

Shadrach Youth Ministry

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Report on Shadrach Manual: Dedication

Humility stood out from the reading. When others mistreated, persecuted and disappointed me, the inner-man tended to struggle with fighting back. Then, the Holy Spirit would remind me that God is the God of circumstances because not one sparrow would fall to the ground apart from the will of our Father.

Then I would cry out prayers in my heart and ask for help to sweetly and willingly accept the blow. As I submitted under the loving hands of God, peace and joy followed as written in the Shadrach Manual.

Page I.D.2 has five Scriptures about things God will do for us if we humble ourselves. How great are His promises. "Through these things he has bestowed on us his precious and most magnificent promises, so that by means of what was promised you may become partakers of the divine nature, after escaping the worldly corruption that is produced by evil desire." 2 Peter 1:4 –Mai

Dedication Report

As I've been reading and working in the "Dedication" section of the Shadrach manual, I've had to stop a lot and check myself for attitudes and things that were still not surrendered to Christ. The opening chapter went straight into self-denial, and of course, God started to convict me of different things. Praise the Lord! The part where it reads, "We either crucify Christ and put Him to an open shame or we crucify Self and lift up Jesus" really exhorted me. The second chapter talked about sanctification. This portion really encouraged me to keep following Jesus no matter what the devil throws at me and if I do fall, Jesus won't leave me there. The third chapter talks about humility. This really spoke to me because sometimes I'm very prideful and I don't want to be broken. I don't always want to give all the glory to God; I want to keep a little bit for myself. That has been a real burden on me for a while because I can't seem to shut it off, but this has really encouraged me to just let God have it all! Next, the manual talks about fasting. I think that it is amazing how God uses this to get breakthroughs in prayer. Every time I have ever gone on a fast God has helped me in some way. The fifth section talks about the man of God. The story about the little boy and his father was very touching. It is so great that all of our young men are learning these truths and will mature in godliness and be everything God wants them to be! The last chapter talks about finding and doing the will of God. It gives some points on how to know how God's will is revealed: 1. Through the Word of God. 2. Through the Inner Direction of the Holy Spirit. 3. Through the Wisdom of the Saints. 4. Through Providential Circumstances. 5. Through the Gifts of the Spirit. 6. Through a Sensitive and Obedient Conscience. These points helped me in knowing what I'm supposed to do to understand God's will and act on it. ~Gracie

Will You Serve in Secret?

Is your desire to *know God* and *move in His Spirit* and His time...or is it to do something *great* for God? G.D. Watson discusses these points in his book, Our Own God.

"The brothers of Jesus complained that He did and said so many excellent things in secret. 'For there is no man that doeth anything in secret, and He Himself seeketh to be known openly'.

"Jesus infallibly knew that when words were spoken and actions performed in accordance with the blessed attributes of God, though such actions were done on the lonely seashore, or such words were whispered in the soundless ravines of Galilee, they would, in due time, under the fertilizing and cultivating power of the Holy Ghost, come forth in the gigantic forms of mature history, and be uttered in peals louder than seven thunders, when the proper hour had arrived.

"After we are saved and sanctified, we need to learn the depth...in a life of prayer, and devout study of God's character and the delicate personal government He exercises over us.

"Our intense desire should be not merely to do something for God but to do it in His spirit, with His motives, and in His time; in other words, it is God in the service that we are after, more than the outward shell of the service."

May we seek HIM above all else. (Watson, G. D. Our Own God. Hampton: Harvey Christian Publishers, 1999)

A Word from Pastor Schultze...

WHAT'S EATING YOU UP?

When the disciples saw Jesus enter the temple, making a scourge and driving out merchants, sheep and oxen and turning over the tables, they remarked: **the zeal of the Lord has eaten him up** (John 2:17).

What does this mean?

It means that Jesus was totally engaged, entertained, absorbed and consumed by the things of God: for pure worship, for earnestness in prayer, for the glory and honor of the temple and all that went with it. In other words, Jesus had no other competing passions but for the things of eternity.

In zeal there is no compromise, no negotiation, no diplomacy, no hesitation, no duplicity, no holding back, no show business, no pretending, no hypocrisy, no passivity, no indifference, no reasoning nor counting the cost.

Friend, brother and sister in Christ, what is your "zeal level"?

Considering the high price that has been paid—the sacrifice having been made to save you, to sanctify you and to keep you from falling—can we consider a Christian without such a zeal a credible specimen of the kingdom of God?

So how does your zeal level for the things of God compare with your zeal for academics, for sports, for acceptance by others or for your reputation, honor and station in life? Oh, if we had His zeal, we would love the Lord with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves, and so we would fulfill all the law and the prophets.

