

Giving Jesus Total Control

1 Timothy 4:15 & 1 Corinthians 2:3

Introduction:

1. When traveling by car, how many of you prefer to be behind the wheel? How many of you prefer to be a passenger? As a passenger, do you ever have the overwhelming urge to reach over and grab the wheel? I have a 16-year-old, so I do! But it's amazing; I never had a desire to do that when my dad was driving!
 - He was in total control, and I was confident in him and his ability to handle anything.
2. Is Jesus Christ in the driver's seat of your life? Is He in control? Do you trust and obey Him, or do you tend to want to grab the wheel and take control?
3. Notice in verse 15 how Paul told Timothy to give himself wholly to God's instructions and commands.
4. Did you notice the progression in our text? It's great to read God's Word (vs. 13), and it's even better to meditate on God's Word (vs. 15), but we know there is real spiritual growth taking place when we are willing to give ourselves wholly to God's Word and follow its commands, principles, and instructions.
 - Reading – involves the mind; having a head-knowledge of God's Word
 - Meditation – involves the heart; storing God's Word in our hearts
 - “*Give thyself wholly*” – involves the Word of God spilling over into our daily lives with a strong commitment to follow it
 - In Deuteronomy 17:19 we see a similar progression: “*read,*” “*learn,*” and “*keep.*”
5. Whenever we give ourselves wholly to something, it means we are making a total, 100% commitment. People give themselves wholly to many different things (a job, a hobby, a sport, a relationship). Being given wholly to something means that it dictates and drives your life.
6. In this verse, Paul is telling Timothy to allow God's Word and God's thoughts to control and guide every area of his life. Don't hold anything back.
7. This is called making Jesus Lord of your life. The word “Lord” means “in full authority; in full control.” When we give ourselves wholly to God and His Word, we are taking our hands off and saying, “God, you are in the driver's seat, and you are in total control.”
8. Has every believer made this kind of surrender to God? Has every Christian given himself wholly over to God and His Word? Has every believer made Jesus Lord of his or her life?
9. Every believer should give Jesus total control of his or her heart and life, but every believer has not done this.
10. There are three groups of people in this building and in this world today. They are found in 1 Corinthians 2 and 3. Let's turn there, and you decide which group you are in.

First, we see the natural man. 1 Corinthians 2:14

1. This is a person who is unchanged spiritually. Ephesians 2:1 describes him as dead in trespasses and sins. He has never been quickened and regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5
2. The natural man isn't going to grasp and understand deep spiritual truth or commitment to God because he is devoid of God's Holy Spirit.
 - Can this person understand the good news that Christ died for his or her sin?
3. The natural man cannot please God (Romans 8:8), and the result is that a person who continues in this condition will die in his or her sins and be separated from God eternally.

Second, we see the carnal man. 1 Corinthians 3:1-4

1. The word "*carnal*" means "fleshly." It speaks of a believer who is dominated by his or her flesh, thereby producing the works of the flesh. Galatians 5:19-21
2. The carnal person is "*in Christ*" (1 Corinthians 3:1, 23), and can understand a few truths from God's Word, but can never grow up past the baby stage. 1 Corinthians 3:1-2
3. The carnal Christian is more concerned with men's personalities rather than God's principles.
4. The carnal Christian has "favorites" and is constantly focusing on people, either by putting them on a pedestal or by focusing on their perceived shortcomings and failures.
5. We see in our text that the carnal believer thrives on envy, division, strife, etc. He follows men according to the flesh rather than following Christ after the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 3:3-4
6. There is not a more miserable person on the planet than the carnal Christian. He knows Christ and has His Spirit, but yet he is following the flesh. Contention, strife, misery, and inner frustration follows him everywhere he goes.

Third, we see the spiritual man.

1. This is the man we referred to earlier. Jesus is his Lord. He has given himself wholly to following God and His Word.
2. The spiritual man has two marks:
 - Discerns the deep things of God – vs. 9-12
 - Exercises and manifests the mind of Christ – vs. 15-16
3. The man has not only been saved, but he has yielded himself to Christ that his mind might be renewed, which will ultimately result in a transformation of his life. Romans 12:1-2
4. Giving Jesus total control of your life and being filled with the Spirit will radically change your life.
5. The opposite of this is to "*grieve*" the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30) and to "*quench*" the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19). This brings pain and misery to your life and to relationships in your life. There is frustration because you have the Holy Spirit, yet you are grieving Him.
6. But when you turn your life over to Christ, allow Him to be Lord of your life, and you walk after the Spirit, there is such joy, peace, and contentment.

7. Paul told Timothy, “*Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them...*” God, give us Christians who will give themselves wholly to You and Your Word and give Jesus total control!
8. Why? “*That thy profiting [progress; advancement] may appear [shine] to all,*” thereby encouraging others.