

# The Four Compromises of the Devil

By Doug Hamilton

## Part Two

In the last lesson we were introduced to the first of four compromising offers from Pharaoh. Moses brought God's message of "...go a three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God." (Ex 3:18) The "WHERE" was the wilderness, the "HOW" was "three days", the "WHAT" was "sacrifice" and the "WHO" was the "we", all the people of Israel. It was a simple command that initially prompted Pharaoh to counter-offer a supervised sacrifice in Goshen. That was the initial Compromise of Uncommitted Worship. As discussed, this is one of the areas that the devil wants a compromise from the Christians. He does not want us to be committed to the simplicity of the corporate worship. The pattern that God set forth in the scriptures was designed for us as a group to draw closer to God, something that the devil absolutely despises.

## The Thirty Day Challenge concerning the Compromise of Uncommitted Worship

For the next four Sundays of worship...

- 1) Attempt to sing every verse of every song that is brought forth, focusing on the words and their meaning.
- 2) Give with joy in your heart concerning the collection.
- 3) Focus intently on the true meaning of the Lord's Supper, that Jesus gave His life in sacrifice and was resurrected for you and me.
- 4) Attempt to be in one mind with the public prayer that is offered, meditating on the words that are being brought forth by the leader.
- 5) Takes notes on the lesson with the intent of applying it to your life.

As we continue in the account from Exodus 8, we find a second compromise offered by Pharaoh.

## Compromise #2: Serve God with an Uncommitted Heart

Exodus 8:28 Pharaoh said, "I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away. Make supplication for me."

- Moses rejected outright the first offer of compromise of uncommitted worship. The immediate counter-offer from Pharaoh was to not go the full three-day distance into the wilderness, but simply "not very far away" into the wilderness. We can even see partiality in Pharaoh granting this small concession as a means to gain some supplication from the plagues of God.
- This is the compromise of the Uncommitted Heart because they were being asked to make a partial journey where the full command was given. If Moses would take this step, the people of God would have a sense that they were fully obeying the command, but yet not be actually doing it.

## Application: Christians must not cave into the Compromise of Serving God with an Uncommitted Heart.

- *Luke 9:57-62 As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." <sup>58</sup> And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." <sup>59</sup> And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup>*

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*But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God." <sup>61</sup> Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home." <sup>62</sup> But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*

- There were many that were willing and said they were willing to follow Jesus in the first century, but they were not fully committed. Jesus carried out His mission **WHOLEHEARTEDLY** even to the point that He had none of the comforts of home. When we are not willing to follow Jesus all the way, then we will not make it.
- This actually happened in the John 6 account when some of the followers of Jesus no longer would follow Him because of His teachings. *John 6:66 As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.*

### The Evil Heart of Man

- Despite what the humanistic world we live in today, we must understand that the heart of man is **EVIL**.
  - Genesis 8:21 "...for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth..."
  - Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?"
  - Matthew 15:19 "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.
  - Ecclesiastes 9:3 "...the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil and insanity is in their hearts throughout their lives."
- Our natural tendency is to seek our own purposes when it comes to commitment to God. In our mind we know what we should be doing, but in the heart we desire our own will. The Apostle Paul summarized it well in *Romans 7:19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.* The heart of man is filled with evil and it becomes obvious. With the knowledge of "cardio-corruption" at the center of mankind, God provided a way for lost hearts to be cleansed by the Creator.
- The vacillating effect becomes the compromise of the heart that the devil would like for all Christians. God calls for us to be fully committed to Him and His kingdom.
  - We are to do it wholeheartedly. *1 Kings 8:61 "Let your heart therefore be wholly devoted to the LORD our God..."*
  - He expects us to fully count the costs of commitment before making the decision to follow him as illustrated in Luke 14:25-33. We would not build a tower, go to war or any other major decision without weighing the cost.
  - It was consummated at the waters of baptism at our conversion. *Romans 6:17 (NIV) But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.* This is what was referred to in Acts 15:1 as "...cleansing their hearts by faith."
  - He wants us **HOT** or **COLD** in our relationship with Him, but never lukewarm (Rev 3:16).
- Pharaoh wanted Moses the people of God to serve Him with an Uncommitted Heart, but he was rejected by the response of Moses. The devil wants us to also have an

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Uncommitted Heart concerning our relationship with God, but we cannot strive for 2.0 GPA Christianity. There is no C Average in Christ.

## Find the Easy Road

Many years ago, the famous missionary David Livingstone was asked in a letter, "Have you found a good road to where you are? If so, we want to know how to send other men to join you." Livingstone wrote back, "If you have men who will come only if they know there is a good road, I don't want them. I want men who will come if there is no road at all."

## Jesus never said it was easy, but tough. It will require all our commitment.

- Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. <sup>14</sup> "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.
- Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."
- Ephesians 4:22-24 "...lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, <sup>23</sup> and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup> and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."

## The Thirty Day Challenge concerning the Compromise of Uncommitted Heart

### 1) For the next 30 days...Eliminate the Distractions.

- *Matthew 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."*
- Too many times we allow the things of Satan to come into our hearts and minds. We have allowed ourselves to be distracted and must guard against it.
- Look at your schedule and ask yourself, "How many hours a week do I watch television, survey the Internet and idly chat on the phone?"
- Ask yourself, "Is what I am watching filling my mind with perversity and pain?"
- Make a vow to not watch any television program, movie or website that you would not want the congregation to know about.
- Do you listen to fowl, immoral jokes? Are you allowing vulgar language to go unchallenged? Are you taking second and third looks at the fancy man or woman at the gym? Are you reading things that you should not be?
- All these and more can be major distractions to the soul. There is truth in the saying, "Garbage in, Garbage out!" If that is the case, then what kind of garbage could be luring us away from a deep commitment to God?

### 2) For the next 30 days...Replace with Godliness.

- It is not enough to cleanse the heart and mind of that which is evil, but a need to replace it with that which is good.
  - Colossians 3:2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.
  - Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good

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repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

- Share the story of Christ, your service to Christ and of your own conversion with others.
  - We need to dwell on the love that Jesus has for us. *“I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.”*
  - We need to dwell on the good works for the cause of Christ. *Acts 14:27 When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.*
  - One of the greatest joys that Christians could have is recanting the story of their conversion.
- Focus on Memory Work, Bible Study and Song:
  - When we are constantly exposing our minds to the word of God, the permeating qualities will trickle down and be written on our heart. Think about soothing spiritual effects immersing your heart in the scriptures as the following verses are read.
  - Deuteronomy 6:5-9 “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> “These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> “You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. <sup>8</sup> “You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. <sup>9</sup> “You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”
  - Proverbs 3:3 Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart.
  - Proverbs 7:1-3 “My son, keep my words And treasure my commandments within you... Write them on the tablet of your heart.”
  - Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

### 3) For the next 30 days: Put Others First.

- Take the advice of Paul in *Philippians 2:1-2 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,* <sup>2</sup> *make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.*
- He would also say in 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 *Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you;* <sup>12</sup> *and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you;* <sup>13</sup> *so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.*
- When we are putting others ahead of ourselves, then we will be striving toward the commitment that God wants us to have. We must “...prepare your minds for action...” (1 Pet 1:13).