

CONSECRATE MY PEOPLE!

(Part 2: Exodus 19:9-16)

San Diego needs the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Apart from the saving gospel of Christ, the people in our city are harassed and helpless, lost in sin and bound to perish in eternal hell (Matt. 9:35-38). This is the very reason why God, the Lord of the Harvest, has graciously saved us and providentially placed our Church at the heart of National City. The Lord has given us this glorious mission: *We are a Gospel-Commissioned, Disciple-Making Church which Proclaims God's Word, Equips God's People and Witnesses to the Lost.* Essential to the accomplishment of our mission is the consecration of the Lord's Church. *If our Church is to be effective in proclaiming the gospel to the lost, then our Church must be a sanctified Church, composed of believers who are committed to the purity of their lives and the application of God's Word.* Our Lord Jesus died on the Cross to deliver us from our sins and set us apart for a life of holiness so we could effectively fulfill our mission to proclaim the gospel to the lost (John 17:17-19). This biblical pattern of deliverance, consecration and mission is what we also find in God's covenant relationship with Israel. As we reflect on God's call of consecration upon Israel, let's consider these vital principles of living a sanctified and holy life.

1. Remember God's work of deliverance.

Our sanctification is always grounded on our redemption. Our consecration is rooted in God's redeeming and delivering work. In other words, if God has not delivered us from our sin, we cannot obey His command God to live a sanctified and holy life (Exod. 19:4-6).

2. Revere God in His _____.

We cannot live a life of holiness unless we recapture a biblical vision of God's holiness. When God chose to reveal Himself to Israel at Mount Sinai, the visible manifestation of His presence was both fascinating and terrifying. God concealed Himself in a thick cloud. He directed Moses to consecrate the people through specific instructions and restrictions. There should be washing of garments, a command not to touch the mountain, an order to execute the transgressors and a demand to refrain from marital relations (Exod. 19:9-16). Consequently, all the people were trembling at the sight of God's holy presence. This is what the present day Church needs to recapture, the glory of God's holiness. God's holiness essentially means His otherness, His separateness. God is totally separated from sin and absolutely opposed to all sin. God's holiness exposes our utter sinfulness (Isa. 6:5). Our Lord Jesus desires and demands that His Church reveres the holiness of God and resolve to be pure by fighting and forsaking sin (Acts 5:1-14)

3. Rely on the grace of our _____.

Our battle with remaining sin is a lifelong struggle. Our only hope is the preserving and sanctifying grace of our Perfect Mediator, our Lord Jesus Christ who shed His own blood of the Cross to make us holy before God (Heb. 12:18-24). Since our Lord Jesus secured our salvation and sanctification, our goal should be to be holy as a saved sinner could be by the grace of God.
