

Consecrated To The Lord

Understanding Consecration

- **Exodus 32:26-29**
- Moses returns from the mountain to find the children of Israel worshiping the golden calf
- In doing so, they had broken God's commands to them (Exodus 20:4)
- Moses gives the command for the people to consecrate themselves to the Lord; they had been pretending to serve the Lord...but who would truly be on His side?
- We must be consecrated to the Lord, as well
 - Consecrate means "to set apart for service"; literally, it means, "to fill the hands"
 - If we are consecrated to the Lord, our service will be "full-handed"; no reservations, fully given over to Him
- David's example of consecration – **1 Chronicles 29**
 - The people were to give of themselves completely in preparing to build the temple – vs. 5
 - And so they did, because they knew where their blessings had come from – vs. 9, 11-12
- Paul's example of consecration – **Acts 27**
 - Paul spoke of himself as belonging to God: "*the God to whom I belong and whom I serve*" (27:23)
 - Can we speak of God this way?
 - This is consecration – **Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21**
- Caleb's example of consecration
 - Caleb gave himself over to following the Lord "fully" - **Numbers 13:30-31; 14:24**
 - Joshua 14:14 – "Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb...because he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel."
 - *If we are to be HOLY, then we must serve the Lord WHOLLY!*

Consecration Requires Cleansing

- If I want to consecrate myself, it first requires me being clean – **1 Peter 1:18-19**
- Have you been cleansed? Consecrated by the blood of Christ? **1 Peter 1:22-23**
- This is a necessary beginning...but there is much more

Consecration Requires Dedication

- Dedication is a total commitment to a cause; in this case, a total commitment to the Lord
- **Romans 12:1** – If Christ gave His all for us, is it asking too much for us to give ourselves completely to Him?
- A sacrifice is not composed of the leftovers – God expects the firstfruits

Consecration Requires Devotion

- Devotion is single-mindedness in service
- **Matthew 6:24** – I will either serve the Lord or my own desires; I cannot have it both ways

Consecration Involves Separation

- **Romans 12:1-2** – Be not conformed, but transformed
- **Joshua 24:14-15** – "*Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve*"; make the decision! Make up your minds and follow Him completely!
- Remember Whose you are – **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

Are We Consecrated To The Lord?

- Is our service full-handed or half-hearted?
- Who is on the Lord's side?
 - Are you and I?