

THRIVE

(Habits of Grace)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, November 5/6, 2016 Ray Davis

“Ministry” Romans 12:1-8

Fullness of Life and Full devotion to Christ are one in the same pursuit. When we urge people to become fully devoted followers of Christ we are inviting them to a full life of being a character in & a carrier of the great story of redemption through our Savior Jesus with infinite and eternal implications. God is not in the way of your happiness. He is your most satisfying reality!

The Essence of Full Devotion to Christ:

If you really understand the Gospel (Rom1-11) than this is how you will live. Your life will be a “Living Sacrifice”. V1

- ✓ It is Ongoing V1 “A Living Sacrifice” = make your life a living killing.
- ✓ It is a death to your will v2 “that by testing you may discern what is the will of God”
- ✓ It is a really wise way to live. V1 which is your spiritual (reasonable, rational) worship (service).

The Characteristics of Full Devotion to Christ: (5G’s)

- ✓ Genuine – I am more sinful than I ever dared to think but more loved than I ever dared to dream. v1 “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God...” v3 “think [of yourself] with sober judgment” (Humble Confidence)
- ✓ Growing – I need to think out the implications of the Gospel for every area of my life. V1 “to present your bodies” v2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...”
- ✓ Giving –
 - Every Christian is a minister in Christ’s body. V4a “For as in one body we have many members...” Eph4:11-16
 - Every Christian has a unique S.H.A.P.E. for ministry. V4b “the members do not all have the same function...” v6a “Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us...”
 - Every Christian’s ministry is important. v4b “the members do not all have the same function...” V5a “so we, though many, are one body in Christ...” V6b “let us use them” Ps84:10

- Every Christian’s ministry belongs to other Christians. Vv5b individually members one of another...Vv7-8; 1Cor12:7; 1Pet4:10

- ✓ Going – Next weekend series finale “Evangelism” (John4:27-32)
- ✓ Glorifying – next point...

The Motivation & Power for Full Devotion to Christ:

(2Cor5:14-15, 17-21)

- ✓ Not just duty but delight. v1a “I appeal to you therefore, Brothers...”
- ✓ Not just head but heart experience. V1b “by (in view of) the mercies of God...”
- ✓ Not reluctantly but voluntarily. V1c “to present your bodies as a living sacrifice...”

How can you come to terms with someone giving Himself completely for you without you giving yourself completely for Him? Not to do so is not only incredibly foolish but also terribly wicked!

Growing Notes

- 1)** Why do we naturally think and live like the movie of life is all about us? Why is this so dangerous for us individually and collectively? How is Fullness of Life and Full devotion to Christ one in the same pursuit (John10:10-11)?
- 2)** Read Romans 12:1-8. What does the passage say (Observation)? What is Paul appealing for his listeners to do (v1)? How should Christians be different from others (v2)? How should Christians think of themselves (v3)? What did Paul use the human body to illustrate (vv4-5)? What spiritual gifts are listed (vv6-8)?
- 3)** What does the passage mean (Interpretation)? What is the essence of full devotion to Christ (v1)? What is a “living sacrifice”? What are the characteristics of full devotion to Christ (5G’s)? Review the four characteristics of a Giving Christian. How important is it that every Christian is active in ministry (Eph4:11-16)?
- 4)** What are you going to do about what this passage says (Application)? What is the motivation and power for full devotion to Christ (2Cor5:14-15, 17-21)? How can you come to terms with someone giving Himself completely for you without you giving yourself completely for Him? Why would anything less than full devotion to Christ not only incredibly foolish but also terribly wicked? What is God speaking to you through this study? Make it your prayer.