



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- Deut. 29:14-20; 1 Sam. 15
- Luke 22:41-42; Mat 26:36-44

SURRENDER MY WAYS

- Surrender Self-Will
- Practice Self-Sacrifice

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“Beloved, now we are children of God. **It is not yet revealed what we will be; but we know that when He is revealed, we will be like Him**, for we will see Him just as He is.” 1 John 3:2 WEBUS

“and it happen, when he hears the words of this curse, **that he bless himself in his heart**, saying, “**I shall have peace, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart...**” Deuteronomy 29:19 WEBUS

“**Why then didn’t you obey Yahweh’s voice**, but took the plunder, and did that which was evil in Yahweh’s sight?” Saul said to Samuel, “**But I have obeyed Yahweh’s voice, and have gone the way which Yahweh sent me, and have brought Agag** the king of Amalek, **and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.**” 1 Samuel 15:19-20

WEBUS

“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. **Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.**” Luke 22:42

WEBUS

INTRODUCTION:

Cease resistance; abandon control of your life entirely, and come into complete submission to God. That's what it means to surrender. When Y'shua returns, some of you will be like Him. And for that transformation to occur, it requires that you surrender your belief that things must be done your way and practice putting to death everything that conflicts with God's will.

Pray this without ceasing: "God, I surrender and reject any deliberate or fixed belief that demands things must be my way. My desires or intentions will take a back seat to Your will. To insist on my own way, in defiance of You, is an act of rebellion. I will no longer exert control in order to deliberately make something happen. Today, I confess that doing things Your way often requires putting to death my own thoughts, wishes, desires, plans, and priorities. God, from now on I will forgo and relinquish my own desires in lieu of Your will."

Whoever won't surrender their own will and instead practice the sacrifice it takes to offer their desires on God's altar, simply won't become like Him.

SURRENDER THAT IT MUST BE MY WAY!

1. Surrender My Ways: Surrender Self-Will & Practice Self-Sacrifice

A. Surrender Self-Will

(1) **Introduction:** Things don't ALWAYS have to be your way!

(a) **Surrender Self-Will:** Reject any deliberate or fixed belief that demands **things must be your way**. Your **desires** or **intentions** must **take a back seat to God's will**. To **insist on your own way, in defiance of God**, is an act of **rebellion**. Do not exert control in order to deliberately make something happen.

1. **“Neither do I make this covenant and this oath with you only**, but with those who stand here with us today before Yahweh our God, and **also with those who are not here with us today** (for you know how we lived in the land of Egypt, and how we came through the middle of the nations through which you passed; and **you have seen their abominations and their idols** of wood, stone, silver, and gold, which were among them); **lest there should be among you** man, woman, family, or tribe whose **heart turns away today from Yahweh our God, to go to serve the gods** of those nations; lest there should be among you a **root that produces bitter poison**; and it happen, when he hears the words of this curse, **that he bless himself in his heart, saying, “I shall have peace,**

though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart," to destroy the moist with the dry [**{19}** *as though the drunkard could be included with the sober. NKJV*]. **Yahweh will not pardon him** [**{20}** *The Lord will never be willing to forgive them; NIV*], but then Yahweh's anger and his jealousy will smoke against that man, and **all the curse that is written in this book will fall on him, and Yahweh will blot out his name** from under the sky [heaven]." Deuteronomy 29:14-20 WEBUS

- a) **Covenant Breaker:** (doing things your own way and following your own heart). Not only valid for those standing there that day, but also for those who were not there...
 - 1) It was made with you... just like Y'shua's words affirmed when He sat with His disciple for His last meal!
 - 2) *"Not for these only do I pray, but for those also who will believe in me through their word."*
John 17:20 WEBUS
- b) A heart that turns away from Yahweh to serve other gods is a root that produces **bitter poison...** to bless oneself even when in rebellion to God.

