

Material Offering and the Lord's Move Today Material Offerings and Full-time Service

Week 3 – Day 1

Phil. 4:18 But I have received in full all things and abound; I have been filled, receiving from Epaphroditus the things from you, a sweet-smelling savor, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

Handing ourselves over

(2 Cor 8:5)

(full-time service)

Today, when we speak of **handing ourselves over**, we are not talking about what we have to do to take care of our money. Rather, we are saying that a person has to **offer himself up for the Lord** and for the gospel.

First, **He wants us; then He wants what is ours**. We ourselves have to come to Him first before we can bring what we have to Him. If we do not come, God will not accept what we have. All the brothers and sisters have to see that **everything is for the lord** and that **everything has to center around the Lord**. We must have the same center. Although some function in **money-making ministry** while other function is their **ministry of the word**, the center for both must be the same.

The fragrant odor [in **Philippians 4:18**] refers to the sweet savor of the burnt offering (**Gen. 8:20-21; Lev. 1:9**). The offering we give to God's servants is not only a sacrifice to God, but also a **fragrant odor of a burnt offering that is well-pleasing** to Him.

By being **offered to God for God's use** by us who are of God, what was considered by God as "mammon of **unrighteousness**" (**Luke 16:9**), that is, as **deceitful riches** (**Matt. 13:22**) and **uncertain riches** (**1 Tim. 6:17**) which **will fail** (**Luke 16:9**), can actually **become** our "**fellowship**" with the saints, our "**righteousness**" toward men before God, an **acceptable "sacrifice"** to God, and a **well-pleasing "sweet-smelling savor"** to Him. **Riches that deceive men, corrupt men, and destroy men can actually become such transparent blessings that we have before God! This all depends on our offering of material riches**

Week 3 – Day 2

2Cor. 5:13 For whether we were beside ourselves, it was to God; or whether we are sober-minded, it is for you.

"where your treasure is, there is your heart, also"

(**Matt 6:21**)

The Bible also tells us about many people who were **beside themselves in offering up** their possessions and houses..., all those who have **truly consecrated** themselves to the Lord were men who **risked everything** to offer up themselves. The more a person loves the Lord, the more he consecrates. "If you give your money to the Lord, you will love Him. The Lord said that **where your treasure is, there is your heart also.**" If you want your heart to follow the Lord, your money must first go to the Lord.

...I am **not exhorting you to give everything to the Lord**, **but** you must **be a person who is fully consecrated to the Lord**.

...Today we want all the young people to **offer their time** to the Lord. At the same time, we want them **to offer themselves fully** to the Lord. Some may have to give themselves to **make money** for the Lord. Such ones have to do their best to earn and offer.... Some may have to offer themselves to **serve** the Lord **full-time**. We need both kinds of people.

... We have to **recalibrate the focus of our living**. Formerly, we earned money for ourselves. Today everything has to be for the Lord.... We have to rise up and be beside ourselves. We have to be beside ourselves in the preaching of the gospel and in offering up our all.

Week 3 - Day 3

Mal 3:10 Bring the whole tithe to the storehouse that there may be food in My house; and prove Me, if you will, by this, says Jehovah of hosts, whether I will open to you the windows of heaven and **pour out blessing** for you until there is no room for it.

Heb 13:15-16 Through Him then let us offer up a sacrifice of praise continually to God, that is, the fruit of lips confessing His name. But do not forget doing good and sharing with others, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

The infinitely rich **promise of God**

(Malachi 3:10)

..., keeping things in one's hand is the very cause for poverty, while offering things to God is the very cause for blessing.

The "tithe" [in **Malachi 3:10**] is the legal amount of offering which God required from the harvest of the Israelites.... This word superabundantly displays the infinitely rich promise of God.... If we will fully offer to God what belongs to Him that the church may be richly supplied, God will open the windows of heaven for us and pour out a blessing to us, which there will not be enough room to contain.

Two sacrifice are spoken on [in **Hebrews 13:15-16**]. The **first** is the sacrifice of praise, and the **second** is that of doing good and sharing with others. A sacrifice is something that is a loss to oneself and a gain to God. A **sacrifice of praise** is a praise that is rendered to God at one's **own loss**. A **sacrifice of sharing** or giving is giving something to God at one's **own expense**.

..., we have to give to the extent that we can **sense the loss**. Only this kind of offering can be considered a sacrifice. When we do this, we will spontaneously offer up the **sacrifice of praise**.... In addition to the sacrifice of praise, there is still something that follows. The phrase "**do not forget**" refers to the fact that it is most easy for men to forget.... We should not forget **doing good and sharing** with others.

