

ROMANS: PART 73
SEPTEMBER 14, 1997

THE DOCTRINE OF CHRISTIAN CONSECRATION. Pt 1

What Is Your Response To The Gospel?

Romans 12:1-2

The Passionate Appeal To Consecrate Yourself Unto God. Rom 12:1

1. *Therefore:*
 - ◆ This adverb points back to Romans 1-11.
 - ◆ Ideas have consequences. Prov 23:7
2. I *urge* (*παρακαλεω*) you:
 - ◆ A passionate call (utilized in the Gospel to describe the sick seeking Christ's help)
 - ◆ I beseech, urge, implore, plead with you...in view of God's mercies give God your body!
3. I urge you *brethren*:
 - ◆ You one-time pagan (Rom 1:29f)...
 - ◆ You one-time self-righteous moral person (Rom 2:5-6)...
 - ◆ You one-time hypocritical religious person (2:24)...
 - ◆ now saved through Christ.. give your body (your self) to God.

The Motive For Consecrating Yourself Unto God. Rom 12:1.

1. Giving yourself to God is not based upon:
 - ◆ guilt or legalism
 - ◆ fear of the consequences if you don't give
 - ◆ the need for personal significance
 - ◆ the desire for social respectability
 - ◆ false promises of what God will give you if you do give
2. It is based upon the *mercies* of God.
 - ◆ Justification Thru Faith Alone In Christ. Rom 3:21ff.
 - ◆ United to Christ forever, never to be lost again. Rom 5.
 - ◆ Made into a new creature, set free from sin's dominion. Rom 6
 - ◆ No longer struggling under the Law in your own power. Rom 7.
 - ◆ Serving as a child of God in the Spirit's strength (Who indwells you). Rom 8
 - ◆ Chosen of God before the very foundation of the world. Rom 9-11
3. The only proper (reasonable) response is gratitude. (Cf. Rom 1:21)

The Context of Our Consecration Unto God. Rom 12:1.

1. You are a new creature thru regeneration. Sin's dominion over you has ended. Rom 6:1-23
2. You are still a sinner. Sin will remain in you to some extent until you die. Rom 6:6,19.
3. You must give your members over to righteousness & not let sin reign in you. Rom 6:12-22.
4. You cannot be sanctified by law alone (it sets the standard but gives no ability). Rom 7:1-25.
5. You have a terrible struggle between your new nature and the flesh (remaining sin). 7:14-25
6. You have no condemnation because you are in Christ Jesus. Rom 8:1-4.
7. By the Spirit you subdue your fallen flesh & put on righteousness. Rom 8:5-13.
8. By the Spirit you are adopted into God's family & serve as His children. 8:13-17.
9. Now by the Spirit you are guaranteed of your final inheritance. Rom 8:18-25.

A Definition of Consecration.

1. A life totally given over to God: His Word, His ways, His laws, His purposes, His kingdom
2. In effect, in every thing, at every time, in every way:
 - ◆ My *ambition* is for His glory -- not my own glory
 - ◆ My *faith* is in Him -- not in anything else
 - ◆ My *love* is for Him & His people -- not for myself or foolish idols
 - ◆ My *faithfulness* (or obedience) is to God -- not in self-willed living
 - ◆ My *service* is for others -- not in self-serving pursuits