

Bible Study 02-19-2025

Rev. Debbie Sexton

Title: Fully Committed

Part 2 of the Church Covenant

Minister: What vows do we gladly make as stewards of that which God has entrusted to us?

Congregation: To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the poor and spread of the gospel, and foster Christian education and mission throughout all nations: (**Mal.** 3:8-11, **Matt.** 23:32, **2 Cor.** 8:5-21, 9:68, **John** 3:17)

(Malachi 3:8-11 *Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.* **9** *Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.* **10** *Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.* **11** *And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.*)

Minister: For the sake of our home and loved ones, what tasks do we humbly assume?

Congregation: We engage to maintain family and secret devotion: to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances.

(Deut. 6: NIV *6* *These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.* **7** *Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.* **8** *Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.* **9** *Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*) **Proverbs 22:6,**
Genesis 10:17-18

Minister: For the sake of the unsaved for whom Christ died, what manner of life and conversation are solemnly pledged?

Congregation: To walk *circumspectly* in the world: (**Ephesians 5:15** KJV *See then that ye walk circumspectly (be careful how you live), not as fools, but as wise*), to be just in our dealings; faithful in our engagements (**Romans 13:8** KJV *Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*) and exemplary in our deportment (in our actions or behavior); to avoid all tattling, (**1 Timothy 5:13** NIV *Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also busybodies who talk nonsense, saying things they ought not to.*) backbiting, (**Romans 1:28-30** KJV *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;* **29** *Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity;*

whisperers, **30** Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,) and excessive anger. (**2 Corinthians 12:20** NLT For I am afraid that when I come I won't like what I find, and you won't like my response. I am afraid that I will find quarreling, jealousy, anger, selfishness, slander, gossip, arrogance, and disorderly behavior.)

to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior (**Ephesians 5:16-18** KJV Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. **17** Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. **18** And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;)

Minister: Since one is our Master, even Christ and all we are brethren, by what fraternal ministries do we strengthen each other and adorn the teaching of our Lord and Savior?

Congregation: We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love (**Hebrews 13:1** KJV Let brotherly love continue.) and watchfulness; giving and receiving admonition and meekness and affection (**Galatians 6:1** KJV Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.) to remember each other in prayer (**1 Thes. 5:25** KJV Brethren, pray for us.) to aid each other in sickness and distress (**John 3:17** KJV For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.) to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling, and courtesy in speech; (**Proverbs 15:1** KJV A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.) to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation; (**Romans 12:21** KJV Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.) and be mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay. (**Matthew 18:15-17** KJV Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. **16** But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. **17** And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican-NLT treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector).

Minister: For the good of our spiritual development, and for the best interest of the Master's kingdom, what do we promise to do if we move beyond the reach of the church?

Congregation: We moreover engage that, when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible, unite with some other church of this faith where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant, (**Eccl. 5:4-5** KJV When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. **5** Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.) and the principles of God's Word (**Matt. 28:20** KJV Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.) (**Romans 1:31**).

Ministers & Congregation:

Humbly confessing our past sins, we pray for grace and strength to keep these, our holy vows, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (**Psalms 116:14-18**), (**Hebrews 10:29-39**).

Psalms 116:14 KJV *I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people. 15 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. 16 O Lord, truly I am Thy servant; I am Thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds. 17 I will offer to Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord. 18 I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people,)*

Song: Rev. Jasper Williams, Jr. & Dottie Peoples "I'll Journey On"