

## **NONE OF SELF AND ALL OF THEE – MARK 8:34-38**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Bible clearly shows us that the life of the Christian is not easy (**Mark 8:34-38**).
2. It is a journey of faith where we must strive to continue to grow and mature (**Phil. 3:13-14**).
3. It is a struggle to keep our minds on the will of God and not our own.
4. Let's consider the hymn, "None of Self and All of Thee" by Theodore Monod, that reminds us of that struggle and the importance of putting Christ first in our lives.<sup>1</sup>

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. ALL OF SELF AND NONE OF THEE**

- A. The first stanza of this hymn points many of us back to a time we would prefer not to think about.
- B. *"O, the bitter pain and sorrow, That a time could ever be, When I proudly said to Jesus, 'All of self, and none of Thee.'"*
- C. There are many in the world who think and live this way.
- D. Instead of acknowledging and thanking God, of living a life that reflects His love and grace, they spend it in satisfying their own selfish desires.
- E. Instead of being ashamed of their sins, they revel in them (**Phil. 3:19; Jer. 6:15**).
- F. But the reality is when people live this way, they are not only bringing pain and sorrow on others, but ultimately on themselves (**Titus 3:3; 2 Tim. 3:13**).
- G. There are probably some among us who can look back, with guilt and shame, on the pain and sorrow we brought on ourselves and others when we were in rebellion against God and the Lord.
- H. Much of our suffering from sin is because of our pride (**1 Pet. 5:5**).
- I. But thanks be to God, the Lord shows us a better way, the way to put away our foolish pride and renounce sin and shame (**Titus 2:11-14; 1 John 2:15**).
- J. The challenge for us, is are we willing to surrender all to Him (**Luke 14:26**)?

#### **II. SOME OF SELF AND SOME OF THEE**

- A. The next stanza reminds us of that first step that many of us took when we saw the folly of wandering far from God.
- B. *"Yet He found me; I beheld Him Bleeding on th'accursed tree, And my wistful heart said faintly, 'Some of self, and some of Thee.'"*
- C. Even though we rejected God and cast Him off, He didn't forget about us and He didn't give up on us.
- D. In Christ, He came to seek and to save the lost (**Matt. 18:10-14; Luke 19:10**).
- E. The power of God's love shown in the bleeding and suffering Savior on the cross will draw the honest heart to God (**John 12:32; 1 John 2:2; Rom. 5:8**).
- F. As in the Parable of the Sower, the seed finds a place in one's heart.
- G. The question is - what kind of fruit will it bear (**Rom. 10:17**)?

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<sup>1</sup> Monod, Theodore. *None of Self and All of Thee*. In R. Stevens & D. K. Shepard (Eds.), *Hymns for Worship* (431). Bowling Green, KY: Guardian of Truth Foundation.

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- H. Will it only be a partial commitment, a convenient faith when it serves our own desires **(Luke 9:57-62)?**
- I. How many of us have struggled or are still struggling here – unwilling to fully surrender?
- J. The sad truth is that if we don't progress in our walk, we will never come to have the bountiful, full, fruitful faith and devotion that Christ deserves **(Matt. 16:24-25; 6:24)**.

### **III. LESS OF SELF AND MORE OF THEE**

- A. The next stanza shows us what happens when we do progress and we do surrender more and more of our lives to Jesus.
- B. *“Day by day His tender mercy, Healing, helping, full and free, Bro't me lower while I whispered, 'Less of self, and more of Thee.'”*
- C. When we think back to the bondage of sin we once lived in and the freedom and healing we found in Christ, it should move us **(1 Cor. 6:9-11)**.
- D. Our hearts should be stirred for God's efforts to not only redeem us but to exalt us and give us a place in His Kingdom **(1 Tim. 1:12-16)**.
- E. That He continues to help us put to death what is earthly and sinful in us and transform us into the image of His dear Son is amazing!
- F. Such self-examination and reflection should humble us and help us see how much the Lord should mean to us and how much we still need Him **(Matt. 5:3; 1 Pet. 5:5)**.
- G. When we remember all the victories the Lord has given us, we should be willing to yield to Him more and more **(John 3:30)**.

### **IV. NONE OF SELF AND ALL OF THEE**

- A. The aim of the gospel and the love of God is for us to fully surrender to the Lord and to fully enjoy the blessing of being His child.
- B. *“Higher than the highest heavens, Deeper than the deepest sea, Lord, Thy love at last has conquered, 'None of self, and all of Thee.'”*
- C. The more we trust the Lord and the more we continue with Him and in Him, the more we comprehend the depth and joy of His love **(Eph. 3:14-19)**.
- D. If we continue with Him, we will come to that place where we acknowledge that He is truly the Lord of our hearts **(2 Cor. 5:14-15)**.
- E. We will believe that giving our lives as living sacrifices is the only reasonable response to His love and grace **(Rom. 12:1-2)**.
- F. What a joy it is to be able to say that we have died to the world and that Christ lives in us **(Gal. 2:20; 6:14)**.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. The way of the Lord is not easy, but it is worth it **(2 Cor. 4:16-18)**.
2. Though none of us are perfected in Christ, we must trust in His grace and let God work on us.
3. May God help us to never give up on our journey, but to continue to work on fully surrendering our will to the Lord **(Mark 8:34-38)**.