



Tuesday, January 8, 2008

The Challenge of Commitment

Deuteronomy 30: 1-10 (NKJV)

Psalm 37: 5 (NKJV)

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- All over the world and in many places of worship, the year 2008 has been declared a time of new beginnings; a time to move forward; a time to turn the page; and a new era.
- When most people talk about new beginnings, they think about what God is going to do for them.
- However, the question should not be what God is going to do for you, but what are you going to do for the Kingdom of God?
- Will this year of new beginnings be a time in which you renew your efforts to worship God, to serve the community in which you live and to support the Kingdom vision?
- Perhaps the greatest challenge we will face this year is the challenge of commitment.
- **Commitment** is defined as the act of binding oneself to a course of action or to a cause; the trait of sincere and steadfast fixity of purpose.
- The idea of commitment seems to be a vanishing trait in today's society.
- Too many people are not willing to commit to anything or anyone other than themselves.
- However, if we are to be successful this year we must be willing to renew our commitment to a power greater than ourselves, as well as to commit to a cause that is more important than our own grandiose self-promotion.

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- In this year of new beginnings, God will expect more from us.
- He is expecting a renewed commitment to what we have been called to do; a commitment to fulfill our divine purpose.
- Let us review our scriptural text and see what God had to say to the children of Israel concerning commitment.
- Our text is found in the book of Deuteronomy, written for the purpose of reminding a new generation about what God had done and to encourage them to commit their lives to Him.
- The setting of our text was the east side of the Jordan River in view of Canaan, the land of promise.
- In chapter 28, Moses outlined for this new generation the blessings and curses they could face in Canaan; blessings for their obedience and curses for their disobedience.
- In chapters 29 and 30, Moses issued a call for commitment.
- Moses challenged them to honor the covenant they made with God when they entered Canaan, the land of new beginnings.
- Finally, Moses shared with them three things that God would do for them as a result of their commitment.
 1. The Lord would curse their enemies and all who tried to destroy them.
 2. The Lord would bless the work of their hands.
 - This meant that whatever they touched would be blessed.
 - New projects and business endeavors would be blessed.
 3. The Lord would bless the fruit of their bodies.
 - This meant that their offspring would be blessed.
 - Not only their children, but their children's children would be blessed. Some theologians call this "generational blessings".
- In conclusion, a key point for us to remember throughout this year of new beginnings is that our blessings will be based upon our commitment.
- The Challenge of Commitment!