

SOARING THROUGH THE BIBLE

February 3, 2012

“Commitment”

Revelation 3:1-6

Today is, Friday, February 3. Thank you for joining us for this edition of Soaring. My name is David Cooper and I am the Care Ministry Pastor at South Shore. The scripture reading for today is from Revelation 3:1-6. If you have not read the passage, take time now to read the verses and then rejoin us for the devotional.

John Maxwell – in his book “Be a People Person” – states – “Until I am committed, there is a hesitancy, a chance to draw back. But the moment I definitely commit myself, then God moves also, and a whole stream of events erupt. All manner of unforeseen incidents, meetings, persons, and material assistance which I could never have dreamed would come my way begin to flow toward me – the moment I make the commitment.”

A preacher in the Midwest tells about a young couple in his church who boasted to all their friends and neighbors that they were flying to New York City. They were only going to be able to spend one day there, but the highlight of their trip would be to go and see the Broadway play, “My Fair Lady.” They were so proud of this, and everyone was really impressed because no one else in that small town had ever been to a play on Broadway.

The day came, and when they arrived in New York they took a taxi to the theatre where “My Fair Lady” was playing. To their dismay, they found that the play was sold out for the night.

They thought, “What do we do now? Everybody knows that we came to see ‘My Fair Lady.’ We don’t dare tell them that we didn’t. So they found a couple of ticket stubs on the sidewalk and picked them up. They bought a program that described the various acts of the play. They went home singing “I could Have Danced All Night.” And they told everybody that they had gone to see “My Fair Lady.”

The preacher said, “That’s right. They had the ticket stubs. They had the program. They had been to the theatre. They knew the music. But the trouble is, they didn’t see the performance.”

Then he added, “A lot of Christians are like that. We come to church. We have the bulletin. We know the songs. We know what to say and what to do. The problem is that many of us have never really made Jesus the Lord of our lives.”

We must make the commitment.

The scripture reading for today describes a church that had a reputation, but did not have the relationship. They had been known as an alive church, but were now dead.

The church at Sardis was spiritually dead, with only a few of its members remaining faithful to the gospel. Outwardly it appeared alive and active and had a reputation of success and spirituality. It may have had an exciting form of worship, but the true Spirit of Christ and the true power of God was absent.

Thank God for the few who had remained pure and right with God. As John writes, "Yet you have a few people who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy."

Tim Hansel in his book "When I Relax I Feel Guilty," writes some insights of what most people want from God.

"I would like to buy \$3.00 worth of God, please. Not enough to explode my soul or disturb my sleep, but just enough to equal a cup of warm milk or a snooze in the sunshine. I don't want enough of Him to make me love a black man or pick beets with a migrant. I want ecstasy, not transformation; I want the warmth of the womb, not a new birth. I want a pound of the Eternal in a paper sack. I would like to buy \$3.00 worth of God, please."

If we would be totally honest, the idea of transformation really scares us. That is because we know that such a radical change would be quite uncomfortable. We realize that with transformation comes a major overhaul of our lives and priorities.

With the transformation of our lives comes commitment. How would you describe your commitment today? How much of God are you willing to buy? How much can God count on you? Make the commitment to be alive with the presence and power of God.

Let's pray.

Thank you for joining us for today's edition of Soaring through the Bible. God bless you today!