

**December 3, 2023**

## This Is Your Mission

by George Slover

*“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)*

True success in this world is accomplished by self-sacrifice. Anyone who leaves their mark upon the World must lose themselves in some great cause of science, of humanity, of country, etc. If there is any pursuit worth such a sacrifice, it is the cause of Christ. Christians are to live to the glory of God. They are “not their own” for they have been purchased by the blood of God’s own son.

The true disciple’s heart, actions, abilities, and influence are totally given to Jesus. All of his being, including body and spirit are to be devoted of Christ. The Christian has no personal rights. His life’s goal is no longer in pursuit of selfish desires, but in passionately pleasing Jesus.

What gives Jesus the right to make such demands? He has this right because the shedding of his own blood. The Christian has been set free by one who had pity upon his enslaved condition. God paid a high price to redeem man from his undone condition. God delivers man from his degrading moral

condition and makes make him a son!

Fellow disciple you must give to God the praise and service due Him. All that you are, all that you have, all that you can be, is under a solemn obligation to Him. Every phase of your life must be sacrificed at the altar of your Savior. Your mission today and everyday is to glorify God!

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## Our State of Mind

Rickie Jenkins

It’s all about our attitude. For example, one day we are in this Dallas traffic, and it eats us up. The next we are in the same Dallas traffic, and everything is great. Is it the traffic that made us feel differently? If it was the traffic, we would have the same response all the time because there is always traffic in Dallas.

Another consideration, a student has a paper due, but they feel stuck. Thinking is not clear, so writing comes with great difficulty. But the next day the student wakes up, goes to the keyboard, and in a moment of inspiration hammers out the paper with enthusiasm and clarity. Boom! The paper is done that could not be written the night before. Is it the paper than caused us to feel differently?

We have been programmed to believe it is the circumstances in life that

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

## Important Dates

**Ladies’ Class** - Tuesday, December 12 at 10 a.m.

*If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.*

produce what we think, how we feel or act. Circumstances do not control what we think, how we feel or act.

It all begins with our attitude, our state of mind. The circumstances contribute to our life's experiences, but our attitude determines how we see them, how they affect us and how we respond. We get the best version of ourselves.

On the days when our attitude is great, we have inner peace and self-confidence. We rise above the circumstances. On the days when we have a low attitude, all we see is doubt, insecurity, and defeat. We get the worst version of ourselves.

When we feel strong, and our attitude is good no matter what happens, nothing seems to bother us. We simply move forward and keep playing the game of life. We don't even think twice about a negative comment. What someone thinks does not destroy our day. We are able to see the circumstances do not define us.

Conversely, when our days are dark, cloudy and rainy, we can see nothing but more dark clouds. Bad turns to worse, almost instantly. Negative comments stick like super glue. The negative comments we speak, cut like a sharp knife. They easily trigger arguments that hurt and cause harm. We even argue with someone we don't even know. Like the high school clerk at the store when we return an item for refund and the waiter who simply takes the order and brings us our food except for the ketchup. Those dark days hold onto pain and wounds that continue to eat our heart and soul.

Life is always changing. Our attitude determines how we respond. How do we elevate our attitude? First, knowing the truth that circumstances do not have power over us. We create our attitude from the inside out, not the outside in. Second, meditation on God's word and thankfulness of our blessings, elevates our attitude. They get our mind

off ourselves. Finally, don't forget love never fails. Not sweet, syrupy, sticky love, but love that chooses to love, not hate. Love that chooses to speak well of another, not curse. Love that prays for another rather harm.

Circumstances are not meaningless. They are powerful and yet even produce pain and trauma. But God is more powerful than the circumstances and if our attitude is a by-product of His mind then we can transform our attitude.

## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

**Jerry Richardson's** lymphoma has returned and is undergoing chemo.

**Dinah Williams** continues to have mobility issues.

**Don Simmons** is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

**Lisa Mullen (Darrell's sister)** is undergoing chemotherapy.

**Debbie McMurray** is undergoing immunotherapy.

**Terry Behrns** is recovering at his sister's home

**Harold Hammons** is in Seton Hospital in Austin.

*If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.*

**“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making s application for all the saints,” (Ephesians 6:18 ESV)**

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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