1) Paul described this blasphemy in his letter to Rome... *“Because knowing God, they didn’t glorify him as God, and didn’t give thanks, but became vain in their reasoning, and **their senseless heart was darkened.**”* Romans 1:21

WEBUS

c) What exactly was their blasphemy (and potentially yours)?

1) Choosing another god AFTER they know Yahweh is God.

2) They do so incredulously even though they know the truth, and yet act as if their **stubborn heart** means nothing (Yahweh will bless them anyway)—like a sloppy drunk who claims he’s sober.

d) Yahweh sees this as UNFORGIVABLE...

1) **Y’shua’s explanation:** *“Everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but **those who blaspheme against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.**”* Luke 12:10 WEBUS

2) **John’s frightening warning:** *“If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life for those*

*who sin not leading to death. **There is sin leading to death.** I don't say that he should make a request concerning this. All unrighteousness is sin, **and there is sin not leading to death.**" 1 John 5:16-17 WEBUS*

3) **Paul's admonition:** "***Don't grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.***" Ephesians 4:30 WEBUS

4) **Isaiah's prophecy:** "***But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit.** Therefore he turned and became their enemy, and he himself fought against them.*" Isaiah 63:10 WEBUS

(2) Your personal desires and intentions must take a back seat to God's will.

(a) King Saul had been given a specific mandate to utterly destroy the Amalekites.

1. "**Why then didn't you obey Yahweh's voice,** but took the plunder, and did that which was evil in Yahweh's sight?" 1 Samuel 15:19 WEBUS

a) There were to be no survivors, man or animal.

b) Yet, Saul chose to do things his own way.

(b) Self-Will

1. "Saul said to Samuel, "**But I have obeyed** Yahweh's voice, and have **gone the way which Yahweh sent me**, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites." 1 Samuel 15:20 WEBUS
 - a) Saul's incredulous stubborn heart can't see it!
 - b) He acts as if he was completely obedient to Yahweh, while simultaneously admitting made choices that were in stark contrast to Yahweh's command.
 - c) In other words... he blesses himself in his own heart, saying, "*I shall have peace, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart,*" as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.
 - d) Yahweh will never forgive him and His anger and jealousy will burn against him!

(3) Surrender and reject any deliberate or fixed belief that demands things must be done your way.

- (a) This was the EXACT command!
 1. "Now **go and strike Amalek, and utterly destroy** all that they have, and **don't spare them**; but kill both man and woman, infant and nursing baby, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'" 1 Samuel 15:3 WEBUS

- a) It is a black and white mission...
 - 1) Strike the Amalekites...
 - 2) Utterly destroy everything...
 - 3) Don't spare a single person or animal...
- (b) What Saul did instead (following the *stubbornness of his own heart*)...
 1. "But Saul and the people **spared Agag and the best of the sheep, of the cattle, of the fat calves, of the lambs, and all that was good, and were not willing to utterly destroy** them; but everything that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly. Then Yahweh's word came to Samuel, saying, "**It grieves me** that I have set up Saul to be king, for **he has turned back from following me**, and has not performed my commandments." Samuel was angry; and he cried to Yahweh all night. Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning; and Samuel was told, saying, "**Saul** came to Carmel, and behold, **he set up a monument for himself**, turned, passed on, and went down to Gilgal.'" 1 Samuel 15:9-12 WEBUS
 - a) Saul spared what he chose to spare (did not utterly destroy).

- b) His rebellion “grieved God.” He turned to follow another god—**the god of self-will**—a sin that will lead to his removal as king and his eventual death.
 - c) Even worse (if that’s possible)... *“He believes he will have peace, though he walks in the stubbornness of his own heart.”*
 - d) He literally celebrated himself—he set up a monument to congratulate himself for a job well done.
- (c) The stubborn heart on full display...
1. “Samuel came to Saul; and Saul said to him, “You are blessed by Yahweh! **I have performed the commandment of Yahweh.**” Samuel said, **“Then what does this bleating of the sheep** in my ears and the lowing of the cattle which I hear mean?” Saul said, **“They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep** and of the cattle, to sacrifice to Yahweh your God. **We have utterly destroyed the rest.”**” 1 Samuel 15:13-15
- WEBUS
- a) Samuel confronts Saul’s disobedience and Saul literally defends his actions...

