

09.01.21 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “Christian Discipleship – An Extreme Commitment”

Scripture Reading: [Colossians 1:1-8](#); [Luke 9:21-27](#); [Mark 10:17-31](#); [Luke 14:25-35](#)

Reflection: Pastor Henry

When was the last time you made an extreme commitment? What decisions and choices have you made that you would define as zealous, intense, or significant? What previous decisions and commitments have you made where you had to be ‘all in’ and ‘going back’ was not really an option?

When I think about this type of extreme commitment in my own life, I think about when...

...I was on a ski trip outing in high school with some classmates and I was standing on top of the hill, looking down a black diamond run that I had never skied before. Once I started down that run, there was no going back up until the chair lift at the bottom.

...I was in college and used all the money I had to my name, plus some money my brother loaned me, to purchase another lawn maintenance company to expand the small lawn maintenance business I had going at the time. It was a financially ‘all in’ deal for me.

...We were on summer vacation a few years back and visited an area where the locals were jumping off a bridge into the river below. We learned from them that you could walk out to the middle of the bridge, climb over the railing, stand on the ledge, and then decide if you wanted to step off, jump, or fall to the river 15 feet below. Once you stepped off, there was no going back up until you hit the river below, swam back to shore, and climbed up the embankment to try it again.

...We gutted the kitchen in our house down to the studs as part of a remodel project. Once we started taking the cabinets, drywall, appliances, fixtures, and everything else out, we were committed and there was no turning back.

What about you? What types of extreme commitments have you made?

This past Sunday, Pastor Doug started a new series on the book of Colossians. For the next few weeks, we will be exploring the book of Colossians together.

One of the things Pastor Doug noted for us this past Sunday is that “...Colossians is a book about discipleship.” And when it comes to Christian discipleship, Pastor Doug reminded us that Christian “Discipleship is “extreme” – it requires being “all in”, fully devoted, deeply committed, and risking everything.”

Why is Christian discipleship extreme? Christian discipleship is extreme because Christian disciples acknowledge and profess Jesus as Lord ([Philippians 2:9-11](#); [John 20:24-29](#); [Acts 2:29-36](#); [Romans 10:1:13](#)) of their lives.

When someone is given the title Lord, it means they have authority, control, or power over others, and can act as a master, a chief, or a ruler. Disciples of Jesus declare Jesus their master, chief, and ruler of their lives. Disciples of Jesus give authority, control, and power for their lives to Him. A disciple of Jesus, just like Jesus himself, says to God “Not my will, but Your will be done.” Yielding authority, control, and power of our lives to another in an extreme commitment, an all-in commitment.

In our text for this week, Paul gives thanks to the Colossian church for their faith in Christ, for their extreme commitment to Jesus, and the ways their faith is bearing fruit around them. In the remaining chapters and verses, Paul will talk about Christian discipleship in even greater detail.

Are you ready to explore extreme discipleship as we make our way through the book of Colossians together?

Prayer:

Jesus, as we start this journey through the book of Colossians together, we confess with our mouths and believe with our hearts that you Jesus are Lord. AMEN

Action Item for the Day/Week:

Reflect on your current discipleship.

What words or phrases would you use to describe it?

Songs for today:

[All To Jesus](#)

[Have Thine Own Way Lord](#)

[We Bow Down](#)