

## Why Devote Ourselves Completely

Christianity is not a pick-and-choose philosophy of discipleship. 2 Corinthians 10:5 instructs us to “bring[ ] into captivity *every* thought to the obedience of Christ” (emphasis added). We can do *nothing* against the truth, but for the truth, it says a few chapters later (13:8, emphasis added). Where do we get our ideas for judging our every thought and for the truth? The word of God as given in the Bible. The Bible admits the possibility of us not making the Bible our standard or our resolve.

If we build a house only partially on a good foundation, is that good enough? Of course not. Jesus said not building on rock leaves the edifice vulnerable during a storm. We saw evidence of this recently in the news when a building didn’t stand during an earthquake because the builders had scrimped on the foundation materials. There’s coming a time when everything that can be shaken is going to be shaken (Hebrews 12:27). If we want to remain in the final day, we’ve got to adhere to God’s word, graciously given to us and lived out before us in Jesus.

If we think the path our life takes is a good direction, what if it’s drawn out to the destination point? The astronauts going toward the moon might have felt like they were going in the right direction. But they would have been sorely displeased as they passed it by, if they had waited till they got there to see if they made it. In fact, they did course corrections every 10 minutes. How can we make “course corrections” if we never check to see what the Bible says, or if we have a different idea from what it says? We disregard it at our own peril. If we don’t follow the Lord’s ways we have a man-made religion.

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In **all** thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.* (Proverbs 3:5,6, emphasis added)

To not follow this advice comes from not fearing the Lord. He doesn’t matter much in life. These thoughts spring from a wrong perspective. What is more important than the Majestic Creator of the Universe? We are to magnify the Lord, not because He’s little, but because He is discerned through the spirit and to physical realm. We live by faith and have works of God to show it.

Without God working in our lives, we’re living a life in what the Bible calls the world. Worldly thinking does not think we need to devote ourselves completely. Jesus said, “*If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.*” (John 15:18) If nobody hates you because of your identification with Jesus, you should question your relationship with Him. Jesus said of them, “[*T*]hey know not him that sent me.” (v. 21) In other words, they don’t know God the Father. If we know God’s love, we want to be completely His. What could possibly be outside of that? He’s all encompassing.

*For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.* (2 Chronicles 16:9, NASB)