

Chuck Smith:

"COMMITMENT"

Intro: The story.

I. THE VALUE OF COMMITMENT.

- A. It gives you the strength to go against the current.
 - 1. Everyone had bowed to the image except three.
 - 2. Paul spoke of the course or current of this world.
 - a. It is anti-God: "love not the world..."
 - b. The world declares the material is superior to the spiritual.
 - 3. Without real commitment you will be swept away.
 - a. The "everybody is doing it" syndrome.
- B. Your commitment becomes an encouragement to others.
 - 1. "Give me some men who are stout hearted men..."
- C. Men who are committed are the men who change the world.
 - 1. The strength of communism is the commitment of its advocates.
 - a. They will suffer for the cause.
 - b. They will sacrifice for the cause.
 - 2. Paul's commitment, "For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain."
 - a. No wonder he was accused of turning the world upside down.

II. MEN OF COMMITMENT CANNOT BE STOPPED. VS. 17, 18.

- A. Threats of death cannot dissuade them.

III. HOW DOES A PERSON BECOME SO COMMITTED?

- A. They had purposed in their hearts.
 - 1. It is more than a mind-set.
 - 2. It is easy to change my mind.
 - 3. It is a matter of setting your heart.
- B. It is by the power of the Spirit of God.
 - 1. "Not by might nor by power but by..."
 - 2. Peter's denial of the Lord.
 - a. He was trusting in his flesh.
 - 3. Peter's bold witness before the Sanhedrin.
 - a. But Peter, "filled with the Holy Spirit"

IV. THE RESULT OF THEIR COMMITMENT.

- A. The Lord stood with them.
 - 1. He will always stand with us, if we dare to stand for Him.
 - 2. He does not always deliver us from the fire. The early church bears witness to this truth.