

# Consecrated Service

By Rev. John Douglas Clyde,  
Pastor Westminster Presbyterian  
Church

The commencement address delivered to the graduating class from the Bryan Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, August 17, 1952.

This is a service of Christian consecration, a way of recognizing that your profession of nursing is but another form of ministry to the needs of men in the name of Christ. I have always been interested in this word "consecration," and I would like to re-think its meaning with you now, for it is unusually appropriate for this occasion. "To consecrate" means "to make or declare sacred or holy"—"to set apart or devote to the service of God."



Courtesy Lincoln Journal-Star  
Dr. Clyde

THE WORD HAS A RICH AND ANCIENT HERITAGE. Among the ancient Hebrews it was used

on many notable occasions, and as early as the coming of their people into the Promised Land of Jordan. After years of wandering in the wilderness, when at last they stood on the brink of the promised country, Joshua, their leader, called them together for simple prayer and worship, saying: "Consecrate yourselves now, for tomorrow God will begin a wonderful, new life for us. We must be ready."

Ever since, whenever men have known themselves to stand at some significant cross-roads or upon some new threshold, they have felt like praying, asking God to go with them, and consecrating themselves anew to his service. That is why we call the service at the close of one's academic career the "commencement" and not the "conclusion," because far from coming to an end, the significant thing is just beginning, and we feel called upon to gather together and ask God's blessing upon the new venture. It is for this purpose that we are gathered here tonight.

This evening, however, I would like to strike the modern mood and ask some rather blunt questions about the need for consecration. This, as you know, is an age that does not pull its punches — an age that meets every old tradition with a question, rather than with open arms. "Why should I consecrate myself?" it is likely to ask. "What purpose will it fulfill?" Let us seek an answer for that honest question.

For one thing, it is good to dedi-

cate one's career to a purpose from the very beginning for, knowing that, one is kept from floundering when storms come later on. Markham, I believe, wrote:

"No vision, and you perish,  
No ideal, and you're lost,  
Your heart must every cherish  
Some dream at any cost."

The reading of biography brings with it this clear conclusion: That the most successful lives have al-

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Against INCREASE in GAS TAX and CAR LICENSE.

The heavy users of the highway should carry the burden of rebuilding.

The majority of wage earners in this city drive the family car to work over pavement already paid for locally.

I believe we can cut public costs, and still be fair and efficient.

I am against SALES TAX particularly at this time of high defense taxes.

I will always be watchful of the interests of the state and this district, particularly as to costs and taxes.



Non-political Ticket Nov. 4



Hugh Butler      Robert Crosby      Dwight Griswold

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