

# **THINGS**

**THAT AFFECT MY  
SERVICE TO GOD!!**

**13 Lessons**

**Prepared by:  
PAUL E. CANTRELL**

**2000**



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PAUL E. CANTRELL  
84 Northview Drive  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050**

**[pecantrell@juno.com](mailto:pecantrell@juno.com)**

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## **Preface**

***"I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him....."(Philippians 3:8)***

These words beautifully express Paul's commitment to Christ. The expression, "commitment," is tossed around rather loosely today, but the concept was meaningful to Paul because he lived it. Many "Christians" are torn by tension between serving Christ and the world. When the Lord's work demands more time, more money, greater effort, and the sacrifice of more selfish interests, opposition is encountered. *"We are being asked to give too much." "We just don't have time to do these things." "I know it is a good work, but...."* Where there should be a thrilling response to opportunities, there are often feelings of resentment, stress, anxiety and guilt. The service of Christ, designed to produce peace, joy, and fulfillment results instead in conflict.

The answer to this problem is simple to state but less simple to apply. Where there is real commitment to Christ, there is no longer a reason for the tension between the fleshly life and the spiritual life. It is invariably true that those who have attained a high level of peace and joy in the Christian life are those whose level of commitment to Christ and the spiritual life is very great. We no longer battle against spiritual urgings when we have truly become spiritual. The mental and spiritual turmoil of trying to serve two masters disappears when we get rid of the earthly master. The concept of commitment will become meaningful to us when we can say with Paul, ***"I count everything as refuse in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him...."***

--Charles Moore  
Newark, Dela.

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**Lesson One**

**"A Spirit of Indifference to God's Directions"**

**1. List any synonyms to the word, "Indifference."**

**2. Indifference defined by Scripture.**

a) Rev. 3:15-16 \_\_\_\_\_

b) Hag. 1:1-6 \_\_\_\_\_

c) Matt. 15:7-9 \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Would you agree that the following Scriptures indicate Indifference?**

a) Jas. 4:2 \_\_\_\_\_

b) Heb. 10:25 \_\_\_\_\_

c) Hos. 4:6 \_\_\_\_\_

d) 2 Tim. 4:10 \_\_\_\_\_

e) Matt. 25:41-46 \_\_\_\_\_

**4. What challenges does God place before the indifferent to help them?**

a) Rev. 3:19 \_\_\_\_\_

b) Matt. 6:33 \_\_\_\_\_

c) Rom. 12:1 \_\_\_\_\_

d) Matt. 22:37 \_\_\_\_\_

e) Rom. 12:11 \_\_\_\_\_

f) 1 Cor. 10:31 \_\_\_\_\_

g) Matt. 12:30 \_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson Two**

**"A Spirit of Indifference to the Needs of Brethren"**

**1. How does the Scriptures define this condition?**

- a) Matt. 25:41-46 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Jas. 2:1-4, 8-9 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Jas. 2:14-17 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) 1 Jn. 3:15 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) 1 Jn. 3:17 \_\_\_\_\_

**2. What are some excuses use to justify indifference?**

- a) "I worked for what I have, let them do the same."
- b) "If he had taken better care, he wouldn't be in that condition."
- c) "Self-reliance is good for a person."
- d) "I just have enough for my family."

**3. What challenges does God place before the indifferent to help them?**

- a) 1 Jn. 3:18 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Matt. 22:38-39 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Heb. 10:24 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Jas. 2:8 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) 1 Cor. 12:25 \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Jas. 1:27 \_\_\_\_\_
- g) 1 Thess. 5:14-15 \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Discuss the "One another" passages.**



