

Baptist hour messages



YIELD YOURSELVES TO GOD

By DR. BAKER JAMES CAUTHEN
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Scripture: Romans 6:13

Christians living in imperial Rome were surrounded by many difficulties, discouragements and dangers. Pagan society was filled with immoralities and cruelties. The government was increasingly hostile toward Christianity. A large proportion of those who were followers of Jesus were from the slave class and were the objects of contempt on the part of proud Roman aristocracy.

Yet to live in Rome was a great Christian opportunity. It provided the privilege of witnessing for Christ in the center of Roman civilization.

In writing to the Christians in Rome, the Apostle Paul sought to strengthen them for their maximum Christian witness and growth. He exhorted them, "Yield yourselves to God."

This is well chosen counsel. It is as applicable to the Christians of our day as to those of ancient Rome. Many people fail to yield themselves to God. A missionary abroad frequently finds the question, "Are all the people in America Christian?"

He must explain to those who do not know that in America millions of people have not received Christ as Saviour and Lord. That is, indeed, a strange and lamentable fact. It is a matter of great personal guilt to live in the midst of the light of eternal truth; yet to turn from it Jesus said, "This is condemnation that light is come into the world, and men love the darkness rather than the light; for their works were evil." (John 3:19)

Many are so occupied with their business that they have no time for God. Others like the prodigal son waste themselves in sinful living as they turn away from God.

ETERNAL LONGINGS

This counsel is well chosen because the unyielded life falls so far short of what God desires. It is the purpose of our

Lord that we should have life and have it abundantly. This world cannot provide what man needs in his deepest nature. Jesus said, "Work not for the food which perisheth, but for the food which abideth unto eternal life, which the Son of Man shall give unto you." (John 6:27)

Man is more than a creature to be fed and clothed. He is a person with eternal longings in his soul and capacities for God which never can rest until we know him who made us.

The best this world can give can never qualify us for fellowship with God. Jesus said clearly, "No man cometh unto the Father but by me." (John 14:6)

He said again, "What shall it profiteth a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul." (Mark 8:36)

The world of our day urgently needs people whose lives are yielded to God.

Our world has become a single community, but it is filled with misery and distress. Part of the community lives in abounding wealth and comfort, but the vast majority of it is hungry, sick, illiterate and distressed.

Our world community now has power to bring itself suffering beyond description. It is divided into hostile camps and the future of it so far as man is concerned is very uncertain.

GOD'S WILL FOR YOU

The gospel of Christ is the only hope of the world. It is only as men come to know Christ that they can be at peace with God and at peace with each other. It is in the Cross of Christ that all enmity between man can be abolished. All people, regardless of differing backgrounds and ancient enmities, come unto God through the Cross of Jesus Christ. Christ alone is our peace. Only as we know him can we have peace of heart, and only as we are brought to acknowledge his Lordship can we have peace one with the other. The

world urgently needs people whose lives are under the control of Jesus Christ that they may influence this world according to the will of God, and that their lives may be as light shining in the darkness to cause others to come to Jesus Christ.

It is in yielding ourselves to God we find the highest meaning of our lives.

Only as we yield ourselves to Jesus Christ in personal faith do we find acceptance with God. In no other way can we come unto him. We must recognize our sinfulness. We must turn from our sin, trusting Christ as Saviour, and in so doing we find God's forgiveness awaiting us.

As we yield ourselves to God, we find his will for our lives. We discover there is a purpose for us to fill, and God has a plan for us.

The most thrilling part of the appointment of missionaries for foreign service comes in hearing the note of assurance which each one gives as he tells that Christ has brought him a personal conviction of his will in going to tell the story of salvation to others.

As each missionary stands there, he says in his own way, "I stand here because I believe this is Christ's will for me."

It was the command of Jesus, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33)

YIELDING BRINGS POWER

A life is made rich and blessed when it finds the will of Christ. It no longer is like a ship without a rudder or a plane lost in blinding fog. It has a clear definite purpose and is moving on toward that goal. Life is much richer if it is being used for the purpose of God's appointment, even though it meets with difficulty, danger and death than if it is aimlessly spent in the pursuit of pleasure with no end beyond itself.

In yielding ourselves to God, we find the true motive for highest Christian service. The love of Christ comes to possess us. It is when we see the love of God expressed on calvary's Cross that we see the claims of Christ's love upon us. When we are in the grip of his redemptive love, we long to make our lives channels of blessing in the world, so that we are not to live for ourselves; but rather to bring the world to know him who died for us.

In yielding ourselves to God we find

power beyond ourselves. It is this power that enables us to resist temptation and live lives of victory in this world. It is the power of the Holy Spirit that enables us to undertake difficult tasks and accomplish that which would otherwise be impossible. The unyielded life lives in its own resources. The life yielded to God is one in which the resources of heaven are made available to us.

In yielding ourselves to God we find comfort and strength. Difficulties may be many. Sorrows may come upon us. We may not understand the way we are called to go; yet we find the comfort of our Lord and the strength of our Saviour given to us. His wisdom is made available so that we can walk in the light of his love and grace, even though we could not of ourselves see the way.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Many who are in the darkness of sorrow and misery this day can come out of it into the glorious light of comfort and truth as they yield themselves to God and find that his way is better than our way. It is when in the midst of our prayers we are able to follow the example of Jesus and pray, "Nevertheless not my will, but thine be done," we find real joy and peace come into our hearts. It is then we realize we can learn obedience by the things we suffer and we can be made into the image of our Lord by his refining process.

It is the privilege of each one of us to yield himself to God. This is a personal matter. Nobody can do it for anybody else. Each one must make his own decision. No one can prevent another from coming to Christ. No one can have it done by proxy. Each one must confess his own sin. Each one must reach out to Christ by faith and receive the Saviour into his own heart and yield himself unto God.

Many lives would be transformed if they would turn from self and yield to Christ asking, "Lord, what is thy will for me?"

In finding the will of Christ, we find the secret of usefulness and peace. Let no one wait longer to make his surrender to Jesus Christ, but yield himself to God today.