The zeal of the Lord ate up Jesus. It made Him a sacrifice for us all that we may become living sacrifices for Him. "The zeal of the Lord hath eaten him up," said the first disciples of Jesus. What would they say about you if they were alive today?

Christians and Alcohol

I can't say that we have a problem in Shadrach with alcohol, thankfully (!), but we all are confronted with the issue: Is it wrong for Christians to drink at some time or another? 1 Tim. 3:8 and 1 Pet. 4:3 advise against too much wine and leads some believers to conclude that casual drinking is okay. However, there is the argument that our alcohol is much stronger than the wine was during Biblical times. This makes it much more serious. The Scripture that holds me from alcohol is 1 Cor. 8:9: "But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak." If someone sees me purchase alcohol, or there is a bottle of wine in my fridge for cooking/casual drinking and it causes someone else with less self control to begin to drink, then there could be blood on my hands. Alcohol is a BIG problem in our culture and I don't want to contribute to it in any way. READ ON!

Alcohol Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths

- In 1995, 36% of all crash fatalities among youth aged 15 to 20 years were alcohol-related (Samber, 1997; NHTSA, 1997).
- From 1997 through 2002, 2,355 children died in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes; 1,588 (68%) of these children were riding with a drinking driver (CDC, MMWR, 2004).

Alcohol and Violence

- In 1997, about 40% of all crimes (violent and non-violent) were committed under the influence of alcohol (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1998).
- In 1997, 40% of convicted rape and sexual assault offenders said that they were drinking at the time of their crime (Greenfield, 2000).
- Approximately 72% of rapes reported on college campuses occur when victims are ... intoxicated (Wechsler, 2004).
- Nearly one-half of the cases of child abuse and neglect are associated with parental alcohol or drug abuse (Grant, 2000).
- Approximately 23% of suicide deaths are attributable to alcohol (Smith, 1999).

Alcohol and Pregnancy

- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is one of the leading causes of mental retardation, and is directly attributable to drinking during pregnancy. FAS is characterized by growth retardation, facial abnormalities, and central nervous system dysfunction (i.e., learning disabilities and lower IQ), as well as behavioral problems.
- The incidence of FAS in the United States ranges from 0.2 to 1.5 per 1,000 live births (CDC, NCBDD/FAS, 2004, <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fas>).
- Any maternal alcohol use in the periconceptional period (i.e., during the three months before pregnancy or during the first trimester) is associated with a six-fold increased risk of SIDS (Iyasu, 2002).

- Binge drinking (five or more drinks at a time) during a mother's first trimester of pregnancy is associated with an eight-fold increase in the odds that the infant will die of SIDS (Iyasu, 2002).

Alcohol and Sexually Transmitted Disease

- Alcohol use by young adults is associated with earlier initiation of sexual activity, unprotected sexual intercourse, multiple partners and an increased risk for sexually transmitted diseases.
- Among teens aged 14 to 18, 20% of those who reported drinking before age 14 also reported being sexually active compared to 7% of those who did not report drinking before this age (The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, 1999).
- In 1998, an estimated 400,000 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 had unprotected sex after drinking, and an estimated 100,000 had sex when they were ... intoxicated (Hingson, 2002).
- People who abuse alcohol are more likely to engage in risky behaviors, such as having unprotected sex, having more sex partners, and using intravenous drugs. In a single act of unprotected sex with an infected partner, a teenage woman has a 1% risk of acquiring HIV, a 30 % risk of getting genital herpes, and a 50% chance of contracting gonorrhea (Alan Guttmacher Institute, 1994).

Alcohol and Cancer

- Oral cancers are six times more common in heavy alcohol users than in non-alcohol users (American Cancer Society, 2002).
- Compared to non-drinkers, women who consume an average of 1 alcoholic drink per day increase their risk of breast cancer by approximately 7%. Women who consume an average of 2 to 5 drinks per day increase their risk of developing breast cancer by approximately 50% compared to that of non-drinkers (American Cancer Society, 2002).

Alcohol and Money

- Each year, a typical young person in the United States is inundated with more than 1,000 commercials for beer and wine coolers and several thousand fictional drinking incidents on television.
- Each year the liquor industry spends almost \$2 billion dollars on advertising and encouraging the consumption of alcoholic beverages
- Each year students spend \$5.5 billion on alcohol, more than they spend on soft drinks, tea, milk, juice, coffee, or books combined.
- Up to 40% of all industrial fatalities and 47% of industrial injuries can be linked to alcohol consumption and alcoholism.

Alcohol and alcohol related problems are costing the American economy at least \$100 million in health care and loss of productivity every year.