

## COMMITMENT (PART 2)

By Keith Greer

Why is the church not growing today as it once did in the first century? Why are so many of our young people being lost to the world? Why is apostasy splitting and dividing the church? The answer to these questions can be summed up in one word: COMMITMENT. In far too many places, we lack people who are committed to the cause of Christ!

We often look upon the children of Israel with disdain because of their disobedience to God's word, but do we do any better? God looked upon their disobedience as spiritual adultery, and He sees us the same way if we don't heed His word. Even as bad as things were among the Israelites, there was still a "remnant" that remained faithful to God. I believe that a remnant will remain true to God's word in our lifetime, too, but that will only happen with COMMITMENT.

What is particularly discouraging to this preacher is the lack of commitment among some of my colleagues. Preachers need to preach the word of God, or get out of the pulpit to allow someone who will. Positive preaching", PMA, love, mercy, compassion, unity, and "forgetting our differences" has been the standard of the 80's and 90's. A lack of "preaching what is needed" seems to be the pattern today. A fellow preacher told me recently, "Keith, preachers like us, that stand firmly and solely upon the truth, are becoming like dinosaurs!" God forbid it to be so! Ask yourself this question. Is the church better off today than ten years ago?

Moral decay is permeating the church, and a lack of attention to worldliness is allowing the world's standards to become the standards among God's children. Sin is not just for some TV evangelists any more. Elders and preachers, or their wives, are committing adultery or engaged in other forms of worldliness. We have churches in which elders are unqualified, and preachers are unwilling to do the work of an evangelist. Loose preaching on such subjects as divorce and remarriage have allowed Christians to believe that they can follow the world's example and still be pleasing to God. When are we going to "wake up"? Honestly, brethren, what does God think?

Sadly, what has happened, it seems in many of the congregations of the Lord's people, many have lost their spiritual appetites for book, chapter and verse preaching. Preachers who firmly, squarely and straight forwardly name sin and the consequences of members participating in them are branded as ineffective. Unfortunately, many are craving shorter sermons, no negative subjects from the pulpits and more humor and less substance. Preachers are now judged more on how long they preach (or short really) and if they are a great public speaker. Excuse me, did I miss something? Did the world become more godly and now there is a need for less pinpointed direct preaching in the pulpits today?

"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls ... " (Jeremiah 6:16)

"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. " (James 4:7-8)

Dear reader, the only thing that can help the Lord's church grow, a congregation to be a light in a community, for members to have a sound and godly influence where they live are for the members to be fully **COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE OF CHRIST**. Commitment is not something that can be taught from the pulpit. Are you COMMITTED to Christ? \*\*\*