

MY LIFETIME DUTY
By Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

"I Beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Rom. 12:1&2.

There are three directions in life upon which we must focus if we are going to fulfill our duty. Let's think of them as our Inward, Outward, and Upward looks. **(1). Our Inward Look.** We are very responsible before God for the Inward look at ourselves. We must inwardly control our body which will affect our very being. *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are brought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."* I Cor 6:19-20. Our first duty is to understand the sacredness of being indwelt by the third person of the Trinity. This is a challenging thought. We are never alone without His observation since the day He entered us when we accepted Christ. There are no secrets from God's indwelling Spirit. He examines every thought that crosses our mind. Every action of our body is known, for He is there. Every word that we utter is something for which we are accountable before God. He watches our hands and feet, and all the actions of our body are things for which we are accountable. Every wrong thing and every God honoring thing is performed by our body. Daily joy or sorrow will depend on what you do with your body. You can allow it to stray far away from God, or keep it in the center of God's will. It is your body, but you are commanded to give it to God. Your mind is a part of your body which is to focus on God.

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." I Cor. 2:16. A great part of what you will do with your body depends on what you think. Outward rebellion comes from inward mental hardness, and straying from the will of God. Your reading habits, and the entertainment you watch, have much to do with shaping your mind set toward God. Carelessness in these can do great harm to the body as you are led into compromise and sin. Be very careful where you set your eyes and tune your ears. They are important parts of the body, that will motivate you toward good or evil, at any given moment of your day. Wisdom urges you to feed and strengthen the spiritual part of your body. All believers are urged *"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby;"* I Peter 2:2. A great place to bathe your body is in the Word of God. Don't fail to have a daily devotion time to plug into the Spirit of God, and be led in a life of victory. At the judgment we will all give account of the actions we allowed our bodies to make in our lifetime. Careful attention to all that is Godly, and the best use of our earthly bodies will bring great reward. Keep looking above and steer your body in the things of God.

Then there is **(2). Our Outward Look:** *"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."* Matt. 22:39b. It is very true that we do not live in a Christian bubble with no responsibility to serve others. *"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."* Gal. 6:10. It is our duty to be helpful to all the children of God. Most have no idea as to the problems and heartaches of our brethren around us. We are urged by God to share the load of others, and stand by to help them in their need. When was the last time you shared the problems of the one sitting near you in church? We need to be on the lookout for how we can lift others, perhaps weaker brethren, and help their needs

to be met. This is Christianity in action. Then we need to reach out to those neighbors who are poised on the brink of hell. Often the assistance you may give will soften their heart to the things of God. Do we really care about our friend's needs in our neighborhood? Show your heart in physical things, and they may well become interested in spiritual things. Our outward look demands that we lift society around us, and be a law abiding citizen in our land. We must stand and vote for the things that are right in the eyes of God, and for the best leaders to lead us. Your vote is very important as you stand for that which is right. We ourselves are to be law abiding in every way as good citizens of our great America. There is a flood of political corruption around us, but we are to be on the side of law and order and righteousness. There is also great responsibility as to how we treat the church of Jesus Christ. Shame on you if you belong to a cold, modernistic church, with a social pulpit and a dead congregation. Only a church that preaches solid Biblical truths, urges God's true way of redemption and faith in Christ as the only way, is worthy of support. *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."* Heb. 10:25. It was Christ who established the church as His place of direction for the saints, and the best rules in the community. We are plagued by delinquent members, who are peeved over something they don't like that was preached or done by someone. They stay home in a pious pout and refuse to support the house of the Lord. What shame this is, and what an account they will have to face at the throne of God. Never put anything ahead of your attendance at every service of your church. We have considered the Inward look and the Outward look, now consider **(3). Our Upward Look:** *"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy*

might." Deut. 6:5. All believers have a constant need to be looking up with open eyes, to receive the direction of the Lord. Keeping our eyes on Him will help dissolve the worries and cares of the day. Remember *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."* Eph. 2:10. What a precious promise. He has a plan for us for each day even before it dawns. We need not fear the future for He has promised *"I will be with thee; I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."* Joshua 1:5. God goes on in the chapter urging us to be strong and courageous, as we are called to serve Him. Yes, God has a lifetime plan for each of us, and He will stand by us as we do His will and follow His leading. We have only to pause and think of all He has done for us to forever love Him. The phrase "Love Him" is a further duty to pursue. *"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment."* Mark 12:30. It is clearly stated that we are to love Him with all of our heart. This is our duty as children of the Father who has done so much for us. You will find great joy in getting alone to meditate and take time to tell God how much you love Him. Setting aside special time for this will help you to worship Him. *"Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."* Matt. 4:10b. This dutiful command is repeated over and over in the Bible. Throughout the Old Testament, God constantly had to urge His people to stop and worship him. You need to do this with daily time set aside for devotions. You need to be in every service of your church, taking part in the worship God deserves. Not slumped down in the pew, gazing out the window, nor half asleep in the sermon, but there to be spoken to by your commander in chief. Remember the three directions we must look to do our duty to God. **To Self, To Others, and To God: Let's Do It!**