

## Dedication By Trey Sullins

“How long will you falter between two opinions?” is the question Elijah asked the children of Israel in 1 Kings 18:21. What prompted this question was Elijah seeing his own brethren completely consumed with idolatry and the worship of false gods. He continues in the verse to say, “If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” His question was a simple one of dedication. Would they be dedicated to God or to Baal? This same question is something that every person eventually must answer for themselves. While we may not be tempted to serve Baal anymore, we are still drawn away into serving ourselves and our own desires. Who will we be dedicated to?

The idea of dedication is a very important one in the Bible. A people choosing to be dedicated to God has always been important, but it's not just people that were dedicated. In Numbers 7:10 the leaders offered the “dedication offering” for the altar. This signified that the altar was set apart and only for the Lord. Deuteronomy 1:36 shows dedication in the life of Caleb because he “wholly followed the Lord.” Even Jesus Christ completely dedicated Himself to the will of the Father. John 4:34 says, “Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.” Again, in John 10:18 the Bible says, “No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.” Jesus showed that even though He had power over His own life, He was dedicated to finishing the will of God by giving His life and being raised again.

Dedication is also required for Christians as well. This means that we have to choose to be committed to God and only God. Jesus taught about this very thing as He was preparing the world for the coming of His church. Matthew 6:24 says, “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other.” Certainly, this is the case for us as well. If we are living for our jobs, hobbies, or anything else, then we are not giving God what He is due. Whenever someone tries to serve God and themselves then they are really only serving themselves! Also consider Matthew 12:30 where Jesus said, “He who is not with Me is against Me” and Matthew 22:37 where Jesus said, “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” God expects one hundred percent from us which means that we cannot divide ourselves and our attention.

Proper dedication also requires the right attitude. Can you imagine God being pleased with a dedicated people that had no feeling or desire to serve Him? This is definitely not what God wants because if it was, then He would have created us with no opinions or emotions in the first place! God does not want pew fillers, but He wants zeal. The Holy Spirit shows us that this is the proper attitude in Titus 2:14: “who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.” We are a people brought out of the world so that we might be zealous in our dedication to Him.

Dedication is what God desires and demands of us. Furthermore, when you think about all that God has done for us, He certainly deserves our dedication. Remember the words of Jesus in Luke 6:46 “But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?” We cannot be like

the foolish man who build his house on the sand because he did not dedicate himself wholly. Let us never “falter between two opinions.”