

Being Completely Committed to Christ

Hebrews 12:1-3

As an introduction, please read **Luke 11:17-23**.

In the book of **Revelations 3:15-16**, the Laodiceans were condemned for being "*lukewarm*". I am convinced this is one of the primary impediments to the Lord's church today. So-called *social sins* may cause the loss of an individual's soul, but *supposed* Christians who are not committed to Christ can influence many to turn from God, not to mention the state of his/her own soul's eternal destiny. The problem is not necessarily "the blind leading the blind," but perhaps more accurately "the bland leading the bland". Many are simply not following the examples given us in **Heb.11** concerning the steadfastness of our pledge to be faithful and devoted children of and to our Father. The Hebrew writer addresses this very topic in **12:1-3**.

I. Things Necessary For Complete Commitment:

A. The Right Education, v.1a

1. **"So great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us"** was given to educate through demonstration that complete obedience can be accomplished.
 - a. **Rom.15:4** for instruction that we have hope
 - b. **1Cor.10:1-12** for instruction that we not fall
 - c. **Heb.11:32-40** they had only the promise, we the fulfillment for we have the scheme of redemption completed through Christ. If they then could commit completely, how much more should we?

2. **2Tim.3:16** If the inspired scriptures can be applied to create a "*perfect*" man, what else is needed?

B. The Right Effort- vv.1b-2b This includes:

1. **Recognition of possibilities-** "*So great a cloud of witnesses*" should cause us to realize the alternatives to falling from steadfastness, **v.1**;
1Cor.10:12-13; 15:58
2. **Lay aside all hindrances-** This includes anything which inhibits our faithfulness. We must have our priorities firmly established with God first always and allow nothing to interfere, **Matt.6:19-24; 19:16-22**;
Rom.13:11-14
3. **Run with endurance-** Often, we Christians are *sprinters* instead of *distance runners*. We start off like the wind after conversion and run with enthusiasm for a few months or a year, and then, when the *new* wears off, we become more like *arm-chair athletes* (or *coaches*).
 - a. **1Cor.9:24-27** the key to this kind of running is in the preceding verse, "*I do all things for the sake of the gospel*".

b. **Heb.10:32-39** endurance yields *"the preserving of the soul"*

4. Proper focal point: JESUS! Why?

a. *"author and perfecter of faith"*, **v.2; cf. Heb.2:10**

b. He had the "maturity" to see the joy beyond the suffering. **1Pet.4:12-19**

c. He received what we should desire: eternal fellowship and glory with the Father, **Heb.1:3; Rom.8:17**

C. The Right Example, v.3

1. **1Pet.2:19-23** He is our perfect example and we should ever strive to emulate Him.

2. **2Thess.3:1-5** We need to be directed into the steadfastness of Christ.

3. **Rom.8:29** This is in God's plan that we conform ourselves to His example.

4. **Phil. 2:5-9** If we: empty ourselves; take the form of bond-servants; humble ourselves; and become obedient to death, then God will like-wise exalt us as He did His Son.

II. Conclusion:

A. God and Jesus Christ desire and expect nothing less than complete commitment, Mark 12:30; Luke 14:26ff.

B. Is that what they are getting from you? *"How do I know if I am completely committed?"*

1. How do you spend the majority of your *discretionary time*?

2. Do you pray daily?

3. Is time spent each day on thoughts and contemplation of things spiritual?

4. Is the time spent with other Christians studying and worshipping viewed by you to be a privilege or an obligation?

C. How the questions above are answered will probably lead you to the correct conclusion regarding your commitment to Christ. If you are not completely committed, please do not deceive yourself any longer. Give Jesus all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength!