

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE
Sunday, OCTOBER 18, 2020

NEW THEME:

ALL IN:
A LIFE OF COMMITMENT

SESSION 1 –
CHRIST'S COMMITMENT TO US

This week begins a new series of lessons in the Bible Studies for Life Series

ALL IN: A LIFE OF COMMITMENT

OUR FOCUS FOR TODAY: Even at our worst, Christ was fully committed to love us and bring us to God.

OUR FOCAL PASSAGE FOR TODAY: Romans 5: 6-12, 18-21

Over the next seven lessons, we are going to see the word “commitment” come up over and over. Jesus talked a lot about commitment in the 3 years of his ministry on earth and made it quite clear that commitment was a key part of being a follower of His. We will look at the call on the Christian’s life to be committed to Christ, His Word, the church, prayer, worship and His mission. But one of the most beautiful things about what we hope to learn is that GOD IS COMMITTED TO US FIRST. We need to count the cost of following Him and discover that we will never make any greater or more fulfilling commitment than that of being fully committed to God and doing his work.

A wedding won’t take place if only one of the persons is committed to the relationship. But that’s not true when we consider a commitment to Christ. Jesus showed the greatest act of commitment in history when He loved us and willingly took our punishment and death as His own. Because of that commitment and His great love for us, we are drawn to love and commit ourselves to Him.

Romans 5:6-8

The Message

⁶⁻⁸ Christ arrives right on time to make this happen. He didn’t, and doesn’t, wait for us to get ready. He presented himself for this sacrificial death when we were far too weak and rebellious to do anything to get ourselves ready. And even if we hadn’t been so weak, we wouldn’t have known what to do anyway. We can understand someone dying for a person worth dying for, and we can understand how someone good and noble could inspire us to selfless sacrifice. But God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him.

Christ proved He was fully committed to us by dying for us. It’s as simple as that! We were helpless to escape our desperate condition of sinfulness. Judgment awaited, and there was no escape. God could have left us that way but He made the way for our salvation at just the right time. God’s timing could not have been better from a spiritual outlook. We needed someone to save us, and God took the initiative by sending Christ to die for us. From a human logic standpoint, it is mysterious that an individual would volunteer to die for me. We crave life too much, and hold on to it with everything in us. Dying for someone else does not seem to be realistic for the average person. And who would die for someone who hated them? We rebelled against God and were hostile toward Him. But God proved just how much He loves us anyway. Sometimes we want God to show us His love on our terms. We may ask Him to prove His love by healing us or our loved ones, or to give us resources to show He loves us, or to restore our broken relationships with others. These acts might help us at a moment of struggle, but they don’t come close to addressing our greatest need – to be saved from sin.

Romans 5:9-11

The Message

⁹⁻¹¹ Now that we are set right with God by means of this sacrificial death, the consummate blood sacrifice, there is no longer a question of being at odds with God in any way. If, when we were at our worst, we were put on friendly terms with God by the sacrificial death of his Son, now that we're at our best, just think of how our lives will expand and deepen by means of his resurrection life! Now that we have actually received this amazing friendship with God, we are no longer content to simply say it in plodding prose. We sing and shout our praises to God through Jesus, the Messiah!

Christ's commitment to us is what reconciled us to God. We are declared righteous only through Him. In other words, we have been given the honor of being with God! The forgiveness came at no cost to us! His blood paid the price in full. And not only are we forgiven; we are reconciled to God. At one time, we were His enemies, and now we are welcomed into His fellowship. We have peace with Him, and we can rejoice in that peace. Joy overflows as we consider the peace that now dwells within us. And God does not mandate a probationary time if we had not lived up to His standards. We are wise if we stay focused on everything Christ did to make us right with God and do well to remember all He is doing even now so we can grow as believers in our commitment to Him.

Romans 5:12

New International Version

¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

Romans 5:18-21

The Message

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Here it is in a nutshell: Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, he got us into life! One man said no to God and put many people in the wrong; one man said yes to God and put many in the right. ²⁰⁻²¹ All that passing laws against sin did was produce more lawbreakers. But sin didn't, and doesn't, have a chance in competition with the aggressive forgiveness we call *grace*. When it's sin versus grace, grace wins hands down. All sin can do is threaten us with death, and that's the end of it. Grace, because God is putting everything together again through the Messiah, invites us into life—a life that goes on and on and on, world without end.

Paul gives the account of how we received Christ's gift of eternal life, and his account involves two men. One man (Adam) brought sin into the world. His disobedience brought the plague of sin on the entire human population. From Adam's time to the present time, sin continues to poison us. And like any deadly plague, it always brings death to everyone affected. All the laws and rules and politicians could not save us from this plague. Then Paul introduces us to the second man (Jesus). Only Jesus can provide the antidote, the cure, the healing, we need for the deadly plague of sin. And He does so willingly and freely out of love and commitment to each of us. Grace is multiplied to us when we believe and enter a personal relationship with God. We have the blessing of eternal life through Christ when we commit our lives to Him.

Pray: God, thank you today for all You have done for me through Christ's commitment to my life!