- 1) He claims to have performed what Yahweh commanded!
 - 2) And when Samuel points out that he OBVIOUSLY did not, he does what all lousy leaders do—he **rationalizes and misdirects**. *“I kept the best stuff **to give to God!** Doesn’t that excuse my rebellion?”* (Note to self: NEVER!)
- (d) Samuel makes it perfectly clear; Saul digs in his heels...
1. **“Why then didn’t you obey Yahweh’s voice, but took the plunder, and did that which was evil in Yahweh’s sight?”** Saul said to Samuel, **“But I have obeyed Yahweh’s voice, and have gone the way which Yahweh sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.”**
1 Samuel 15:19-20 WEBUS
 - a) Why didn’t you obey Yahweh? I did obey Yahweh!
 - b) I went on the mission Yahweh sent me on and brought back... and utterly destroyed the rest...
- (e) That WAS NOT the mission!
1. **“But the people took of the plunder, sheep and cattle, the best of the devoted things, to sacrifice to Yahweh your God in Gilgal.”** 1 Samuel 15:21
WEBUS

- a) When there is nowhere else to turn, blame someone else!
 - 1) Ah... it was not I who *“kept the best stuff to give to God! It was the people who took the best stuff to give to God.”*

(4) To insist on your own way, in defiance of God, is an act of rebellion.

- (a) Rebellion is tantamount to witchcraft!
 - 1. “Samuel said, **“Has Yahweh as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying Yahweh’s voice? Behold, to obey [shama] is better than sacrifice, and to listen [qashab] than the fat of rams. For **rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as idolatry** and teraphim [small images/cult objects]. **Because you have rejected Yahweh’s word, he has also rejected you** from being king.”**” 1 Samuel 15:22-23
- a) Any claim that you are disobeying Yahweh so you can make a sacrifice to Him is absurd.
 - 1) Yahweh always prefers obedience over sacrifice!
 - 2) **Rebellion is like practicing witchcraft.**

- 3) A **stubborn heart** is **equal to idolatry** (to claim you are doing something for Yahweh, while engaging in idolatry, is **blasphemy**.)
- b) To Obey: the Hebrew word here is **[shama]**, the same word used in one of the most important passages and directives delivered to God's people.
 - 1) "*Hear **[shama]**, Israel: Yahweh is our God. Yahweh is one. **You shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might.***" Deuteronomy 6:4-5 WEBUS
 - 2) **[Shama]** means **to hear, listen to, obey; to hear intelligently (often with implication of attention and obedience)**.
 - 3) The directive following it, "**to listen**", is the Hebrew word **[qashab]**, meaning **to hear, be attentive, to heed**, and it stamps the directive with **no wiggle room** to do things your own way.
- c) Blasphemy will earn you rejection from Yahweh!
 - 1) Serve other gods + bless yourself = Yahweh not willing to forgive = **Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit** (*Those who **blaspheme** the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven!*)

(5) Don't exert control in order to deliberately make something happen that isn't meant to happen.

