

Elder Bobby Willis



How Devoted Are You?

We often hear people talk about how devoted they are to their companions, how devoted their dog is, how workers are devoted to their job, and how much an athlete is to practice and training. Occasionally someone talks about a person they know who is devoted to serving God, to prayer and meditation, and to their church.

So, I will ask - *How devoted are you to God?* The word “**devotion**” means ‘*profound dedication.*’ The Apostle Paul went as far as to say that it would be better not to marry in I Corinthians 7:35, “**And this I speak for your profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you but that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.**” I realize that I am now in trouble with many of you if you are thinking that I believe we should not marry. That is not the case as I am happily married and do not wish to change my status. However, Paul is saying that to be married is a distraction due to the responsibilities a husband and wife have to each other. The simple truth is we allow distractions of many types, kinds, shades and descriptions to get in our way of serving the Lord as we should.

In II Corinthians 11:3, Paul deals with another problem the new church was facing, other than being distracted, and that was of being drawn away by false teachers, “**But I fear, lest by any means as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.**” Paul is comparing the ease at which Satan was successful in deceiving Eve to how easily it is for us, though we are Christian believers, to be taken in by Satan and his evil devices.

King Solomon, when he was bringing the ark of the covenant into the temple, admonished the people to be wholly devoted to God by keeping the Lord’s commandments. I Kings 8:61 says, “**Let your heart therefore be perfect with the Lord our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as**

at this day.” To **“be perfect”** in this verse, means to be profoundly devoted to the Lord. We are to do His will and not ours daily.

How are your activities related to serving God? Would you be happy to have Him walk up and observe your demeanor at any given point of the day? If you are like me, probably NOT! We see this point well taken by Solomon himself. Later in life, Solomon allowed his wives to distract him so as to turn his heart even to the gods of his wives. This is shown in I Kings 11:4, **“For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect”** (meaning devoted) **“with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.”** Did you notice the change in Solomon’s devotion as he allowed distractions in his life?

During his sermon on the mount, Jesus shares a beautiful lesson that is well worth remembering, **“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon”** (the world, or, the flesh) Matthew 6:24. Perhaps we need to examine our ourselves to see where our devotion lies. Are we serving; the world and all of its devices, yourself, or the Lord Jesus Christ? ***Think About IT!***