



Opening a Door for the Gospel

Matt. 10:28-42

Total Devotion To The Lord

- God has every reason to expect that all of His creation will be devoted to Him.
- God created this world and all that is in it.
 - John 1:3 - “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

Total Devotion To The Lord

- Heb. 1:1-2 - “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.”
- Col. 1:16-17 - “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”

Total Devotion To The Lord

- God owns the world; we are merely non-paying tenants.
 - Psalm 89:11 - “The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; the world and all its fullness, You have founded them.”
 - Lev. 25:23 - “The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.”

Total Devotion To The Lord

- God's ownership includes humankind.
 - Psalm 24:1 - "The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein."
- Some do not acknowledge His ownership.
 - Acts 17:24-25 - "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things."

Total Devotion To The Lord

- Tragically, many Christians view their lives as their own.
 - 1Cor. 6:19 - “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”

Total Devotion To The Lord

- Christians are thrice indebted to God; not just for life, but also...
- We are ransomed from Satan's dominion - 1Tim. 2:3-6
- We are saved from the consequences of our sins - Rom. 5:9

Total Devotion To The Lord

- The Adversary perpetrated a lie that Christ should be just one part of our lives.
- God will never be just a part of anyone's life. For a true Christian, God is his life.
 - Luke 9:23 - "Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.'"
 - Gal. 2:20 - "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Glorifying God

- Everything that Jesus did on earth was done to glorify God.
 - Matt. 15:31 - “So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.”
 - Luke 5:25 - “Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.”
 - Luke 13:17 - “And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.”

Glorifying God

- Christians must glorify God in their daily activities. The command to glorify God is not met simply by believing the Bible and abstaining from sins.
- Christians must be pro-active in their service, so the world can see God at work.
 - Matt. 5:16 - “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
 - 1Peter 2:12 - “Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

Glorifying God

- We must be aware that our actions or inactions affect people's perceptions of the God we serve.
 - 1Cor. 10:31 - "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."
- God needs to be glorified in our bodies, not just our hearts. The world cannot see our hearts.
 - 1Cor. 6:20 - "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

Glorifying God

- Kind, honest, and generous deeds move people to glorify God.
 - 2Cor. 9:13 - “While, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men.”
- A transformed life leads to God to being glorified.
 - Gal. 1:22-24 - “And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ. 23 But they were hearing only, He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy. 24 And they glorified God in me.”

Total Commitment To The Salvation Of Others

- God created humankind with one primary purpose in mind; that is, they would be His children and live with Him in heaven.
- When He created men and women, God had the relationship He wanted with them.
 - He supplied their needs and gave them a purposeful existence.
 - He had a personal, face to face relationship with them.
 - They followed His instructions as children obey their fathers.

Total Commitment To The Salvation Of Others

- By tempting humankind to sin, the Adversary took that relationship away from God.
- The rest of the Bible is God's record of His efforts to bring humankind back into His fellowship.
 - 1Peter 1:20 - "He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you."

Total Commitment To The Salvation Of Others

- Jesus came to enact and validate God's plan to save human beings and restore them to fellowship with God.
 - Matt. 1:21 - "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."
 - 1John 4:14 - "And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world."
 - 1Tim 1:15 - "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..."

Total Commitment To The Salvation Of Others

- Jesus declared that His reason for being here was to save lost souls.
 - Luke 19:10 - “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Total Commitment To The Salvation Of Others

- Now that we are Christians, our purpose for being here is no longer about us; we are here for the same reason Jesus came here: to save souls.
 - 1John 2:6 - “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”
 - Acts 3:26 - “To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.”
 - 1John 3:5 - “And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins...”

Total Commitment To The Salvation Of Others

- Jesus commanded His followers to work His ministry until He returned - Matt. 28:18-20
- The early Christians understood this to be a command, and they obeyed it - Acts 8:1, 4
- The commandment is clear - Mark 16:15-16
- The application is clearly illustrated - Acts 8:4
- That was how the Gospel was preached in the whole world in 28 years - Col. 1:6, 23

Opening a Door for the Gospel

- The world can tell what our purpose is in this world; if they sense that we are here for any other reason, the door for the Gospel will not be opened.
- And if we are here in this world focusing primarily on any other purpose than that reason for which Jesus was here, it is unlikely that the door of heaven will be open for us.
- God created us, and His Son died to redeem us from our sins; so, He has every right to expect that we will dedicate our hearts and our lives to Him.

Opening a Door for the Gospel

- Matt. 10:37-39 - “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.”