

Dedication

The word “*dedication*” has been dropped from the Christian vocabulary because it no longer expresses any vital content in current church religion.

The word “*dedication*” was once used to express a sacred idea deriving directly from the Word of God, the Christian Bible.

Although the exact English word is not found in the Authorised Version, the idea runs from Genesis to Revelation and all through Jewish and Christian history.

Although a noticeable change has come over the word in recent years, it has been almost completely secularised; one dictionary still unwittingly defines the word in its original use “*to devote to the service of worship of a divine being.*”

Humans have borrowed a sacred word and through change of use, now it is applied to secular things, all without knowing what has happened.

Through a radical change of meaning the word has lost its original reference to worship of the Triune God.

As yet, Christians have not felt sufficient pressure to create a new word that would mean what the old word once meant. Apparently not only has the word gone from Christian thought, but also the idea.

One reason is the current imperfect understanding of the message that Jesus Christ brought to humanity from God the Father.

The Christian message has ceased to be a pronouncement.

The Christian message has now become a proposition.

The invitational element has become far out of proportion in the total statement originally given.

The picture of Jesus Christ with His lantern and apologising stance and weak, pleading face, has taken the place of the true Son of Man which John the apostle saw.

Revelation 1:10-19 [New King James] *“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,’ and, ‘What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.’ Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, ‘Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.’”*

This is the true Jesus Christ who is the only one who is worthy of the original meaning of the word “*dedication.*”

All artists have been guilty of inadvertent idolatry in presenting to the world a false image of Jesus Christ.

Only the Holy Spirit [**Revelation 1:10**] can reveal the true Lord Jesus Christ as He really is, and He does **not** paint in oils but directly to our “*human*” spirit, [**Job 32:8; Proverbs 20:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11**] **not** to our physical eyes.

The misuse of the word “*dedication*” is used for a person who takes their job seriously, or people who are deeply concerned about wildlife, refugees or conservation.

Complete dedication to death in the cause of freedom is a touching thing and has given to history many great heroes.

But only the God of freedom from eternal death, Jesus Christ, should have our last full measure of devotion.

These are stressful times and we are being recruited to one or another “*master*;” let us be careful where we devote ourselves.

No-one has any true right to claim my life except the One who gave His own life for my redemption from eternal death, Jesus Christ.

If Jesus Christ gets my full dedication then I may engage in any good and worthy cause under His Spirit’s guidance.

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Anything short of complete devotion to Jesus Christ is inadequate and must end in futility and loss, instead of a preparation by re-education for eternal life.