

# CONSECRATION

Consecration is a sort of ‘old-fashioned’ term. It is found most often in the Bible in the Old Testament in reference to items that are to be set apart as holy for the purposes of worshipping God. It is also used to describe the setting apart of the priests, who are to be consecrated to the Lord. Although the word is not used extensively in the New Testament, it occurs in reference to the consecrated bread, and is applied to individuals and the purposes of God. However, for Christians, consecration is not optional, since we are ALL priests and kings of God Most High.

## Let's read Luke 18:18-27

- Jesus proclaimed the doctrine of consecration throughout His ministry.
- All that we own and all our relationships are to be consecrated to God so that they do not become idols in our lives.
- No thing or person is to be held above our relationship with Jesus.
- This ruler asked the question, ‘Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’
- Although we cannot discern his attitude from his voice, we sense a potential insincerity in his question from Jesus’ response to it.
- Jesus’ first response was to challenge his sincerity in using the word ‘good’ to describe Him.
- As the Son of God, Jesus was ‘good’; However, if the ruler thought of Him as just another teacher, he would have never called Him ‘good’, since God alone is good.
- Jesus then challenged him with the ten commandments (actually, only five of them).
- The ruler had the audacity to say that he had kept them ALL from his youth.
- The ruler’s response showed a problem with his attitude, since nobody has kept all the commandments from his youth.
- Jesus knew from his attire and possessions that the ruler was wealthy and that this wealth was an idol that had become more important to him than God.
- So He told the man to sell all his possessions, give the money to the

poor, and follow Him.

- At this point, the innocent 'questions game' had turned deadly serious, and the ruler realized that Jesus was correct in His prescription for his life.
- However, the wealth was more important to the man than following Jesus, so he sadly turned away.
- The disciples, thinking that Jesus' prescription was meant for everyone, thought that nobody could be saved, since nearly everyone has possessions that they are unwilling to give up.
- Nearly every Christian has some idols in their life.
- For some, it is money or material possessions.
- For others, it is relationships with other people.
- To some, their parents, children, or spouse, can be an idol--more important than God to them.
- Others are so concerned about themselves that their own love of their life is an idol before God.
- However, Jesus was not proclaiming salvation through works or deeds, but reliance upon God!
- Jesus' response to their question of who can be saved was, 'The things impossible with men are possible with God.'
- Salvation is a work of God and requires only faith in His promises!

### 1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

- Contrary to what many people present, Christianity is not just a casual acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior.
- Jesus will accept you exactly as you are.
- However, He doesn't want you to stay that way.
- Jesus cannot be your Savior if you don't make Him your Lord.

Consecration is the act of setting oneself apart from the world to become dedicated as an instrument of righteousness for the purposes of God.

True Christianity is a radical commitment to Jesus Christ, not just going to church on Sundays. If you desire to become a man or woman of God, consecrating yourself to Him will reap the rewards of entering into His wonderful light!~