Week 3 - Day 4

Rom 12:1-2 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to **present your bodies** a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may **prove what the will of God is**, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

"prove what the will of God is"

... The consecration there [in *Romans 12*] is for service. This service is a service in the Body of Christ. It is not individual service, but service in the Body. If a man is not in the Body, it is difficult for him to understand God's will. ... [If you think] we are rallying a fund-raising campaign. ..., you are off. We have received God's grace to serve Him in this age. In order to do that, we have to offer up everything and put everything in the Body.

Why do we have to touch the matter of riches? It is because the Lord says, "**For where your treasure is there will your heart be also**" (**Matt. 6:21**). Where your heart is, there will be your very person also.

... **Roman 12** speaks of two bodies. One is our own body, and the other is the Body of Christ. **We offer up our bodies for the Body of Christ**. If a man has not been delivered from riches, he cannot offer up his body to God.

... One of the greatest obstacles to our consecration is the matter of riches. And one of the greatest enemies in the Body of Christ is individualism.... The strongest manifestation of individualism is in the matter money.

Our way, our work, and our testimony in the future lie with the Body. If the question of money is not settled, we cannot expect to have good coordination, and we cannot expect that we can serve God.

Week 3 - Day 5

*Rom 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself, and none dies to himself; For whether we live, we **live to the Lord**, and whether we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore whether we live or we die, we are the Lord's. For Christ died and lived again for this, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.*

“whether we live, we live **to the Lord.”**

..., how could your body be free to be presented to God as a living sacrifice? Our entire **being** is **contained** in our **body**, and our body is **confined** in **time**. Therefore, the **body** is the center of these two things, the center of our being and the center of our time. The **being** is **what we are**, and the **time** is **where we exist**. We can change the places where we live, but we cannot move ourselves out of time. You always remain in time. To present your body to God means you give yourself to God. This is to be full-time. We Christians should all be full-timers. We have to give ourselves to Him. We do not give ourselves to anything else, only to our saving God.

... Every saved one must be a full-timer, presenting his body to God.... To present your body is just to present yourself to God. As a saved one, you have to present yourself to God. Having presented yourself to God, **you will be led** by the Lord to either **do a job** to make money or **to preach the gospel** without making any money. Whether you do a job or preach the gospel depends upon the Lord's leading.

The **real meaning of being full-time** is **to live to Him**. To go full-time does not mean to drop your job and become a preacher. It does not mean that you give up your business and become one who preaches the gospel or who labors in the word all the time. **A full-timer is one who lives to the Lord....** We have to live **to** Him because He is ours and we are His. To live **to** Him is based upon the fact that we are His. Not only is He ours, but we also are His.... To **live to the Lord** includes living for, by, with, and in Him. This is one being two and two in one. There is not only no separation between us and the Lord but also no distinction when we are living to Him.

To be full-time means that you live **to** the Lord. You do **not** live for Him **but to** Him.... There is no distinction in anything. He does not need your permission to use you, nor do you need his permission to use Him.

Week 3 - Day 6

*2 Cor. 5:15 And He died for all that those who live may **no longer live to themselves** but to Him who died for them and has been raised.*

*Matt. 24:45 Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to **give them food** at the proper time?*

Matt. 24:46 Blessed is that slave whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

Today's Reading

... To be **for** the Lord means that you still could be away from the Lord. If you are **to** the Lord, you could never be away from Him. To be **to** the Lord means that you are one with Him. It means that we breathe to the Lord, eat to the Lord, walk to Him, and even exercise to Him. If you are practicing the real ownership of the Lord, you will do everything to Him.

I hope we all can realized the proper denotation of the spiritual term *full-time*. To be full-time does not mean that you need to give up your job. To be a full-timer means that whatever you do, you do **to** the Lord; whatever you are, you are **to** the Lord; and whatever you have, you have **to** the Lord. If you remain in a job, you remain **to** the Lord. If you leave your job, you leave it **to** the Lord. As long as you are to the Lord you are a full-timer.

... Thus, there is no problem concerning whether we live a longer life or whether we die today. If we live, we live **to** the Lord, if we die, we die **to** the Lord. There is no difference. Whatever I do and whatever happens to me, I am **to** the Lord because I am one with Him. To think that only those who give up their jobs to do the Lord's work are full-timer is a wrong understanding. This is still the understanding under the influence of degrade Christianity.... When you say that you are a full-timer, it means that you are **to** the Lord.

... Let, us all be full-timers! If we are led to drop our jobs, then we drop them **to** Him and go out to serve the precious truths.... We will gain much increase. I care for the spreading of the truths so that they can get into the needy hearts. If we spread these truths, we will become the faithful servants to serve food to the Lord's people at the appointed time ([Matt. 24:45](#)). Then we will fulfill the commission of the Lord's recovery.