

“Dedication and Discipleship”

Matt. 16:24-26 Our focus is in V.25 “...whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it.”

Our Lord wants us to be a Dedicated Disciple. Here’s what that means – I have my basic goals in place for my life right now... The Goals of...

- **BALANCE:** I am letting God constantly adjust me = so that I have a BALANCED Christian life – I avoid being a fanatic; but I’m determined not to be complacent, either.
- **POSITIVE:** I am gearing my life to be POSITIVE / or REALISTIC; and I avoid that which is needlessly negative.
- **VICTORIOUS:** I am determined to be A VICTORIOUS Christian; I endeavor to avoid defeat in my spiritual walk with God.

We’re all dedicated to something. Are you dedicated to living a balanced, positive, victorious Christian life? **With an invitation to be a disciple... there is a serious caution – Notice V.26...** Some people want to have it all. This verse also says that there are some who will say, “I Got what I wanted, But I don’t want what I got.”

Are you dedicated to living a balanced, positive, victorious Christian life? The KEY: **Romans 12:1-2** = if we will follow the formula set out in these two verses...the dread, the disappointments of life will begin to loose their scare and heaviness. This is the secret to a rewarding life.

I. The Person Being Addressed – “*You... Brethren*”

A. Paul’s concern – every Christian dedicated. (*Bible, Prayer, Church, Giving, Witnessing*)

1. Bible = **John 8:31** “...if ye continue in My word, then are ye my disciples indeed.”

II. The Pleading Of The Gospel – “*Beseech... by the mercies of God*”

A. A strong word that comes from a root word, which means, “to call alongside to help.”

1. Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit in John 14:16 as Another Comforter – just like Him.
2. Paul is coming along side us – like a coach who is counseling us, encouraging us.

III. The Presentation Of The Believer – “*Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God,*” GK: Verb = “present once and for all” ...How do we present ourselves?

A. **In a Living way:** “...a living sacrifice...”

1. Not a secret presentation – People see our lives! **Romans 14:7** “For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.” Be careful of your – Words... they have meaning!

B. **In a Sacrificial Way:** (*The sacrifice is our want-to’s exchanged for His...*) – He wants YOU!

C. **In a Holy Way:** Not a “him-haw” approach. Make a stand and let people know where you stand. Decide that “*neopolitan*” is only for Ice Cream!

IV. The Pleasing Of Our God – “*which is your reasonable service.*” We have lots of reasons to be a Dedicated Disciple... Think of...

A. **What God has given us** – His Presence in all circumstances / His Power to say no to Sin!

B. **What God gives us** – Daily Peace / Provision. **Matt. 6:25-34.** Don’t worry, Remember and Watch

C. **What God is going to give us** – We have an Eternal Home in Heaven! **I Peter 1:4** “To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.”

V. The Pressure On The Christian – “*And be not conformed to this world...*” It comes as soon as you dedicate. “That’s when the Battle has just begun!”

VI. The Process Of Dedication – “*be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind*”

“Transformed” is not instant – it’s a process; over time. This is a continual process of change from inside out.

- A. Daily Time With God = II Cor. 4:16** “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.”
- B. Diligent Study of God = II Cor. 3:18** “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”