

The Measure of Consecration

Your service for the Lord may seem small to you in comparison of what others may do, but if it is offered with a willing heart and a willing mind, it is just as valuable, and most importantly, God will get glory from it. The word, “consecrate” is often translated, “renew”.

In Romans chapter 12, verses 1 and 2, Paul says, *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God ... and be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind”*. He is really speaking here of consecration.

The idea presented here is not that of *“laying ourselves on the altar”*. The apostle is not here suggesting that we lay down our lives for Christ, although we ought to be ready to do that at any given moment, because He gave Himself for us. Paul said, *“I am ready not be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus”* (Acts. 21:13).

It is more the idea of living for Christ. The thought is that our lives would be lived such so that there would be a continual ascending of devotion and service to the Lord.

The expression, *“present your bodies”*, is the same as is found in chapter 6, where Paul exhorts, *“yield yourselves to God ... and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God”* (v. 13). It is interesting to see this exhortation before there is a mention of the diversity and distribution of gifts. This tells us that consecration is necessary before we can begin serving the Lord in any capacity.

We can all do something in service for the Lord, whether we think it large or small. David’s charge to Solomon concerning the building of the temple was; *“Arise therefore, and be doing, and the Lord be with thee”*. To the leaders in Israel, he said: *“Now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God; arise therefore, and build”* (1 Chron. 22:16-19). Later, when there was a call to rebuild the temple, Nehemiah, said; *“the God of Heaven, He will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build”* (Neh. 2:20).

In all that we do, it is important to do it *“heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men”* (Col. 3:23). In the next verse of that chapter, Paul reminds us that it is from the Lord Himself that we receive any reward. He admonishes, *“ye serve the Lord Christ”*.

Dear child of God, are you prepared to yield yourself in total surrender to Christ? To think that He loved us and gave Himself for us, shed His precious blood that we might be redeemed and reconciled to God is more than words can express. Then to think that He deigns to use us in any way, ought to motivate us to serve Him whole heartedly in true devotion from.

*Were the whole ream of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my heart, my life, my all.*