

## God's Commitment To Man

Text : **Phil. 2: 5-8** -&- **Eph. 2: 1-9**

### **INTRODUCTION :**

#### **A. What is the greatest commitment you have ever made ?**

1. For married people it is to our spouse.
2. Parents make an open-ended commitment to their children.
3. Purchasing their home is the largest financial commitment most people make.

#### **B. As a collective ( as a country ) we have made some enormous commitments.**

1. We have fought tyranny on foreign shores.
  - a. Two world wars
  - b. Provide security forces all around the globe ( *protect & prevent wars* )
2. Constructed to Panama Canal
  - a. French tried it for 20 years but made little progress and gave up.
    - 1) 1880 – 1899
    - 2) 10,000 workers
    - 3) Many died from yellow fever and malaria.
  - b. Americans purchased it for \$40 million
    - 1) Invested \$375 million ( *Plus more than 12 million for defense installations* )
    - 2) Workforce of 44,000 ( many more to maintain that amount )
    - 3) Hundreds died during the construction.
  - c. Within 15 years the first steamship passed through the canal. ( Jan. 7, 1914 )
3. In 1931 we built Boulder Dam.
  - a. It was the largest power plant in the world. ( Now 38<sup>th</sup> )
    - 1) 726 ft. high and 1244 ft. wide
    - 2) 1.5 million cubic yards of concrete
    - 3) Created a lake which is 247 square miles big.
  - b. Though in the desert, it was completed in only 5 years.
    - 1) A 16,000 man workforce was required.
    - 2) 112 men were killed in accidents and many more died of heatstroke, etc.
    - 3) The cost exceeded \$49 million.

#### **C. Men have the ability to meet great challenges.**

1. **Gen. 11: 6-** The Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.

2. In 1961 president Kennedy challenged us to have a man on the moon within 10 yrs.
  - a. We spent \$25 Billion on the Apollo space program.
  - b. In July of 1969 we had landed men on the moon.
  - c. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin
3. In nine years we accomplished what most people thought impossible.

**When truly committed to a task, men are able to accomplish some very impressive things, but we cannot hold a candle to that which God is able to bring about.**

### **I. When considering the works of God the greatest of men are humbled.**

- A. God spoke the worlds into existence in only 7 days.
- B. God destroyed the world by water, but preserved life to replenish it.
- C. By a simple decree he created languages and created nations.
- D. He has routinely brought world powers to their knees.

### **II. God has proven Himself to be one who keeps His commitments.**

- A. He fulfilled His commitment to the nation of Israel.
  1. *“If you will be my special people, I will deliver you and be your God.”*
    - a. He delivered them out of Egypt and gave them His law.
    - b. He gave them a land flowing with milk and honey. ( **Very prosperous** )
  2. *“If you will be faithful to Me and keep my laws, I will protect and prosper you.”*
    - a. Israel continued to expand and to prosper as long as they followed God.
    - b. When they became rich and neglected God, He drove them out of the land.

#### **B. God kept His commitment to Abram.**

1. **Gen. 12: 1-3** Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; **2** And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; **3** And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”
2. God gave him a son and multiplied his descendants to an innumerable multitude. **23**

3. God gave the land to Abraham's descendants and more.
  - a. **Neh. 9: 8 , 23**
  - b. God removed them from the land because of unfaithfulness.
4. God blessed all nations of the earth through Jesus, the seed of Abraham.

**C. God even kept His commitment to Satan.**

1. **Gen. 3: 15-** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.
2. **I John 3:8-** the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.
3. Jesus is now in the process of "bruising" the head of Satan.
 

**Rom. 16:20-** The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.
4. Jesus has neutralized the last power that Satan can wield ... **death.**

**I Cor. 15: 25-26** For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. **26** The last enemy that will be abolished is death.
5. In Christ we have already overcome spiritual death and in the resurrection we will overcome physical death.

**III. God has been committed to the salvation of man from before the creation.**

**A. Jesus referred to His relationship with the Father BEFORE the world was.**

1. **John 1: 1-3 , 14** ( **Col. 1: 15-17** )
2. **John 17: 24-** Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

**B. God planned to redeem man before He created him.**

1. God knows all things ... past present and future.
2. When He created man with free will He knew man would stray.
3. Before creation, God determined Jesus would be sacrificed for man's sins.

**I Pet. 1:20- 21** For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you **21** who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

4. God has been working to bring His plan to fruition since before there was time.
  - a. **Matt. 13: 34- 35** All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable. <sup>35</sup> This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden since the foundation of the world."
  - b. **Matt. 25: 34-** Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.
5. Thus, when Jesus was crucified, it was according to the eternal plan of God.
 

**Acts. 2: 23-** this Man ( Jesus ), delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

**C. While we were in rebellion against God's rule in our lives, Jesus freely chose to die for us.**

1. **Read ... Phil. 2: 5-8**
2. **Read ... Eph. 2: 1-9**
3. That is true commitment.

**D. Imagine what Jesus gave up to save us.**

1. **Read ... Rev. 21: 10-11 , 18-21**
  2. The splendor of Heaven is so great it can only be described metaphorically.
  3. Jesus willingly left Heaven knowing He would be crucified.
- \* That kind of commitment is beyond our comprehension.*

**IV. The commitment of Jesus had eternal consequences FOR HIM.**

**A. Prior to coming to earth, Jesus was a spirit.**

1. Spirits have no tangible substance.
2. They can be in unlimited places at the same time.
3. A spirit does not become tired and cannot be injured or die.

**B. When Jesus was born of Mary, He became man .. body, soul and spirit.**

1. Jesus was the product of a normal childbirth. (*Fertilized egg*)
2. Having a body came with significant limitations.
3. It was necessary for Jesus to have a body to enable Him to die.

**C. The body of Jesus was not just a temporary inconvenience.**

1. When Jesus was resurrected, the tomb was empty. *He was in His body.*
2. When Jesus ascended, He ascended **IN** his body.  
**Acts 1: 9- And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.**
3. Both Steven and Paul saw Jesus after His resurrection.
  - a. **Acts 7: 55- saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God;**
  - b. **Acts 3: 3-7**
4. When Jesus returns, every eye will see Him. **Rev. 1: 7**

**CONCLUSION :**

**A. Because of the proven commitment of our Lord we know we can trust Him.**

1. When Jesus says, **“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”** we can trust Him at His world. **Matt. 11: 28**
2. When Jesus says, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”** we can know He is correct. **John 14: 6**
3. When Jesus instructs us, **“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.” Mark 16: !5-16**

**B. Because of the commitment that Jesus made to us, He has the right to demand equal commitment from His followers.**

1. **Matt. 10: 37-39** He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. **38** And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. **39** He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.
2. Jesus has committed to a relationship with you, but His commitment demands that you respond in kind.

**C. How have you responded to Jesus ?**

**INVITATION :**

**Lesson Texts : (NASV)****Philippians 2: 5-8**

**5** Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. **8** Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

**Ephesians 2: 1-9**

**1** And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, **2** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. **3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. **4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6** and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.