

“I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE”

JOHN 1:19-28

We often bounce around from job to job, state to state, home to home, spouse to spouse, and church to church. It's trendy. But when you turn to the Word of God, commitment isn't optional. Ministry is a marathon and not a short sprint. Our calling is a lifetime assignment and not a single paragraph in one chapter.

HOW TO STAY COMMITTED

① _____-Centered (1:19-21)

It's more difficult when _____ abounds. That can derail any one.

The dual use of “_____” drives home John's resolve. Not only does he stand ready with his testimony, he stands complete in his testimony.

② _____-Centered (1:22-23)

While there are ample good resources for our use, one and only one is from God Himself. The Bible stands apart and we must be careful that we do not place it side by side with any book, let alone experience or circumstance. Sola Scriptura!

God wrote _____ book and He's given us unlimited access to it and perfect direction through it.

Our _____ does not authoritatively stand or fall upon our horizontal roles and labels and descriptors, but upon the holy words of scripture.

③ _____-Centered (1:24-28)

“We do not think _____ of ourselves; instead, we must think of ourselves _____.” (C.S. Lewis)

The duty of a slave was to loosen and carry the sandals of his master, yet John declares that he is not even worthy to be identified as a slave.

John humbly embraces himself as but a mere voice, a mere _____ who has been divinely appointed to announce the Word, the Logos, Jesus.

CONCLUSION

Though the people of God have been set apart from this world, the world seeks to entice and tempt and lure you to show some love its way and soon you may find your allegiance to Christ divided.

Without intentionality and purposefulness, you will waver, you will vacillate, and you will falter.

In a nation filled with consumerism, humanism, materialism, secularism, hedonism, pluralism, pragmatism, and skepticism, your enthusiasm for Christ may have lessened.

The church needs committed disciples. Are you one? Today, will you pledge allegiance to God?