

September 12, 2010
Devoted To The Lord
Kingdom Vision

Ephesians 3:20-21

20 Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,
according to His power that is at work within us,
21 to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for
ever and ever! Amen.

Matthew 6:19-21

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Leviticus 27:26, 28-30

"No one, however, may dedicate the firstborn of an animal, since the firstborn
already belongs to the LORD; whether an ox or a sheep, it is the LORD's.

28 "But nothing that a man owns and devotes to the LORD — whether man or
animal or family land — may be sold or redeemed; everything so devoted is most
holy to the LORD.

Leviticus 27:28-33

29 "No person devoted to destruction may be ransomed; he must be put to death.
30 "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the
trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

The Principle of "Devoted to the Lord"

Synonymous phrases

1. Most Holy to the Lord
2. Devoted to the Lord
3. Belonging to the Lord
4. Devoted to Destruction

The Principle of "Devoted to the Lord"

B. "Devoted to Destruction" Means:

1. Given with no conditions
2. Given with no questions
3. Given with no concerns
4. Given with no directions

Ultimately, it's given with no foreseeable benefit to the giver beyond obedience

The Principle of "Devoted to the Lord"

C. Why total destruction?

1. To acknowledge the Lord's ownership
2. To recognize God as my Lord
3. To redeem all other possessions for the Lord's use
4. To release my faith

Illustration #1: Jericho

Joshua 6:17-21

The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD...

17 But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them.

18 Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it.

19 All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury."

20 When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout,

the wall collapsed; so every man charged straight in, and they took the city.

21 They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it...

Illustration #2: Saul

1 Samuel 15:3

3 Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them;...

1 Samuel 15:9

9 But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

1 Samuel 15:20-23

20 "But I did obey the LORD," Saul said. "I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king.

21 The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal."

22 But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has rejected you as king”

Psalm 50:8-12

8 I do not rebuke you for your sacrifices

or your burnt offerings, which are ever before Me.

9 I have no need of a bull from your stall

or of goats from your pens,

10 for every animal of the forest is Mine,

and the cattle on a thousand hills.

11 I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are Mine.

12 If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is Mine, and all that is in it.

Lesson from Jericho:

Keeping the devoted things results in bringing destruction on ourselves

Lesson from Saul:

Keeping the devoted things costs us our God-given authority

The Three Abominations

Leviticus 27:26

“No one, however, may dedicate the firstborn of an animal, since the firstborn already belongs to the LORD; whether an ox or a sheep, it is the LORD's.

A. Reassign or dedicate the devoted things

Leviticus 27:27 If it is one of the unclean animals, he may buy it back at its set value, adding a fifth of the value to it. If he does not redeem it, it is to be sold at its set value.

B. The Sacrifice an Unclean Animal

Exodus 13:11-13

11 "After the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as He promised on oath to you and your forefathers,

12 you are to give over to the LORD the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the LORD.

13 Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons.

C. Redeem a Clean Animal

Leviticus 27:28

28" But nothing that a man owns and devotes to the LORD — whether man or animal or family land — may be sold or redeemed; everything so devoted is most holy to the LORD.

Romans 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers

The Gospel Story

A. Jesus was Firstborn

Ephesians 2:1-3

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath (destruction).

B. We were born unclean

1 Peter 1:18-19

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

C. But a spotless Lamb redeemed us!

Take-Away Principles:

When I Give the devoted things, it:

#1 Releases me to abundant life

#2 Secures my spiritual authority

#3 Declares the Gospel

Three Abominations

Leviticus 27:26-27

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27 If it is one of the unclean animals, he may buy it back at its set value, adding a fifth of the value to it. If he does not redeem it, it is to be sold at its set value.