

From the Pastor's Desk 1-24-23

Are you sold out?

How deep is your commitment to Christ? Is it just based on a one-time decision to follow Him? Is it a daily passion to follow His leading? Do you surrender to His will in every aspect of your life? In today's devotional, Oswald Chambers tells us the Apostle Paul was "all-in" in his relationship with his Savior.

God's Overpowering Purpose

I have appeared to you for this purpose... ACTS 26:16

The vision Paul had on the road to Damascus was not a passing emotional experience, but a vision that had very clear and emphatic directions for him. And Paul stated, "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision" (Acts 26:19).

Our Lord said to Paul, in effect, "Your whole life is to be overpowered or subdued by Me; you are to have no end, no aim, and no purpose but Mine." And the Lord also says to us, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go..." (John 15:16).

When we are born again, if we are spiritual at all, we have visions of what Jesus wants us to be. It is important that I learn not to be "disobedient to the heavenly vision" — not to doubt that it can be attained.

It is not enough to give mental assent to the fact that God has redeemed the world, nor even to know that the Holy Spirit can make all that Jesus did a reality in my life. I must have the foundation of a personal relationship with Him.

Paul was not given a message or a doctrine to proclaim. He was brought into a vivid, personal, overpowering relationship with Jesus Christ. Acts 26:16 is tremendously compelling "...to make you a minister and a witness...." There would be nothing there without a personal relationship.

Paul was devoted to a Person, not to a cause. He was absolutely Jesus Christ's. He saw nothing else and he lived for nothing else. "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2).

Always remember that our Christianity is not a religion but a relationship. Our faith is not in a set of facts or truths, as important as they may be, but in a person, the unique God-man sent from heaven to redeem mankind.

This Jesus not only wishes to be your Savior, but also your Lord. Is He both to you? If not, will this be the year that you "surrender all" because "all to Him I owe."

See you this Sunday for another timely message from Pastor Jim.

Blessings,

Jim West, Teaching Pastor