THE BENEFITS OF TOTAL COMMITMENT
Romans 12:1-2

Why does the church not make more of an impact on our society? Many of its members have made a decision about Christ, but have not made a commitment to Christ.

When the airplane pilot is speeding down the runway, there comes a certain point when staying on the ground is no longer an option. At that point the pilot can no longer change his mind he is committed.

Churches contain members who have never got off the ground. They have been planning on it, wanting to, trying to, going to, aiming to, and hoping to. But tragedy of tragedies, they have never got off the ground.

I want to challenge you to “get off the ground”.

Romans 12:1-2: ¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

“I urge you” not “I command you”.

Our motivation - “in view of God’s mercy”.

“this is your true and proper worship” - Based on what we have received it is “logical” that we would commit ourselves to God.

“a living sacrifice” - There is no such thing as a “partial sacrifice”!

You are either committed or you are not committed.

Illustration: A pig and a chicken were walking down the road together. They read a sign advertising a breakfast to benefit the poor. The chicken said to the pig, ‘You and I should donate a ham and egg breakfast’. The pig replied, ‘Not so fast, for you it would just be a contribution, but for me it would be a total commitment’.

The pig understood that it is not possible to offer a partial sacrifice, neither is possible to offer a partial commitment.

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed...”

Romans 12:2 (Phillips): Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould,

“transformed” – English - “metamorphosis”. An inner change, which has observable outward manifestations.

If you “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice” and you reflect on “God’s mercy” you will be transformed progressively. This is a work of the Holy Spirit but it requires cooperation on the part of the believer. The end result is that you may “test and approve what God’s will is”. It all begins with commitment!
I. COMMITMENT TO PERSONAL GROWTH
We are called to commit ourselves as disciples. Disciples are learners. We should never reach a point in life at which we are no longer learners:
Philippians 3:12: Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Many believers never get past milk:
1 Corinthians 3:2: I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.

Make a commitment to grow spiritually. Start a Bible reading plan. Set aside time each day to pray. Read good Christian literature. Watch some good Christian programming. Never give up on learning.

II. COMMITMENT TO THE LOCAL BODY
Jerry Bridges – ‘Spirit of Revival – Commitment’: “As I have watched the parade of people through our church, and other churches. I wonder why so few commit themselves to a local body of believers in a significant way. Many sit and soak and do little else, and they flee at the first sign of trouble or pressure. They fail to become involved or to give; the priority for corporate worship falls far down on the list. They criticise all that is wrong with a specific local congregation… What can we do besides comment or complain? We need to accept the challenge to commit ourselves to responsible membership”.

The local church with all its imperfections is still the Lord’s major avenue through which he accomplishes his work.
Hebrews 10:24-25: 24And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, 25not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Commitment to church is deeper attending Sunday morning. Be involved in other areas. Also, be loyal to your local church. If you have concerns then go directly to the person concerned. They are not perfect, but neither are you. Do not be guilty of spreading seeds of discontent.

III. COMMITMENT TO MINISTRY
Romans 12:6-8: 6We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Ministry means putting those gifts to work:
1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11: 4There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good… 11All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

We must commit ourselves to the ministry of the local church and use the spiritual gifts that God has given us.