

LEFTOVERS RELIGION

By Keith Greer

There is a powerful sermon in Isaiah 44. The prophet discusses the principle concerning God's attitudes with "leftovers" in our lives. Will God accept our service when it is nothing more than an afterthought? Could we be guilty of "leftovers religion"?

Loyalty. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. "{Matthew 6:33} God will not accept second place in our lives. One must be totally committed to God.

Time. "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. "{Ephesians 5: 15,16} The clock is something all of us control in our lives. Yes, we can become busy in life, jobs, family, eating, and sleeping. If one is not careful God can be left out or just get the time that is left!

Money. "But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. "{2 Corinthians 9:6} All of us work hard to make a living. We need to provide for our own, 1 Timothy 5:8. Where does God's portion come-first or what is leftover?

Energy and Ability. "For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have." {2 Corinthians 8:12} If we spend all of our energy and ability in our work, what is left for God? According to the teaching of Matthew, in the parable of the talents, we are to use our abilities to the glory of God. We need to have some energy left to give in service to our Lord!

Life. "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." {1 Corinthians 6:20} Who gave us our lives? Where does every gift that we have been blessed with come from? {James 1:17} God deserves and demands that we put forth our best efforts in service to Him. Will he receive the crumbs and leftovers that fall from the table in our lives? ***