

SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATION

MATTHEW 16:24-26

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

ROMANS 12:1

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

JUDE 1:24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

DESCRIPTION

A prayer of total surrender and submission to Jesus.

VERSES/CHORUS/BRIDGE

Jesus does not ask for some of our heart and devotion, He asks for all of it. Anything less than 100% devotion is idolatry, which is why the Lord commands from the beginning that He is to be the single pursuit (Ex. 20:3). This was the way it was intended in the garden (though we rejected), with Israel (though they regularly fell into idolatry), with Jesus (though we often wander). This song is a personal prayer from its author as he pursued what singular devotion meant for his life. He would later write of it,

"The song was written while I was conducting a meeting at East Palestine, Ohio, and in the home of George Sebring (founder of Sebring Camp meeting Bible Conference . . .). For some time, I had struggled between developing my talents in the field of art and going into full-time evangelistic work. At last the pivotal hour of my life came, and I surrendered all. A new day was ushered into my life. I became an evangelist and discovered down deep in my soul a talent hitherto unknown to me. God had hidden a song in my heart, and touching a tender chord, he caused me to sing."

– J.W. Van DeVenter

The bottom line, in Jesus' words, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth" (Matt. 6:24). Now wealth could be exchanged with any number of things, and while the verses, chorus, and bridge of this song do not mine the depths of any particular theological issue; the song is a passionate prayer to serve the master who deserves to be served. May we all be as passionate to surrender to Christ.