

## Consecration, Conscriptio, and Compassion

*Jude 21-23*

*21 Keep yourselves in the **love of God**, looking for the **mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ** unto eternal life.*

*22 And of some have **compassion, making a difference**:*

*23 And others **save with fear, pulling them out of the fire**; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.*

1. Cast out the prince of this world, and make room for the Prince of Peace
1. Brief testimony of Gary. Breaking bondage.
2. Jesus arrived in a world as a little baby, but that tiny package had very big salvation wrapped in it.
3. The world Jesus arrived in had been under the dominion of evil for hundreds of years.
4. Around the time of Daniel, about 500 years before Jesus, Daniel said when God's

people rejected God, the land came under the demonic influence known as the prince of Persia followed by the prince of Grecia.

5. So that is why when Jesus came, the strong influence of evil was so dominant.

6. But all Jesus had to do was point His finger at the devil and cast him out:

*Luke 11:20-22*

*20 But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.*

7. And with that , the kingdom of God began to spread, because the strong power of evil had finally been met by One stronger than he, Jesus Christ:

*21 When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace:*

*22 But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.*

8. And the spoils that Jesus plundered from the devil then and now, are the bodies, minds, and souls of men and women who have been held captive to the devil.
9. The prince of this world was taken down by the true Prince of Peace!
10. So when we as a church go about proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, we still face spiritual warfare because the adversary only surrenders his spoils to those who are properly armed for battle.
11. You and I have been placed into this “field” called Brazil, by God and have been given the **mission** of taking it for the kingdom. That is why you should look at yourselves as **missionaries**.
12. Jesus reminded us of this battle for the kingdom and that we must “take it by force.”

*Matt 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven*

*suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.*

13. So that is our place. There is a plentiful harvest of souls that the Lord wants to bring into His church for, as Jesus told Paul of the city of Corinth, He has “much people in this city!”.

*Acts 18:10 For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.*

14. So in order for us to be able to bring much people in, I believe there is a need for: Consecration, Conscriptio, and Compassion.

## II. Consecration

1. When we speak about consecration, that means dedicating and giving our lives wholly to the Lord.
2. I am talking about a level of dedication to the Lord like you find when you read how

the early church conducted affairs in the Book of Acts.

3. They were unstoppable for God.
4. Like when Paul was leaving Ephesus for the last time, the Holy Ghost had witnessed in every city that he was facing bonds and imprisonment when he returned to Jerusalem. But did that stop him?

*Acts 20:23-24*

*23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.*

*24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.*

5. Carefully studying the Book of Acts just makes me wonder about my own level of consecration.

6. God is looking for a Holy Ghost-filled people who are willing to set aside their own fleshly lusts and sinful pursuits in order to dedicate themselves wholly to the kingdom of God.
7. Jude, the Lord's brother, identified an enemy of consecration in the last days:  
*Jude 17-19*  
*17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;*  
*18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.*  
*19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.*
8. The problem here is those who lack a **full consecration** to the Lord, end up walking after their own ungodly lusts.
9. Without full consecration, Jude said they "separate themselves." That means they

are divisive and cause division one against another.

10. Do see why? Because they are sensual, which means living on feelings, mood swings, carnal and worldly attitudes, and a lack of the Spirit.
11. But the consecration we are called to comes by many life-changing Holy Ghost encounters:

*Jude 20-21*

*20 But ye, beloved, **building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,***

*21 **Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.***

12. The consecration I'm talking about comes from a consistent diet of prayer in the Holy Ghost. That is where the Holy Ghost can call you to your higher calling in Christ Jesus.

13. That is where you realize how much of God's love and God's mercy you depend on to be able to survive.
14. Our consecration to God means we set aside things that limit our spirituality to focus on God and His calling.
15. Consecration makes us available for the next focus: conscription.

### III. Conscription

1. Conscription is a word that means compulsory enlistment for state service, typically into the armed forces.
2. In the US, we call it the draft. Israel has had mandatory conscription ever since they became a nation in 1948. All citizens over 18, male and female, are required to serve in the military for at least two years.
3. What I am talking about is the need for a group of consecrated people to enlist in God's fighting force to take the kingdom by force.



*Matt 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.*

4. I'm not talking about taking up guns and grenades and becoming a paramilitary fighting force to arise against the government.
5. I'm talking about how Jesus came to cast out the prince of this world and build His church.
6. There is far too much damage the devil has caused to children, marriages, and families, through the fatal effects of sin.
7. God is looking for consecrated people who will put on His armor and do whatever is necessary to rescue them.
8. And before you Conscript, you need to Consecrate. You see, God's armor is only available and useful to those who have a right relationship with God.

