we are in Jesus Christ) to God which is your spiritual service of worship (only rational response to the mercy and grace of God)."

NOTE: Two great struggles.

 - a. At the point of salvation.
 - b. At the point of total consecration.

9. We need to understand that there is a great difference between human devotion and being devoted or consecrated to God.
10. Without consecration we will never experience the full reality of sanctification or growth in Christlikeness. Notice verses 19-23
- ◆ The benefit or fruit of being enslaved to God is sanctification and eternal life.
 - ◆ Think of the problem a potter would have if clay had a mind and will of its own.
11. In Leviticus 1 we have the law of the burnt offering and we can learn some important truths as to what it means to present or consecrate ourselves to God.

I. The burnt-offering was an offering unto the Lord.

“When any man of you brings an offering to the Lord.” 2

- A. Note the example of the Macedonian Christians in II Corinthians 8:5
“...they first gave themselves to the Lord and (then) to us by the will of God.”
- B. We cannot be to others what God wants us to be until we first give ourselves totally to Him.
- C. Many struggle to know the will of God when it would become clear if they would give themselves fully to the Lord.
- NOTE: Why should God reveal His will to someone who is following Him conditionally?

II. The burnt-offering was a worshipper’s best.

“...he shall offer it, a male without defect.” 2

- A. If you are a true follower of Jesus Christ He has cleansed you from the guilt of sin, He has delivered you from the dominion of Sin, He has indwelt you with His Spirit, and God has pronounced you righteous in His sight. **You are now a worthy offering.**
- B. **Will you present or consecrate yourself to God?**
- C. Only those who give themselves totally to each other discover the true blessing of marriage, and only those who are totally devoted to God experience the full reality of what it means to be His child.

III. The burnt-offering was an atoning offering.

“And he shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, that it may be accepted for him to make atonement on his behalf.” 4

- A. Our unsaved life and our unconsecrated life are under the blood of Christ because we have laid our hands on Him by faith.
- B. Many carry an unnecessary ball and chain that is comprised of past and present sins, failures and shortcomings.

IV. The burnt-offering was an offering of identification.

- A. The worshipper laid his hands on the head of the sacrifice as an act of identification.
1. The offering became identified with the life and sin of the worshipper.
 2. The worshipper became identified with the purity and the purpose of the offering.
- B. “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” II Corinthians 5:21
- C. We need to identify with Jesus in his work.

APPLICATION

1. Have you ever identified with Jesus Christ, by faith, in His death **for** sin? Will you?
2. Have you ever identified with Jesus Christ, by faith, in His death **to** sin? Will you?
3. Will you now present yourself to God as a living and holy sacrifice?
 - a. Jesus has made it possible for you to do so.
 - b. Think of your life as capital to be spent, sign a blank check for the full value, and give it to God to use and spend as He sees fit.