- (a) Exerting your will over Yahweh's will cannot be remedied with pseudo-repentance and excuses!
1. "Saul said to Samuel, **"I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of Yahweh** and your words, **because I feared the people** and obeyed their voice. Now **therefore, please pardon my sin, and turn again with me,** that I may worship Yahweh.'" 1 Samuel 15:24-25 WEBUS
 - a) First notice the excuse... *"because I feared the people."*
 - b) The repentance appears authentic at first—but there's also a hint of a **self-serving motivation...**
 - c) Saul does not simply say, "I've sinned; pardon me." He wants something in return... "I've sinned; pardon me, **and...Samuel, please ignore what I did...**"
- (b) Of course, Yahweh knows Saul's true motives, and Samuel is definitely suspicious...
 1. "Samuel said to Saul, **"I will not return with you;** for you have rejected Yahweh's word, and Yahweh has rejected you from being king over Israel." As Samuel

turned around to go away, **Saul grabbed** the skirt of his robe, and it tore. Samuel said to him, "**Yahweh has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today**, and has given it to a neighbor of yours who is better than you. Also **the Strength of Israel will not lie** nor repent; for he is not a man, that he should repent."" 1 Samuel 15:26-29 WEBUS

- a) Samuels says, "Request denied!"
 - b) Your fate is sealed Saul; you've lost the kingdom and you can't bully your way back!
 - c) Plus, Yahweh does not lie when He opens His mouth, **like you do**. He won't change His mind.
- (c) And then Saul just can't help himself... He says the "quiet part out loud!"
1. "Then he said, "**I have sinned; yet please honor me** now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and come back with me, **that I may worship Yahweh your God.**"" 1 Samuel 15:30 WEBUS
 - a) "Okay, okay, so I sinned. What's the bid deal? Commend me in front of everyone anyway!"
 - 1) This is the fruit of *rebellion and **a stubborn heart! (*Witchcraft + **Idolatry = Self-Will)

- 2) Saul is incredulous—he is unable or unwilling to acknowledge his sin.
- 3) **His own rebellion means nothing to him**—like a sloppy drunk who claims he’s sober.
- 4) He believes Yahweh should bless him regardless of his behavior!
- 5) He’s convinced that as long as he paints the picture with a few brush strokes to “whitewash” the truth: “Honor me, **so I may worship Yahweh your God!**” it will appear authentic.

B. Practice Self-Sacrifice

- (1) **Introduction:** God’s way often requires putting to death your own thoughts, wishes, desires, plans, and priorities.
 - (a) **Practice Self-Sacrifice:** forgo or relinquish your own desires in lieu of what God wants.
 1. “He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and **he knelt down and prayed**, saying, “Father, **if you are willing**, remove this cup from me. **Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.**”” Luke 22:41-42
WEBUS
 - a) Y’shua did the exact opposite of King Saul.
 - 1) Saul’s heart: *“I am doing things my way; now bless me anyway.”*

2) Y'shua's heart: *"Father, whatever is Your will... but not My will."*

b) If we examine the entire narrative, we see that Y'shua approached His Father THREE TIMES with the same request... ***"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from Me."***

1) *"Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and severely troubled. Then Jesus said to them, **"My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death.** Stay here and watch with me." He went forward a little, fell on his face, and prayed, saying, {1st time} **"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from me; nevertheless, not what I desire, but what you desire."** He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What, couldn't you watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray, that you don't enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." **Again, a second time** he went*

*away and prayed, saying, “My Father, if this cup can’t pass away from me unless I drink it, your desire be done.” He came again and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. He left them again, went away, **and prayed a third time, saying the same words.**” Matthew 26:36-44 WEBUS*

(b) It was not meant to be easy—death of self-will never is!

How should His example influence our lives?

1. “Greater love has no one than this, than to **lay down one’s life** for his friends.” ~John 15:13
2. “I have been **crucified with Christ**; I no longer live...” ~Galatians 2:20
3. “As many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into His death.**” ~Romans 6:3

(2) Doing things God’s way requires putting to death your own thoughts, wishes, desires, plans, and priorities.

(a) The Cross!

1. “He said to all, “**If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever will lose his life for my sake will save it.** For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole

world, and loses or forfeits his own self?" Luke
9:23-25 WEBUS

- a) Walking with Y'shua is not without self-sacrifice...
 - 1) If you desire to walk with Him you must make the same choice Y'shua made.
 - 2) He asked to avoid the cross, and His Father's answer was no! So, He took up His cross.
 - 3) Now it's your turn. But, if you'd rather opt out and protect yourself, you'll appear to preserve yourself, but in the end you'll gain nothing.
 - 4) However, if you go ALL IN for the Lord with "not my will, but Yours be done," you'll gain more than you could ever imagine.

