

## **Commitment is a Great Thing!**

2 Timothy 1:12

### **Introduction:**

The apostle Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 1:12, “For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted (or committed) to Him until that day.”

Because of his calling to be an apostle, a preacher, and a teacher of the Gentiles, Paul was suffering as a prisoner.

Despite everything, Paul was not ashamed of the gospel or being in prison for the preaching of the gospel, for he knew the one in whom he trusted.

Paul was confident, determined, and courageous because of the close relationship he had with Christ.

He trusted Christ, being convinced that Christ is able to guard closely what deposit Paul made to Christ.

Paul gave, committed, and entrusted his life, his converts, and/or his work to Christ for the cause of Christ.

What are we to commit to Christ?

### **I. We commit to Him our Growth.**

Commitment requires perseverance to receive the eternal reward.

To persevere, believers are to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

This letter began by telling readers that grace was expressed “by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:1).

Peter prayed that grace would multiply in the lives of believers (1:2).

God’s grace has provided believers with everything they need to live a godly life (1:3 and 4).

Grace is the foundation of the believer’s life and though given as a gift by God, believers are exhorted to grow in grace.

In fact, believers are to grow in grace until they die.

Believers are to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace are amplified in knowing Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:2).

Everything needed for life and godliness is available through knowing God and Jesus our Lord (1:3).

Verses five through eight of 2 Peter chapter one establishes that growing in knowledge is necessary for living the Christian life.

Verse eight reveals that only those who grow in godly virtues have knowledge of Jesus Christ that is fruitful.

On the other hand, anyone who renounces Christ after coming to know him is worse off than those who never professed faith in Christ (2 Peter 2:20 and 21).

Growing in the knowledge of Jesus Christ is essential for eternal life, therefore we ought to commit to Christ our growth.

### **II. We commit to Him our Giving.**

Making a commitment is done without compulsion—that is without force or pressure.

Paul said in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, “Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully (literally: with blessings) will also reap bountifully (with blessings). Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

The more seed a sower sows the greater the harvest will be.

God rewards generosity with material abundance to make it possible for people to be even more generous.

What the Corinthians were to do is clear, but Paul does not come right out and tell them to do it.

Their compliance would therefore be done out of obedience to their Lord who gave Himself for them, not out of obedience to Paul’s want.

Deuteronomy 15:10 advises that giving reluctantly or under compulsion cancels any benefit that could be received from giving a gift.

God knows and evaluates our hearts, valuing our giving as a free expression of the deepest love and appreciation we have for Christ, so we should commit to Christ our giving.

### **III. We commit to Him our Gathering.**

We gather for growing in grace and growing in knowledge of Jesus Christ; we also gather for giving, among other reasons.

Gathering shows our attitude toward growing and giving.

Christian growth is commanded by God through Peter and is essential.

Christian giving is not to be done by compulsion but is expected and essential.

To those not meeting the expectation of New Testament assembling it is said, “Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:24 and 25).

“Let us consider” powerfully calls for careful consideration, thoughtful attention, and deep concern to be given to one another for the purpose of stirring up love and good deeds.

Love is the internal attitude and spiritual disposition that expresses itself in outward tangible good deeds.

The activity of assembling is about growing internally and spiritually which expresses itself in the giving of oneself in good deeds for others.

Consider your attitude toward the gathering of the church.

It reveals your attitude toward growing in grace and knowledge.

It makes known your attitude toward giving as obedience to the Lord.

It exposes your attitude toward stirring up love and good deeds.

The gathering is truly more about the Lord, his people, and the lost than it is about a command to assemble.

But, when the gathering of God’s people is neglected, God is not pleased, and a strong warning is issued for members not to forsake the assembling of the church.

Commit to Christ our gathering, where we respect and honor Him, encourage and assist one another, and demonstrate our commitment before the lost.

### **IV. We commit to Him our Graciousness.**

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift,” says 2 Corinthians 9:15.

The selection of Greek words used does not indicate who is to give thanks.

Thanks is directed to God.

Anyone blessed in any way by God should offer thanks, but Paul specifically gives thanks on this occasion for the indescribable gift of God.

God's indescribable gift is not specified either.

The gift could be the grace God gave the Corinthians and the resulting unity of Jews and Gentiles in the church.

The gift could be God's Son or the gift of salvation.

Whatever the precise meaning or combination of these things, the gift is so wonderful it cannot be described in human words.

Graciousness is the flowerbed in which all Christian giving grows.

Thus, we should diligently, unselfishly, and cheerfully commit to Christ our graciousness.

## **V. We commit to Him our Goal.**

Paul presents Christ as the believer's life price in Philippians 3.

In verses 12-14, Paul conveys that by becoming a child of God a person gains a new goal.

"Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Paul desired to achieve what God had in store for him.

Commitment is a process of achieving.

Paul stated his imperfection in three different ways in verse thirteen.

"Not that I have already obtained," "or have already become perfect," and "I press on" show Paul was working in the process to achieve.

Paul said, "I press on" (v. 12) and "I press on toward the goal" (v. 14) showing he was committed to the process that would lead him to his goal.

What did Paul lack and, therefore, seek?

Was his call to a complete knowledge of Christ or a complete identification with Christ in character?

Since the object of the verb "obtained" is "the resurrection from the dead" (Philippians 3:11), it seems that Paul is saying he had not completed the experiential process begun in his salvation, so he looked ahead to the completion of his salvation.

Commitment to our goal requires us to continually look ahead with mental and physical discipline.

The focus of the eye is the heavenward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Jesus Christ's example of obedience unto death and the resurrection that is followed by a believer results in our heavenward call to come join Him in victory.

The joy of the process should keep us going toward the goal of the completed work of God in our lives.

## **Application:**

When we commit to Christ our growth, we “will be like a tree planted by the water, That extends its roots by a stream And will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, And it will not be anxious in a year of drought Nor cease to yield fruit” (Jeremiah 17:8).

When we commit to Christ our giving, we will give as “purposed in [our] heart” and be loved by God for our attitude in giving (2 Corinthians 9:7).

When we commit to Christ our gathering, we will love to gather with God’s people for any reason, at every opportunity, and enjoy the protection God gives to us “as a hen gathers her brood under her wings” (Luke 13:34).

When we commit to Christ our graciousness, we will lack words to adequately describe God’s returned blessings in our lives, but we will be blessed by the Lord and blessed by the recipients of our ability and opportunity to be charitable (2 Corinthians 9:11).

When we commit to Christ our goal, He will see to it that we are successful. Psalm 37:5 says, “Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.”

### **Conclusion:**

Remember that commitment is demonstrated through actions, not just words.

2 Timothy 1:12 speaks of suffering, not being ashamed, believing, being convinced, and entrusting.

What demonstrates your commitment to the Lord?

Matthew 7:21 proves He is looking for more than just words from us, for “not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.”

People who commit or entrust their way to the Lord will call to Him, “Lord, Lord” and **will do** the will of the Father.

In Acts 22 Paul described how he was instructed to change his actions, bringing them in line with his words.

Ananias told Paul, “The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth. For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard. Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name” (Acts 22:14-16).

Know the will of God (Ephesians 5:17).

See the Righteous One in His Word (Acts 7:52).

Hear the message from Him (Matthew 17:5).

“Be a witness for Him” to all the world (Mark 16:15).

Do not delay, “get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name” (Acts 22:16).

Commitment is a great thing!

The Lord Jesus Christ is able to guard or keep safe what you commit to Him for the day of judgment, even your life.

Make your commitment now!