9. Look at the armor of God and see what I mean:  
*Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*
10. With it on, you are able to stand against the devil, principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places. So what is God's armor?
  - a. Loins girt with **truth**: you depend on God's truth to hold you.
  - b. Breastplate of **righteousness**: God's righteousness from God's blood
  - c. Feet: the gospel of **peace**, the message of salvation through Jesus
  - d. Shield: **faith** that quenches fiery darts
  - e. Helmet: **salvation**; obeying the gospel message
  - f. **Sword** of the Spirit: God's Word
11. Every one of those speak of a right relationship with Jesus based on obedience

to a truth-based salvation experience found in the gospel.

12. When you get the blood of Jesus on you in baptism, you obtain forgiveness.
13. And when you have the Holy Ghost, you have God's power.
14. So when the 7 sons of Sceva tried to copy Paul by using the name of Jesus, they tried to steal God's armor and make unauthorized use of it. They lacked the blood of Jesus or the Holy Ghost to back it up.
15. You must have consecration before conscription!
16. When God's church is doing what it is supposed to do, it is undefeatable!

*Matt 16:18-19*

*18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

*19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the*

*kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

17. Hell cannot prevail against the church that is busy binding the adversary and losing people and leading them out of the strongholds of sin.

18. But that is where compassion comes in.

#### IV. Compassion

##### A. Pull out of the fire

1. After we consecrate and conscript, join God's fighting force with His Spirit and His weapons, a godly compassion will force us into battle for souls.

2. We will not be able to see a lost soul the same after a good dose of compassion comes over us.

3. Compassion comes about when we realize we love that sinner and want them to find God's mercy instead of God's judgment.

4. Jude, the brother of the Lord, described the compassionate work of the church this way:  
*Jude 21-23*  
*21 Keep yourselves in the **love of God**, looking for the **mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ** unto eternal life.*  
*22 And of some have **compassion, making a difference**:*  
*23 And others **save with fear, pulling them out of the fire**; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.*
5. This is where we get the idea of loving the sinner and hating the sin.
6. Compassion drives us to make a difference by spreading the love of God and the mercy of the Lord Jesus to those “spotted by the flesh.”
7. That refers to those who walk in fleshly lusts and who participate in sinful acts.
8. The church hates the sin for what it does to its victims.

B. Effects of sin

1. Every week, we deal with families trying to break free from sinful addictions that cause many human tragedies.
2. Families are broken up, innocent children are neglected and abused in horrible ways, adults are shackled with emotional pain, jobs are lost, homes and cars are lost.
3. So when someone says sin is all about having fun, they are only seeing when lust is conceived, not when sin is finished.
4. James said lust brings about sin, and sin, when it is finished, it brings forth death.
5. Paul said the wages of sin is death.
6. The Book of Revelation describes what that eternal death looks like:

*Rev 20:13-15*

*13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

*14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

*15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

7. *Rev 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*
8. Since that is what the end result of sin is, the lake of fire, and since sin's bondage even creates a hell on earth for its prisoners, what is the response of the church supposed to be?
9. Let me read again what Jude said about the purpose of the church:  
*Jude 21-23*  
*21 Keep yourselves in the **love of God**, looking for the **mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ** unto eternal life.*  
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***difference:***

***23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.***

10. Why is the church important in the community? So it can make a difference; so we can pull some out of the fire.
11. Sin has eternal, deadly consequences, and only the voice of the church is left in this world to proclaim the message of God's love and the mercy of Jesus Christ that can offer eternal life.
12. Some people have sunk so low, they see themselves as born losers, born into poverty, born into drug use, born into alcohol, born into abuse.
13. But let me read to you Jesus' offer of compassion that can turn a born loser into a born-again child of God:  
***John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born of water** [baptism in Jesus' name] and **of the Spirit*****



**[receiving the Holy Ghost],** *he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

14. The positive way to state that is this: if you are born of the water and of the Spirit, you can enter into the kingdom of God!
15. That is the compassionate message of good news that is worth proclaiming.

v. Conclusion

1. Since the last days were predicted to be marked by perilous times, self-love, those who are unthankful, unholy, with unnatural affections, and despising what is good, (2 Tim 3:1-5)
2. And since the last days would include scoffers walking in their own lusts denying that God is coming back, (2 Pet 3:3)
3. That is why God is reminding us of the need for consecration, conscription, and compassion.
4. Not only is rampant evil a part of the last days, something else happens when God's

people have consecration, conscription, and compassion.

*Acts 2:17-18*

*17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:*

*18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:*