LIVING THE CONSECRATED LIFE

July 5, 2021

HEBREWS 10:16-22 NKJV – (16) "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," (17) then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." (18) Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin. (19) Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, (20) by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, (21) and having a High Priest over the house of God, (22) let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

In the Bible the word <u>consecration</u> means "the separation of oneself from things that are unclean, especially anything that would contaminate one's relationship with a perfect God." Consecration also carries the meaning of sanctification, holiness, or purity. To **consecrate** yourself is to answer God's call to spiritual **consecration**. This means making a conscious, willing decision to dedicate your soul, mind, heart, and body to God. This decision must be one of will, intelligence, and affection.

The Bible tells believers to be a holy people, separate from the world: "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you" (2 Corinthians 6:17). Being consecrated is a critical component in our relationship to God and to those in the world. Paul tells us, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:1-2).

In other words, as true believers in Christ, the act of consecration involves our lives being a living sacrifice to Him; we are totally separated from the defilement of the world. Each day, we are to live out our lives as a "holy" and "royal" priesthood to the glory of God, for we are now God's people (1 Peter 2:9-10).

SCRIPTURE READING 2 CORINTHIANS 6:17

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Don't follow your heart. Follow God and let Him change your heart to what is best for you and others and for His glory.