**Lesson Three**

**"A Lack of Discipline in My Life"**

**1. What are some synonyms of the word, "Discipline?"**

**2. Discuss the concept of Discipline in the following passages.**

a) 1 Sam. 3:13 \_\_\_\_\_

b) Dan. 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

c) Prov. 25:28 \_\_\_\_\_

d) Heb. 11:24-27 \_\_\_\_\_

e) Rom. 13:14 \_\_\_\_\_

f) 1 Cor. 9:25-27 \_\_\_\_\_

g) 1 Thess. 5:6-8 \_\_\_\_\_

**3. What are some challenges placed before us in regards to a Disciplined life?**

a) Prov. 14:23; Jas. 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_

b) Heb. 3:7-9 \_\_\_\_\_

c) Prov. 16:32 \_\_\_\_\_

d) Phil. 3:13 \_\_\_\_\_

e) Jas. 2:24 \_\_\_\_\_

f) Rom. 8:24 \_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson Four**

**"A Pessimistic Outlook on Life"**

**1. What are some synonyms of the word, "Pessimistic?"**

**2. How would you define Pessimism?**

**3. How would you illustrate Pessimism?**

**a) By use of Phrases?**

**b) By Use of Examples?**

**1) Judges 7:1-3**

**2) Numbers 13:31-33**

**4. What effect does Pessimism have?**

**a) Deut. 20:8** \_\_\_\_\_

**b) Matt. 25:24-25** \_\_\_\_\_

**c) Rom. 8:28** \_\_\_\_\_

**d) 1 Jn. 4:18** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. What are some underlying causes of Pessimism?**

**6. How do we overcome Pessimism?**

**a) Rom. 8:31** \_\_\_\_\_

**b) Ps. 37:9** \_\_\_\_\_

**c) Ps. 23:4** \_\_\_\_\_

**d) Ps. 34:4** \_\_\_\_\_

**e) Ps. 27:14** \_\_\_\_\_

**7. What does Pessimism reveal about our Christian life?**

Lesson Five

**"A Lack of Strong Convictions in My Life"**

1. What are some synonyms of the word, "Conviction?"

2. What causes a lack of strong conviction?

3. Examples:

- a) Exo. 8:25 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Exo. 8:28 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Exo. 10:8-11 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Exo. 10:24-26 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Testing your convictions:

Yes No

- \_\_\_ \_\_\_ 1. Does one have to believe in Jesus to be saved?
- \_\_\_ \_\_\_ 2. Does one have to repent to be saved?
- \_\_\_ \_\_\_ 3. Does one have to be baptized (immersed in water) to be saved?
- \_\_\_ \_\_\_ 4. Does one have to be "in Christ" to be saved?
- \_\_\_ \_\_\_ 5. Are all churches right with God?
- \_\_\_ \_\_\_ 6. Does the gospel need to be preached to the whole world for people to be saved?
- \_\_\_ \_\_\_ 7. God only has one way for people to come to Him.
- \_\_\_ \_\_\_ 8. It is the "spirit" of the worshipper, not the activities he engages in, that makes his worship acceptable to God.
- \_\_\_ \_\_\_ 9. My eternal salvation does depend upon my being faithful to God's will.
- \_\_\_ \_\_\_ 10. Hell is annihilation.

5. Why are strong convictions necessary?

- a) Col. 2:6-8 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Heb. 3:12-15 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Phil. 2:12-13 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) 1 Pet. 1:8-11 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Eph. 4:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson Six

"A Spirit of Worldly Wisdom"

1. How is the word, "Wisdom," used in the Bible?

- a) 1 Cor. 1:19-20; 2:4, 6, 14; 3:18-19 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) 1 Cor. 1:21; 2:7, 13 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Jas 3:13-16 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Jas. 3:17 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Discuss following terms in view of above:

- a) Modernism \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Liberalism \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Conservative \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Fundamentalism \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Orthodoxy \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Protestant \_\_\_\_\_

3. Make a list of things rejected by the worldly wise:

4. How does Worldly Wisdom affect my service to God?

- a) 1 Tim. 4:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) 2 Tim. 2:17-18 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Jas. 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Jer. 10:23 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Rom. 16:16-18 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the solution?

- a) Heb. 11:6 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Rev. 2:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Rev. 3:2 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Rev. 3:18 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Rev. 2:10 \_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson Seven**

**"A Lack of Standards for my Life"**

**1. What are some synonyms for the word, "Standard?"**

**2. How is a life pictured that does not have set standards for living?**

- a) Eph. 4:13-14 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Col. 2:6-8 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Tit. 1:10-12 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) James 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

**3. How does a lack of standards affect my service to God?**

**4. Passages that emphasize the Bible as a Standard:**

- a) Deut. 12:32 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Prov. 14:12 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Prov. 28:25-26 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Matt. 5:19 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Luke 6:46 \_\_\_\_\_
- f) John 8:32 \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Rom. 10:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_
- h) 1 Cor. 1:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- i) Jas. 1:22-26 \_\_\_\_\_
- j) 1 John 2:3-6 \_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson Eight**

**"A Lack of Appreciation of Grace in my Life"**

**1. Define "Grace."**

**2. Define "Legalism."**

**3. What happens when I lose my appreciation of God's Grace?**

- a) 2 Pet. 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Isa. 1:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Deut. 4:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) 1 Cor. 15:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Why is there so much emphasis upon the Grace of God in the New Testament? (Rom. 1:5; 1 Cor. 1:3; 2 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:3; Eph. 1:2; Phil. 1:2, etc.)**

**5. What is the end result of legalistic approaches to Christianity?**

- a) 1 Jn. 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) 1 John 3:8-10; 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Luke 18:9-14 \_\_\_\_\_

**6. What is the end results of over-emphasis upon Grace?**

- a) Rom. 6:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) 1 John 3:7; Jas. 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. What does Grace do for my service to God?**

