"He gave Himself"

Galatians 1:3-4 (NKJV)

"Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ,

Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,"

Titus 2:13-14 (NKJV)

"Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself [His] own special people, zealous for good works."

John 1:14 (NKJV)

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

Why did He give Himself?

LOVE V John 3:16

- Crazy Love! Makes no logical sense.
- Radical love!
- Unconditional love!
- Love makes us do some crazy things you know!
- You will climb the highest mountain
- You will swim the deepest ocean

"You can give without loving, but you cannot truly love without giving".

"He gave Himself....

- For us to have a seat at the table!
- An invite to the Royal Feast! The Royal Dinner

He gave Himself....

- To the human race by becoming a man. John 1:14
- To a band of men who would deny Him
- Who would run away and abandon Him in His greatest hour of need
- To satan's hour
- To spitting, slapping, ridicule and mockery
- His cheeks to those who ripped off His beard
- His back to be shredded like meat on the chopping block of a butcher
- To torture and abuse by the very men He was laying down His life for
- To the full wrath of God
- To the total curse of the law
- Without reservation, fully to The Father's will.

YET HE PREVAILED! He rose from the dead. Conquering sin and death. Defeating Satan and his demons. Ascended to heaven and promised to return. "Full of grace and Truth"

John 1:17 (NKJV)

"For the law was given through Moses, [but] **grace** and truth came through Jesus Christ."

Matthew 10:24 (NKJV)

"A disciple is not above [his] teacher, nor a servant above his master."

Mark 8:34-38 (NKJV)

"When He had called the people to [Himself,] with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 35 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? 37 "Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

What do we give ourselves to?

Acts 2:42-47 - NT Church devoted themselves!

- 1. **Loving God** the Father, God The Son and God The Holy Spirit
- 2. <u>Loving people</u> saved & unsaved "if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?" . It's

- easy to love those who love us. Jesus goes further saying "love your enemies".
- 3. <u>Loving His Word</u> Read, study, meditate, practice, live it out, preach it, teach it, proclaim and declare it, believe it, put your faith and trust in His Divine, eternal, infallible, unfailing, ever-living word.
- 4. Loving His Church no perfect church. We all under construction. Don't criticize His church or His people. We did not die for people. He did! He gave Himself! He shed His blood. He owns His church. It belongs to Jesus. Speak well of His church. Sure there are faults, abuses, misrepresentation, mistreatment, exploitation etc. Each will give an account one day. Let God be the judge.
- 5. <u>Loving our nation</u>. Yes, I said it. God planted you in this city, this nation, this church. He had a purpose. Give yourself to that purpose. Stay planted until you discover that purpose. Keep doing His general will until you find His perfect will.
- 6. Give yourself to prayer
- 7. Give yourself to Fellowship
- 8. Give yourself to breaking of bread
- 9. Give yourself to generosity
- 10. Give yourself to the fruit of the Spirit- Galatians 5:22-26 (NKJV) 22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those [who are] Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If

we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."

- 11. Give yourself to your leaders
- 12. Give yourself to your spouse
- 13. Give yourself to your family
- 14. Give yourself to The CALL of God
- 15. 1 Timothy 4:1-16 (NIV) "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. 3 They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. 4 For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. 6 If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. 7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. 8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. 9 This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. 10

That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe. 11 Command and teach these things. 12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. 14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. 15 Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. 16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."