(b) What does ALL IN look like?

- 1. "Now great multitudes were going with him. He turned and said to them, "**If anyone comes to me, and doesn't disregard his own** father, mother, wife, children, brothers, and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he can't be my disciple. **Whoever doesn't bear his own cross** and come after me, can't be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, doesn't first sit down and **count the cost**, to see if he has enough to complete it? Or perhaps, when he has

laid a foundation and isn't able to finish, everyone who sees begins to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and wasn't able to finish.' Or what king, as he goes to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and **consider whether he is able** with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends an envoy and asks for conditions of peace. So therefore, **whoever of you who doesn't renounce all that he has**, he can't be my disciple. **"Salt is good, but if the salt becomes flat and tasteless**, with what do you season it? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the **manure pile**. It is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Luke 14:25-35 WEBUS

- a) If you decide to follow Y'shua wherever He leads (the only option for disciples), you must...
 - 1) Disregard every person, place, and thing in comparison to your commitment to Christ.
 - 2) Yes, take up your own cross.
 - 3) Count the cost—it could cost everything.
 - 4) Renounce all (surrender every last thing to God) if called to do so!

5) Anything less tastes like salt that is not salty; it's good for nothing and should be relegated to a pile of manure.

(c) Object Lesson: Y'shua will isolate the ONE THING that you are not willing to surrender to God, and He we require it of you!

1. **"A certain ruler asked** him, saying, **"Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"** Jesus asked him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good, except one: God. You know the commandments: 'Don't commit adultery,' 'Don't murder,' 'Don't steal,' 'Don't give false testimony,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" He said, **"I have observed all these things** from my youth up." When Jesus heard these things, he said to him, **"You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor.** Then you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." But **when he heard these things, he became very sad,** for he was very rich." Luke 18:18-23

WEBUS

a) This young ruler inquires about what he CAN DO to inherit eternal life, but Y'shua has no intention of answering that concern.

- 1) It's by grace through faith that eternal life is inherited; there is nothing anyone CAN DO to earn it (Ephesians 2:8-10).
- 2) Y'shua pivots the conversation by installing obedience in the subject line, knowing this young man has been diligent in his attempts: *"I have observed all these things."*
- 3) But that is not what Y'shua is after; He is after that **ONE THING** He knows this rich young man has NOT been able to **"disregard, renounce, or place on the cross"**—he has not counted the cost of this one thing, **and thus** has made all his other works of obedience like salt that does not taste salty—fit only for a pile of dung.
- 4) The ONE THING was his money. Y'shua knew he would not place his money at the foot of the cross, so that's the **one thing** He asked of him.
- 5) What ONE THING has He asked of you that you have not been willing to surrender?

(3) Forgo and relinquish your own desires in lieu of God's will.

- (a) Arrested Development

1. **“But Saul, still breathing threats and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked for letters** from him to the synagogues of Damascus, that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. **As he traveled, he got close to Damascus, and suddenly a light from the sky shone around him.** He fell on the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” **He said, “Who are you, Lord?”** The Lord said, **“I am Jesus,** whom you are persecuting. **But rise up and enter into the city, then you will be told what you must do.”**” Acts 9:1-6 WEBUS

- a) Saul (Paul) had his own agenda (will)...
 - 1) God’s plan was different and in a dramatic fashion God seized Paul and changed the course of his life.
 - 2) At this pivotal moment in history, Paul could have remained Saul; he could have said, “Not Your will, but my will be done.”
 - 3) But instead, he responded by instantly recognizing that Y’shua is Lord and he received

and obeyed his new directive... “Arise and go and I will show you what you must do!”

