

## Our Divided Affections

### Introduction

Scripture Reading: **2 Timothy 3:1-5**

**Luke 9:57-62**

1. In Luke 9:57-62, Jesus talks about being fit for the kingdom of God. The men in the text, in their present condition were "unfit for the kingdom of God."
2. The men had divided affections between the Lord and the world.
  - A. In verse 61 Jesus probably saw that this man would be influenced by his friends or by their persuasions and therefore, would not return to Him.
    - 1) The purpose to be a Christian **requires decision**.
    - 2) Man should not tamper with the world.
    - 3) Man should not consult earthly friends about it.
    - 4) Man should not allow worldly friends to give them advice on whether to be a Christian or not.
    - 5) God is to be obeyed - not man (Acts 5:29).
    - 6) **THEREFORE**, Man should come forth boldly and **resolve to give themselves** to His service!

- B. Jesus said those who look back to the world are not fit for the kingdom.**
- 1) In verse 62 - to put one's hand to the plow is a proverbial expression to signify undertaking any business.**
  - 2) In order for a plowman to accomplish his business he MUST look onward - to be intent on his employment - not to look back with regret.**
  - 3) The same is true in religion.**

**a. One must enter it with his whole heart!**

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

**b. He that comes to God still loving the world - still looking with regret on its pleasures, its wealth, and its honors, not wholly forsaken them, cannot be a true Christian and is **not fit for the kingdom of God.****

**c. He that would enter heaven must come with a heart full of love to God.**

**James 4:4**

**d. Religion is everything or nothing. Those not willing to sacrifice EVERYTHING for the cause of God, is really willing to sacrifice nothing!**

- C. If we are not willing to sacrifice everything for God then we are unfit for the Kingdom. To be unfit for something means to be unprepared, unready, etc.**

- 4. We need to realize that we can be unfit for the kingdom, recognize this and then do **whatever is necessary** to change and become acceptable in the Lord's sight.**

Colossians 3:17 And **whatever you do in word or deed**, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

## **What Are Divided Affections?**

- 1. Having divided affections is the condition of trying to please the Lord as much as possible while we try to please the Lord as little as possible.**

**A. This behavior is condemned by our Lord.**

Matthew 6:24 "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. You cannot serve God and mammon.

- 2. The men in Luke 9 were encouraged to become fit for the kingdom by turning their affections to the Lord.**

## **How Can We Have Divided Affections?**

- 1. By Turning Our Attention to the love of money and material possessions.**

Luke 17:32-33 "Remember Lot's wife." "Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it."

**Matthew 19:16-22**

**....how can we have divided affections?;****2. By Turning our attention to the pleasures of the world and unrighteousness.**

2 Timothy 4:9-11 Be diligent to come to me quickly; for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—.....

**A. Those who turn away from Christ and love to walk in unrighteousness will pay. They will pay just as the Israelites did in the Old Testament.**

- **The division gets wider and wider. Pleasure over service!**

Ezekiel 20:15-16 "So I also raised My hand in an oath to them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, 'flowing with milk and honey,' the glory of all lands, "because they despised My judgments and did not walk in My statutes, but profaned My Sabbaths; for their heart went after their idols.

Jeremiah 14:10 Thus says the LORD to this people: "Thus they have loved to wander; they have not restrained their feet. Therefore the LORD does not accept them; he will remember their iniquity now, and punish their sins."

**B. As Christians we are to part company with the world and focus upon living for Christ.**

**Romans 12:1-2**

**Romans 8:5-10**

**....how can we have divided affections?;**

**3. By Not Accepting the Gospel on Christ's Terms.**

**A. Some don't want to follow just the New Testament - but rather the New Testament and whatever agrees with them.**

**1) They divide their affections between Christ and their own ideas.**

**B. Thus we have the situation of the man in Luke 9:61, "Lord I will follow you, BUT....."**

**1) I think we need an instrument in worship.**

**2) I don't think it is necessary for me to be baptized in order to be saved.**

**3) I think the church needs to get involved in social gatherings, sporting events, and other things like this.**

**4) I think it is alright to attend once a week.**

**C. We need to realize that when we come to follow Christ, we must submit ourselves to HIS will, not ours!**

## Conclusion

1. **Do you love the Lord and focus upon Him?**
  - A. **It is possible for us to divide our affections and become unfit for the kingdom.**
2. **Where are your affections?**
  - A. **Set on Christ?**
  - B. **Set on something else?**
3. **Why not place your affections completely on Christ before it is too late?**

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Colossians 3:2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

- A. **It is not too late to get re-focused!**
4. **Remember this:**
    - **Your talk talks and your walk talks, but your walk talks more than your talk talks.**

