

Doctrinally Sound, But What About Scripturally Dedicated?

I. Introduction: The English word “dedication” is defined as: “The quality of being dedicated or committed to a task or purpose” (New Oxford American Dictionary).

A. To keep things balanced, this lesson is in no way intended to downplay the significance of a person and congregation teaching and abiding in sound doctrine (**II John 1:8-9**).

1. From the beginning of the church of our Lord, continuation in the truth was a must (**John 8:31** and **Acts 2:42**). Note: **Apostles doctrine was not their own* (**John 16:7-14**).

2. We are supposed to hold fast to sound words (**II Timothy 1:13**).

B. To keep things balanced, it is not my intention to suggest dedication to our Lord in a manner that causes such to be burdensome (**I John 5:2-3**).

1. We can serve our Lord AND enjoy life at the same time (**I Corinthians 7:31** and **I Peter 3:8-12**).

2. What we cannot lose sight and practice of is that upon conversion we [Christians] gave our lives to the Lord (**Luke 9:23-24** and **Romans 14:8**).

II. Body: Not Living Unto Ourselves (**II Corinthians 5:11-17**).

A. Dedication goes beyond your own will or desire. Consider Jesus’ obedience as an example (**Matthew 26:36-46** and **Hebrews 5:5-9**).

1. Jesus was able to push through the challenges He faced because He had previously decided He would not serve His own will (**John 6:38**).

2. It was not because He did not have authority to choose not to be sacrificed (**John 10:17-18**).

3. Again, Jesus had simply made up His mind that the Father’s will was above His own (**John 5:30**).

B. The congregation here in El Paso has several members who left their lives and chose to move here just to be part of this congregation. They had no other reason to move here. No family. No job. No history. No housing. No interest in the climate. No carnal draw at all. If you had to up and move in an instant to faithfully serve the Lord, would you (i.e. **Matthew 19:27-30** and **Luke 14:25-33**)? If you have done it, would you do it again? If you are lucky enough to live where there is a faithful congregation, what would you do if that congregation was not there?

1. I drove past a “denominational” assembly. It was a Wednesday morning. The parking lot was full. I thought, if we had a reason to come together today, who would/would not be there that COULD be there? What does it say about US if those in error are more dedicated than we are? Think about this indictment on Israel (**Matthew 8:5-13**).

2. Concerning zeal, think about the JW’s, Mormons, Muslims, and others. They are clearly false. However, they are zealous like Paul erringly was in his sinful days (**Galatians 1:14**). Do we have enough zeal (**Titus 2:14**)?

3. If the Devil's children are more zealous about God than we are, what does that say? For a loose illustration, consider the Canaanite woman (**Matthew 15:21-28**).

C. Could we get so caught up in being sound in doctrine that we think that is the pinnacle and all we need to do? Wouldn't that be being puffed up with our knowledge (**I Corinthians 8:1**)?

1. Does our God instruct us to abound in His work only on the first day of the week (**I Corinthians 15:58**)?
2. Complacency will not preserve our relationship with God (**Amos 6:1-8**).
3. So, stay awake or wake up if you're spiritually asleep (**Mark 13:37, I Corinthians 16:13, and I Thessalonians 5:6**).
4. Don't be lazy (**Hebrews 6:9-12**).

III. Conclusion: Since we are servants (**Romans 6:18; 6:22**). Consider what was said to those that serve man as a final application (**Colossians 3:22-25**).