(b) Paul shares his testimony with the church in Galatia.

1. “But **when it was the good pleasure of God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through his grace**, to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the Gentiles, **I didn’t immediately confer with flesh and blood**, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia. Then I returned to Damascus. **Then after three years** I went up to Jerusalem to visit Peter, and stayed with him fifteen days.” Galatians 1:15-18 WEBUS

- a) When God’s timing was perfect, He called Paul to step into his destiny (by His grace).
- b) Paul did not seek the affirmation of man, but spent most the next three years of his life focussing on the Lord’s voice.
- c) He had minor interactions with others at first, but then spent the majority of his first fourteen years as a disciple seeking the Lord for instruction and direction.

- 1) *“Then after a period of **fourteen years** I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus also with me.” Galatians 2:1 WEBUS*

(4) Practice the sacrifice it takes to offer your desires on God’s altar.

- (a) For 14 years Paul isolated himself to hear from the Lord. 8–10 years later, he wrote Romans (22–24 years after he encountered Christ on the road to Damascus).

1. “Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service. **Don’t be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:1-2 WEBUS

- a) He implores us to do what he had done, to sacrifice everything to God. Paul calls it a living sacrifice.
 - 1) In context, Paul understood a sacrifice as the life blood of an animal being poured out, after the animal had been slaughtered.
 - 2) It is subsequently cut into pieces and burned on the altar, until nothing remains.

- 3) There are no partial sacrifices, it's a sacrifice unto death.
 - 4) This is to what he compares our lives. While we are alive, we are to live for God completely, as if we sacrificed everything on the altar.
 - 5) How do you do that? Each and every day we take each and every thought captive and make it obedient unto God.
 - 6) We no longer conform to fleshly desires.
 - 7) And all of this is simply our reasonable service to God; it's nothing extraordinary.
- (b) Paul uses a second type of offering as another perfect object lesson for how to practice self-sacrifice.
1. **“Do all things without complaining and arguing, that you may become blameless and harmless,** children of God **without defect in the middle of a crooked and perverse generation,** among whom you are **seen as lights in the world,** holding up the word of life, that I may have something to boast in the day of Christ that I didn't run in vain nor labor in vain. **Yes, and if I am poured out on the sacrifice and service of your faith,** I am glad and rejoice with you all. In the same way,

you also should be glad and rejoice with me.”

Philippians 2:14-18 WEBUS

- a) When Paul uses the phrase “poured out”, he is referring to the drink offering.
 - 1) Imagine a cool glass of wine tossed onto a blazing inferno.
 - 2) As you picture this in your mind, consider that Paul is likening his life in ministry, as a servant to God, to what that offering represents.
 - 3) The drink offering instantly evaporates into the atmosphere.
 - 4) As the steam rises to God and dissipates into nothing, imagine your life being offered to God in the same way.
 - 5) Paul speaks to the Philippians about an ongoing commission... “I am poured out...” In a moment, we will see Paul use the same offering with more extreme imagery—as if that is even possible to imagine.
- b) But first, what would your life look like if your calling could be depicted by such an offering?
 - 1) You wouldn’t complain or argue.
 - 2) You would be blameless and harmless.

- 3) You would avoid the common shortcomings pervasive in this crooked and perverse world.
- 4) You would be a light in the darkness.
- 5) You would represent the word of life with reverence and dignity.

