

# Don't Give God a Piece of the Pie, Give Him the Whole Thing!

➤ = next PowerPoint

## ➤ Intro:

### - questions Christians sometimes ask:

- How much time in a day should I spend with God?
- How much time during the week should I spend working for God?
- What percentage of my day-to-day activities should be spent doing God's work?

### - in one way, all our work is for the Lord, it's a matter of proper priorities in life

## ➤ - lesson: Don't Give God a Piece of the Pie, Give Him the Whole Thing!

- title, result of conversation with Michael Matthews

## ➤ Everything you do is for God, and to His glory! – whole pie

### - whatever you do. . . .

- **1 Cor. 10:31** do all to the glory of God – eat or drink

## ➤ - Col. 3:23 whatever we do, do heartily as unto the Lord (context: work)

## ➤ - Col. 3:17 whatever we do, do all in the name of the Lord – authority of the Lord, unto the Lord

## ➤ - illus.: Paul, preaching the gospel – for God, to His glory

- **1 Cor. 9:23** did all things for sake of gospel

- vs. 19 slave to all

- vs. 22 became all things to all men

### - illus.: Paul, in everything he did – for God, to His glory

- **1 Cor. 9:24-25** like running a race, exercising control in all things

- **1 Cor. 9:26-27** like boxer, disciplined body and made it his slave

- e.g., working (making tents), eating, sleeping, every choice he made in life of a personal nature (expediencies), choosing to remain single, where to live

## ➤ What is the commitment required, to do everything for God and to His glory? – love

- **Lk. 10:27** love God with all – heart, soul, strength, mind

## ➤ - illus.: Jesus – commitment, love, obedience

- **Jn. 14:31** Jesus loved the Father, and did exactly as He commanded

- **Lk. 22:39-44** Jesus' agony in garden, prayer, sweat as blood

## ➤ - Heb. 5:7-8 agony, obedience – prayers and supplications, loud crying, suffered, learned obedience

- commitment God requires is love (heart, soul, strength, heart), obedience

## ➤ - illus.: Christians – love God more than life

- **Rev. 12:11** Christians, heaven, love God more than their own lives

## ➤ - Do you love God more than your own life?

- **God wants your all!** – whole pie
  - **Lk. 11:34-36** we're either all light or all darkness – no middle ground
    - give God 100% and be light / give God 99% and be darkness
  
- - **Rev. 3:15-16** God (Jesus) wants your all (100%), not satisfied with less
- - **Rom. 12:11** not lagging, diligence, fervent in spirit
  - **diligent:** “hasten to do a thing, to exert oneself” (Vine’s)
  - **fervent:** “to be hot, boil” (Vine’s)
  - **What’s a Christian like who’s hastening to do the work, exerting himself, boiling hot?** – are you
- - **Tit. 2:14** Jesus gave Himself, redeem (buy back), zealous for good deeds – **1 Cor. 6:19-20**
  - **zeal:** “passionate ardor in the pursuit of any thing. In general, zeal is an eagerness of desire to accomplish or obtain some object” (KJ Dictionary)
  - **Is zeal for God evident in your life?** – everything you do – how
  
- **Jesus, disciples, requires all – 100% commitment** – diligent, fervent, zealous
  - **Lk. 9:57-62** commitment: to live homeless, to put family second (living and dead)
    - vs. 62 not be like plowman who looked back, would make him go crooked, fail
    - **Lk. 17:32** Jesus, “Remember Lot’s wife,” disobeyed, looked back, possibly longing for past life and lost loved ones, turned into pillar of salt
  - **illus.: Polly Phillips, mother died**, visitation Sunday evening during church, missed the visitation to worship
  
- - **illus.: qualified widow to be put on the roll** – old woman, 60+ – diligent, fervent, zealous
  - **1 Tim. 5:5-6, 9-10** qualifications, widow to be put on roll
    - fixed her hope on God
    - continues in entreaties and prayers night and day
    - not given herself to wanton pleasure
    - having been the wife of one man
    - having a reputation for good works
    - brought up children
    - shown hospitality to strangers
    - washed the saints' feet
    - assisted those in distress
    - devoted herself to every good work
  - **Would you qualify as a widow age 60+?** - maybe you’re only 20, 30, 40 - are you doing that much work
  
- - **God wants lukewarm Christians to repent and be zealous!**
  - **Rev. 3:15-16** Who is a lukewarm Christian? - one who’s not zealous
  - **Rev. 3:19** if we’re not zealous, we’re lukewarm, and must repent to be saved
  
- **God gave all / Jesus gave all / they demand that we give all – anything less is unacceptable to God**

➤ **God gets the whole pie, but we set the priorities!**

- although we give God our all, we still have to properly set priorities

- illus.: man works a lot of hours, and does nothing with the church but attend services, does no personal work – priorities are out of balance

- doing all for the Lord doesn't excuse us from balancing our priorities

➤ - **Christians are soldiers of Christ** – our priorities must be balanced accordingly

- illus.: song #231 “Soldier's Of Christ, Arise”

- 2 Tim. 2:3-4 not entangle in everyday life – stay in spiritual priorities

- illus.: Jeremy Emerson, Air Force, basic, could call wife, not entangled everyday life

- 2 Tim. 2:5 like athlete, must compete according to the rule to win prize – priorities, no shortcuts

- 2 Tim. 3:6 like farmer, we'll be rewarded if work hard – no substitute for hard work, priorities

➤ - **Are you entangled in everyday life, or active as a soldier of Christ?** – work, school, other people, recreation

- Are your priorities balanced as God desires? – not as you desire

- Are you putting too much emphasis on one aspect of life, and not enough on spiritual things and the church?

- illus.: Gayle Williams (told was a Christian)

- aid worker in Afghanistan, who shared her faith about God with people, knew she could be persecuted, gunned down by the Taleban on Oct. 20, 2008

- can't be entangled in worldly things, concerns, to risk life telling others about Christ

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- God deserves 100% of our lives, and that's what He requires – 100% commitment to Him.

- Giving God our whole live includes properly ordering our priorities, to serve Him faithfully in Christ's army, not entangled in the affairs of everyday life.

- Have you given God the whole pie? – your whole life – with your priorities in order as a soldier of Christ

- inv.