



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

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## My Commitment to the Lord

How committed are you to the task of following Jesus? Have you counted the cost? Luke 14:26-33 Following Jesus takes strong dedication, faithfulness, devotion and loyalty to Him.

“Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.” Psalms 37:5

“Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established.” Proverbs 16:3

Commitment is understood in various relationships. Husband and Wife; Employer and Employee; a Player and the Team. What kind of commitment to the Lord must we have in the relationship that is above all other relationships. Jesus teaches that we must forsake all others and follow Him

“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.” Matthew 10:37-38

Commitment is believing and feeling so strongly about something or Someone (God) that you put your energies and efforts behind for conviction. Here is a true story to help us understand commitment.

Dr. Evan O'Neill Kane believed general anesthesia had many hazards. He thought it best to use more local anesthesia while performing major surgery but what patient would agree to give it a try? Other physicians even agreed with him. Dr. Kane believed in his theory so strongly that he performed an appendectomy upon himself under local anesthesia. Now that is a commitment to one's belief.

God's law requires total commitment.

“AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' This is the first commandment.” Mark 12:30

When we consider making a commitment to love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength what part of the makeup of man is missing? Nothing!. Our affections, our intellect, our energy and our very life are all surrendered to God because of our abiding love for Him. We are “all in”; we will give our all.

We began with a question and we will end with this same question... How committed are you to the task of following Jesus?

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STACY

## Getting More Out of the Sermon

- by Roger Hillis

Experts tell us that we speak at a rate of 125 words per minute. But we can listen to 400 words per minute. It's no wonder the attention often wanders. That means we need to discipline the mind to listen to a lesson without distraction. Here are some suggestions to help you get more out of the sermon.

1. OPEN MIND. We need to be in the right frame of mind to listen. Our worship is to be “in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). We should approach a sermon with the attitude that we want to learn and profit from it. Attitude makes a big difference.
2. OPEN BIBLE. Compare what you hear with God's word (Acts 17:11). You need to form personal convictions based on what you read in the Bible. It will stick in your mind longer when you read it for yourself.
3. TAKE NOTES. This will be another “visual aid” to help you remember. You can recall more of what you see than what you just hear. Plus, you will have the notes to use for further study.

You CAN get more out of the sermon. But only if you try.

## A Corrupt World

- by Rick Duggin

Though no one can predict the future of our nation, we can say with confidence that God is in control, His cause will triumph, and He judges nations. ‘The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God’ (Psalm 9:17). ‘Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people’ (Proverbs 14:34).

Gibbon's famous work, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, lists five reasons for the fall of Rome. There are several parallels between ancient Israel and Rome, and even more disturbing, between Rome and America.

1. *The rapid increase of divorce; the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.* American families are under attack by humanists, homosexuals, and Hollywood. Some don't even know what a family is any more (Matthew 19:4-9).
2. *Higher and higher taxes: the spending of public monies for free bread and circuses or the populace.* America is on the greatest spending binge in history. Many have forgotten how to work; they expect the government to support them (2 Thessalonians 3:10; 1 Timothy 5:8).
3. *The mad craze for pleasure: sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal.* Many Americans are so obsessed with sports that they have no time for Bible studies (2 Tim. 3:4; Hebrews 11:25).
4. *The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within - the decadence of the people.* Babylon's wall, water, and wealth could not prevent the Persian invasion (Daniel 5). No armament can protect a nation that has rotted from within – not even America's.
5. *The decay of religion: faith fading into mere form; losing touch with life and becoming impotent to warn and guide the people.* Most churches have become social clubs, pursuing entertainment to attract bigger crowds. Many audiences no longer expect to hear book, chapter, and verse (2 Timothy 4:1-4). They have replaced the house of prayer with food, fun, and frolic (Matthew 23:12-14).

Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it.