

## A CONCECRATED CHURCH

TEXT: (Romans 12:1-2, NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

## INTRODUCTION

1. “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body” (I Corinthians 6:19-20, NIV).
2. “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, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect” (I Peter 1:18-19, NIV).

## I. BEGINS WITH A CALL TO COMMITMENT

## A. Commitment Is a Starting Point

1. “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will” (Romans 12:1-2, NIV).
2. “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize” (I Corinthians 9:24-27, NIV).
3. “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing” (II Timothy 4:7-8, NIV).
4. “For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all” (II Corinthians 4:17, NIV).

## B. A Life of Commitment

1. “They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.  
The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name” (Acts 5:40-42, NIV).

## C. Seen in the Church's Persecutions

1. “They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go” (Acts 5:40, NIV).

## II. THE PURPOSE OF CONSECRATION

### A. Consecration Always Denoted a Purpose

1. “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will” (Romans 12:1-2, NIV).

### B. To Be Used in the Service of God

1. “In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work” (II Timothy 2:20-21, NIV).

## III. CONSECRATION RESULTS IN BLESSING

1. “They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.  
The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name” (Acts 5:40-42, NIV).

### A. Blessing Follows Breaking

1. “The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first” (Job 42:12, NIV).
2. “No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” (Genesis 39:9, NIV).

### B. The Church Grew and Multiplied after Each Crisis

1. “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly” (Acts 4:31)
2. “Those who had been scattered (persecuted) preached the word wherever they went” (Acts 8:4, NIV).