

# Committed To Christ”

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Text: Matthew 16:24-26

Theme: To encourage commitment to Christ

## **Introduction:**

1. Sad thing to note that there are so many unfaithful Christians in every community.
  - a. Some move in and never associate with the church.
  - b. Others fall out from the local congregation.
2. Various reasons why which are important to study.
  - a. New convert relocating.
  - b. Church division.
  - c. Failure to assemble with the brethren to provoke unto love and good works.
  - d. Failure to communicate with God - studying the Bible and praying.
  - e. Etc.
3. But also because of misplaced commitment -
  - a. [Opt. Pope’s visit to the U.S.]
  - b. Sometimes brethren are similar.

## **Discussion:**

- I. Ways brethren can misplace commitment:
  - A. To a program -
    1. E.g. bus Program, Soul Talks.
    2. Can also be a reverse situation where brethren are opposed to these things and assert they are wrong.
  - B. To a doctrine - becomes the “only” issue.
    1. Love.

2. Instrumental Music - refer to dear Abby article about some woman claiming to be led to the church of Christ because she didn't like organ music.
  3. Anti-ism.
  - C. To a man -
    1. When withdrawal of fellowship takes place, oftentimes sympathizers will depart also.
    2. Church politics.
    3. Dedication to a certain preacher.
    4. Etc.
  - D. Self-pleasure -
    1. [Cf CBN ad talking about entertainment - opt]
    2. Some cannot be "faithful" unless they are entertained.
    3. Family life centers, gymnasiums, etc.
    4. Not the function of the church [opt. make point about camps].
- II. The effect of misplaced commitment -
- A. Work will be stunted.
  - B. Truth will be neglected - souls made weak.
  - C. Divisions can occur.
    1. ICorinthians10:10-13.
    2. ICorinthians13:4-7.
  - D. Actual falling from grace.
    1. Because they have not been entertained.
    2. "Dead Church" frequently refers to social activities.
- III. The Bible gives proper direction to our commitment.
- A. It is not
    1. To a particular program.
      - a. ICorinthians15:58.
      - b. Titus 3:1 - no particular good work - *every* good work.
    2. To a particular doctrine - Matthew23:23.
    3. To a particular man - ICorinthians1:1; Acts10:25.
    4. To self-indulgence - Matthew16:24-26.
  - B. But it is to Christ.
    1. This commitment is expressed in the OT. - Deuteronomy18:15.

2. This commitment to Jesus is stressed again at the mount of transfiguration Matthew 17:5.
3. Jesus himself taught that he was the only way to the Father - John 14:6.
4. Paul did not exalt himself but rather Jesus Christ.
  - a. I Corinthians 2:1,2.
  - b. Philippians 3:7-14.
5. Colossians 2:10.
6. Galatians 2:20 - This commitment Paul had made it possible for him to endure  
II Corinthians 1:23-28.
7. And just as that commitment to Christ made Paul a valiant soldier of the cross, it will do the same for us. Matthew 10:32,33,37-39.

### **Conclusion:**

1. This commitment to Christ involves obeying God after the example of Jesus - I Peter 2:21.
2. Hebrews 3:8,9.
3. Will you deny yourself now and obey the gospel?

### **Invitation:**