(c) An Extreme Self-Sacrifice Commission

1. "I command you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his Kingdom: **preach the word; be urgent in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort** with all patience and teaching. For **the time will come when they will not listen to the sound doctrine**, but having itching ears, will heap up for themselves **teachers after their own lusts**, and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn away to fables. **But you be sober in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, and fulfill your ministry.** For **I am already being offered** *[poured out as a drink offering]*, and the time of my departure has come. **I have fought the good fight. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith.** From now on, the crown of righteousness is stored up for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to

me on that day; and not to me only, **but also to all those who have loved his appearing.**" 2 Timothy 4:1-8 WEBUS

- a) I've been poured out as a drink offering and the time of my death has come!
 - 1) Paul speaks to us in his final letter with vivid departing words. His language is extreme and the imagery is intense.
- b) When we revisit the drink offering in our mind...
 - 1) The vapors of the offering evaporate into the atmosphere.
 - 2) The steam rises to God, dissipating into nothing, and we imagine Paul's life (and your own) being offered to God—the last visible haze right before it vanishes.
 - 3) This is a life poured out as a drink offering—totally sacrificed to God.
- c) Here's the commission for such a life:
 - 1) Preach the word as God's official messenger; be ready when the time seems right and even when it doesn't.

- 2) Treat the sharing of God's word with a sense of urgency, whether or not the opportunity seems favorable, convenient, or welcomed.
 - 3) Correct those who err in doctrine or behavior.
 - 4) Warn those who sin.
 - 5) Exhort and encourage those who are growing toward spiritual maturity.
 - 6) When you teach, do so with tireless patience.
- d) The time is coming when people **will not tolerate sound doctrine** and accurate instruction that challenges them with God's truth; but would rather have their ears tickled with something pleasing.
- 1) They will line-up teachers, one after another, who will encourage their lustful desires and support their erroneous doctrines.
 - 2) They will turn their ears away from the truth and wander off into myths and man-made fictions.
 - 3) They will be willing to accept the unacceptable.
- e) You, be clear-headed in every situation, endure every hardship, do the work of an evangelist, and fulfill the duties of your ministry.

Prayer: I surrender SELF-WILL (*Father, I stand before You and reject any deliberate or fixed belief that demands things must be my way. My desires or intentions will take a back seat to Your will. To insist on my own way, in defiance of You, is an act of rebellion. I will no longer exert control in order to deliberately make something happen.*) I WILL PRACTICE SELF-SACRIFICE (*I confess that doing things Your way often requires putting to death my own thoughts, wishes, desires, plans, and priorities. God, from now on I will forgo and relinquish my own desires in lieu of Your will.*)

ASSIGNMENT #13

1. Pray about and meditate on these Scriptures:

- A. “For **the word of God** is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. There is no creature that is hidden from his sight, but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.**” Hebrews 4:12-13 WEBUS
- B. “But there is **nothing covered up that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known.**” Luke 12:2 WEBUS

C. “For **God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether it is evil.**”

Ecclesiastes 12:14 WEBUS

D. “For **no one can lay any other foundation than that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.** But if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, **each man’s work will be revealed. For the Day will declare it, because it is revealed in fire;** and the fire itself will test what sort of work each man’s work is.” 1 Corinthians

3:11-13 WEBUS

E. “For the time has come for **judgment** to begin with the household of God. If it **begins first with us,** what will happen to those who don’t obey the Good News of God?” 1 Peter

4:17 WEBUS

2. **Surrender Self-Will:** “Why then didn’t you obey Yahweh’s voice...?” 1 Samuel 15:19

A. Search your heart humbly and honestly.

1) Do you confess that you often demand that things be done your own way and will you now reject any deliberate or fixed belief that demands such?

2) Will you acknowledge that your desires or intentions must take a back seat to God’s will?

- 3) Do you recognize that it is an act of rebellion to exert control in order to deliberately make something happen?
- 4) Please review your answer to each question and explain your strategy to address it.
- 5) Who will hold you accountable to surrender your self-will?

3. **Practice Self-Sacrifice:** *“Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”* Luke 22:42

- A. Are you ready to confess that doing things God’s way often requires putting to death your own thoughts, wishes, desires, plans, and priorities?
- 1) Will you forgo and relinquish your own desires in lieu of God’s will?
 - 2) Please review your answer to each question and explain your strategy to address it.
 - 3) Who will hold you accountable to practice self-sacrifice?