

Your People Shall Be Volunteers

Psalm 110:3

Introduction

1. Text is a powerful one for revealing the character that is expected of God's people.
2. It does not refer to community service volunteers, but rather the willingness of God's people to freely give themselves to do His will.
3. The attitude is one that must be expressed in every aspect of the Christian's life; from our conversion to our everyday living.
4. Let us examine this passage further that we may fully comprehend the manner of life it describes.

Discussion

I. "In the Day of Your Power"

- A. This statement refers to the day in which Jesus was glorified.
 1. Ps. 110:1: "*Sit at My right hand*"
 2. Acts 2:34-36: Fulfilled when Christ was glorified: "*Therefore, God has made this Jesus both Lord and Christ.*"
- B. "The rod of His strength went out from Zion."
 1. Rod often refers to judgment, authority, power or law. God's word fits all of these.
 2. Isa. 2:3-4 is a parallel passage and refers to the law going forth from Zion.
 3. This passage refers to the word of God—the gospel—going forth from Jerusalem (Acts 1:8).
 4. Thus, Paul was able to say that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation in Rom. 1:16.
 5. At the same time, it is the standard of judgment at the last day against those who reject the Lord (Mark 16:15-16; 2 Thess. 1:8).

II. "Your People Shall Be Volunteers"

- A. Willing/voluntarily: i.e., "*You people will offer themselves willingly...*" (NRSV)
 1. This comes from the same word as that used of "freewill offerings."
 2. Unlike the Old Covenant wherein the Israelite entered through circumcision and as children without choice, from the time of Christ's glorification God's people would serve Him of their own will, freely.
 3. This refers to servants who choose their master and serving Him lovingly.
 4. Luke 16:13: "*No servant can serve two masters....*" –God's people choose to serve Him only.
- B. Voluntary Submission:
 1. Acts 2:41: "*Those who gladly received his word were baptized.*"
 2. This all began "in the day of His power."
 3. Rom. 12:2: Believers who are Christians indeed freely give themselves to the service of God as living sacrifices.

III. The Character of Volunteers

- A. Total and unconditional love for their Master:
 1. Matt. 22:37: Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind.

2. Matt. 10:37-39: Love the Lord more than father or mother.
 3. John 15:13: Jesus is the ultimate example of this.
- B. Serve with cheerfulness:
1. One who has given himself freely does not need to be prodded into service.
 2. 2 Cor. 8:3-4, 12: There must first be a willing mind.
 3. 2 Cor. 9:7: Being a cheerful giver.
- C. Living as Volunteers
1. Volunteering to obey the gospel is just the beginning.
 2. We serve to please our Master and not the people around us (Matt. 6:1-4).
 3. We look for opportunities to serve, rather than excuses to avoid service.
 4. We allow ourselves to be humbled through correction that we may better serve our Lord.
 5. We put the word of God in our hearts so that we may serve Him acceptably with our lives (Heb. 8:10).
 6. John 4:23-24: We worship God, not out of necessity or obligation, but because we love Him and want to give Him the honor and glory that is due His name.

Conclusion

1. Do you wish to be one of God's people?
2. It is a life commitment, but it is one that is worth it.
3. God does not desire worship that is offered reluctantly, but seek those who will serve Him willingly, freely.
4. There are some who are called Christians, but to not give themselves freely to the Lord. But if they repent then they will be accepted.
5. Those who understand the value of salvation and of the righteousness of God will be volunteers.

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