Lesson Nine

**"Being Unsociable with People"**

1. How would you define a "Sociable person?"

2. How does being unsociable affect my service to God?

a) Acts 6:1; Jas. 2:14-17 \_\_\_\_\_

b) Jude 16; Jas. 2:1; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 6:9; Rom. 2:11; 1 Pet. 1:17 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What Should we do in order to be more sociable as a Christian?

a) Luke 17:4 \_\_\_\_\_

b) 1 Cor. 12:25 \_\_\_\_\_

c) Gal. 6:2 \_\_\_\_\_

d) Jas. 2:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What are some things we can share as Christians?

a) Acts 2:44-45 \_\_\_\_\_

b) Phil. 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_

c) Rom. 15:26 \_\_\_\_\_

d) Philemon 6 \_\_\_\_\_

5. How would you rate yourself as to your sociability as a Christian?

\_\_\_ a) Poor

\_\_\_ b) Fair

\_\_\_ c) Good

\_\_\_ d) Excellent

6. How would you relate the word "fellowship" with our discussion?

a) Acts 2:42 \_\_\_\_\_

b) 2 Cor. 8:4 \_\_\_\_\_

c) 2 Cor. 6:14 \_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson Ten**

**"A Spirit of Worldliness"**

**1. What are some synonyms for the word, "Worldly?"**

**2. Discuss Materialism and Heterodoxy.**

**a) Materialism:**

**b) Heterodoxy:**

**3. What does the Scriptures say about worldliness?**

**a) Matt. 13:22** \_\_\_\_\_

**b) 1 Cor. 3:3** \_\_\_\_\_

**c) 1 Cor. 2:14** \_\_\_\_\_

**d) Eph. 6:11-12** \_\_\_\_\_

**e) 1 John 2:15-17** \_\_\_\_\_

**f) 1 John 5:19** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Can the Christian be overcome of the world?**

**a) 2 Pet. 2:20** \_\_\_\_\_

**b) 1 John 4:4; 5:4** \_\_\_\_\_

**c) 2 Cor. 6:17** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. To what extent do you feel worldliness has affected your service to God?**



**Lesson Eleven**

**"A Spirit of Selfishness"**

**1. What are some synonyms for the word, "Selfish?"**

**2. What does the Bible say about such?**

- a) Exo. 20:17 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Luke 12:15 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) 1 Cor. 5:10-11 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) 2 Cor. 9:5 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) 2 Pet. 2:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- f) 2 Tim. 3:2 \_\_\_\_\_

**3. In what way can Selfishness affect our service to God?**

- a) 1 Tim. 4:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) 2 Pet. 2:14; 2:3 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Mark 7:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) 2 Cor. 9:5 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Col. 3:5 \_\_\_\_\_

**4. How do we deal with Selfishness?**

- a) Rom. 12:1 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) 1 Cor. 4:2 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) 1 Pet. 4:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) 2 Cor. 8:8 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) 2 Cor. 9:6 \_\_\_\_\_
- f) 1 Tim. 6:17-19 \_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson Twelve**

**"A Spirit of Timidity"**

**1. What are some synonyms for the word, "Timid?"**

**2. Why are people this way?**

**3. What is said about such in Scripture?**

- a) 2 Tim. 1:7 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Rom. 8:15 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Matt. 8:26 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Rev. 21:8 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Matt. 25:25, 30 \_\_\_\_\_

**4. How is Timidity to be dealt with?**

- a) 1 Jn. 2:5 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) 1 Jn. 4:18 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) 1 Thess. 5:14 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 1:7-8 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) 1 Pet. 4:16 \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Matt. 5:10-12 \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Eph. 6:13 \_\_\_\_\_

**5. How can we show our Timidity today?**

Lesson Thirteen

"A Spirit of Pride"

1. What are some synonyms for the word, "Pride?"

2. Can the word "Pride" ever be used in a good sense?

3. How does God look upon man's pride?

- a) Prov. 21:4 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Prov. 6:16-19; 16:5; 8:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Mark 7:21-27 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Rom. 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) 2 Tim. 3:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_
- f) 1 Jn. 2:15-17 \_\_\_\_\_

4. How does Pride affect our service to God?

- a) Matt. 18:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) 1 Jn. 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Rom. 12:17; 13:8 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Prov. 13:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Ps. 10:4 \_\_\_\_\_
- f) 3 Jn. 9-10 \_\_\_\_\_
- g) 1 Tim. 3:6; 1 Cor. 10:12 \_\_\_\_\_

5. How can Pride be dealt with?

- a) Prov. 6:16-19 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) 1 Cor. 13:4 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Ps. 9:20 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) 2 Cor. 3:5 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Rom. 12:3 \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Micah 6:8 \_\_\_\_\_
- g) 1 Cor. 4:7 \_\_\_\_\_
- h) Gal. 6:14 \_\_\_\_\_
- i) Gal. 2:20 \_\_\_\_\_



