

Personal Responsibilities

Dedication & Faithfulness (Physical Discipline)

Question: why is it that we loose dedication and faithfulness towards becoming Spiritual?

(Devotion, Commitment, Enthusiasm, Perseverance & Allegiance)

There is probably no more important matter in relation to the spiritual life than DEDICATION

- **The Mercies of God** ought to encourage us to a spirit of dedication (**Romans 12:1**) I beseech you **therefore**, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

The starting point of Dedication -- the Mercies of God

- **His Son Jesus Christ – Romans 1:3-5**

This good news is about his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ! As a human, he was from the family of David. But the Holy Spirit Proved that Jesus is the powerful Son of God, because he was raised from death. ⁵ Jesus was kind to me and chose me to be an apostle,^[a] so that people of all nations would obey and have faith.

- **The Doctrine of Justification** because of Christ: It satisfies -- Our Terrible Condition: Weak and Guilty (**Romans 3:9-26.**)

Article # V of our Articles of Faith-- JUSTIFICATION. We believe the Scriptures teach that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

- **Biblical redemption because of Christ**

What is redemption? To redeem something, means to set free by paying a price. Generally you would redeem land and sometimes people. Redemption is the act of buying something back, or paying a price to return something to your possession. Redemption always involves going from something to something else, generally from slavery or bondage to freedom. The bible speaks of God redeeming us from the bondage of sin through his work on the cross!

- Redemption: is a process
- Redeemer: is the person
- Ransom: is the payment

Personal Responsibilities

Dedication

Religion and redemption are not the same.

- Religion is about what you do to be close to GOD.
- **Redemption is about what GOD DID**, for you to be close to him.

Redemption is the opposite of religion.

- Religion says
 1. God will love you if you obey
- Redemption says GOD loves you now.
- The redemption of Jesus Christ says that God demonstrates his love for us in this, while we were still enemies, while we were still NOT obeying, while we were still jacked up sinning away GOD DIED FOR US. IN LOVE he died for us, HE LOVED US his life, death, burial and resurrection HE LOVES US. IT WAS his kindness and goodness that lead us to repentance. AND because God loves you, you can LOVE GOD and obey him BECAUSE his love for you IS WHAT CHANGES YOU.
- **Religion says God will love you if you obey. Redemption says God loves you NOW.**

Good people vs. bad people

- -Religious people try to classify the entire world into two groups. Good people and bad people.
- -Redemption says there are two types of people. Repentant and unrepentant people. BECAUSE all people are bad.

Do this. Don't do this

- -Religious people talk about what we do and don't do. **Redeemed people talk about what Jesus has done!**

Birth -Religious people care about your birth and nationality and the tradition of your family. They ask questions like, were you born Christian, or were you born into a Christian family. **Jesus doesn't care where you born he only cares if you're born again.**

- **Ultimately, redemption is about what Jesus has done for us not about what you DO FOR GOD!**

The starting point of Dedication -- the Mercies of God

The area of Dedication – What should we be dedicated to?

a. Romans 6:1- 13 -- What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ²By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,^[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin—⁷because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

b. Romans 12:1 -- Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

c. James 4:1-12 --What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ²You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁴You adulterous people,^[a] don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us^[a]? ⁶But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble."^[a]

⁷Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

¹¹Brothers and sisters do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister^[a] or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. ¹²There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?