

## Release To God's Ultimate 4088

### I. The Problem: Self-love

- A. Three most characteristic marks of contemporary culture (2 Tim. 3:1–5)
  - 1. Lovers of themselves
  - 2. Lovers of money
  - 3. Lovers of pleasure
- B. Marks of people who love themselves
  - 1. Boredom
  - 2. Never satisfied
  - 3. Blame others for their problems

### II. The Remedy: Deny Yourself (Matt. 16:24) Initial Decision—Ongoing Process

- A. Life and discipline in the family
  - 1. Learn unselfishness
  - 2. Develop “natural affection” (2 Tim. 3:3)
- B. Life and discipline in committed fellowship
  - 1. Serve one another in love (Gal. 5:13)
  - 2. Avoid corporate self-love

### III. The Outcome

- Attitude: “I am a Debtor” Rom. 1:14–15
- Action: “Hold out the Word of life” Phil. 2:14–16
- Two circles of indebtedness
- A. The whole Body of Christ (i.e., “Whatever God gives me, I owe to the whole Body of Christ.”)
  - 1. Wrong way: “We have more than you do”—leads to a denomination.
  - 2. Right way: “Can I serve you? Is there a way I can help you?”—humble attitude.
- B. The whole world. Look at two significant “last words”
  - 1. Jesus: Acts 1:7–9 “. . . to the ends of the earth.”
  - 2. Bible: Rev. 22:20–21 “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”

### IV. The Hope

- A. The New Testament Church lived in excited anticipation of the Lord's return.
- B. Consider the following:
  - 1. 1 Cor. 1:7–8; 11:26
  - 2. 1 Thess. 3:13; 4:5; 5:23
  - 3. 1 Tim. 6:13–14
  - 4. 2 Tim. 4:1–2, 8
  - 5. Titus 2:11–13
  - 6. James 5:7–8
  - 7. 1 Pet. 1:5–7, 13
  - 8. 1 John 2:28

### V. The New Lifestyle—Bring Your Entire Life Into Accordance With This Understanding

- A. *Main motivation: to reach the ends of the earth*
- B. *Main expectation: the return of Christ*