

FRED DEATON

Early Childhood

- Born into an affluent Dallas family in 1957. Father's side Christian Scientists; Mother's side Methodist (her grandfather, Bishop Charles C. Selectman, President of SMU and bishop of Methodist Episcopal, South, 1938-1958)
- Member of Highland Park Methodist as a youth and went through some sort of confirmation there
- Do not recall the word *Jesus* ever being brought up in our home; did repeat a salvation prayer at a young life Bible study at 13 years old (out of fear of being left behind after hearing a tape enacting the rapture of the church)
- Began a 45-year habit of smoking, drugs, and alcohol at around 13 years old

Youth and Young Adult Life

- At 16 years old, happened upon a picture of Christ in a photograph that solidified my belief in Him but did not by any means result in a born-again experience
- Graduated high school in 1975 and had various jobs until 1979; started working for GE Capital as a level 2 collector and had a fair amount of success there for 10 years in several different positions, including as a corporate auditor
- Lived in many different cities around the country; joined my father in investment management in 1989 and had a successful career until 2010 when drug addiction finally caught up with me

Wife, Children, and Lifestyle

- Married in 1993 (two daughters), divorced in 2005; avid golfer, hunter, traveler, addicted to everything of pleasure
- 2010-2012 ... 2-year manic episode ...ran away severely mentally ill; spent the next 5 years wandering in and out of immoral relationships ...addicted to weed but delivered from Rx addiction

My "Damascus Road" Experience

- ..returning from a road trip, had a divine experience hearing the voice of Jesus saying, "You're going to be needing me!"
- Had a tire blowout in Dothan, Alabama...checked into La Quinta Motel...depressed, exhausted, and horrified at what I had done with my life; opened the drawer by the bed, pulled out the Gideon Bible, opened it and, for the first time ever, believed every single word of it

Leaving the World Behind

- Since then have spent the last 10 years being sanctified by the Holy Spirit, casting off old Fred and putting on the new man

- Member of two churches with several ministry positions in both along with a very disciplined daily ministry on X (@III Deaton), Bible studies 2 times per week, fellowship lunches, and community evangelism

Today and Tomorrow

- Now co-laboring with Mark Case, a fellow minister of the gospel in Tennessee
- Do not recall even one single day which I have NOT dedicated fully to the LORD Jesus Christ, not because of anything good in me, but because I cannot survive without Him; He has taken all my addictions and consolidated them into one addiction to Him
- He is my all and all, and the only desire I have in my life is to glorify Him with it daily until I am with Him.

In Summary

Jesus Christ has taken all my former addictions of worldly pleasure and the flesh, and He has given me one single “addiction” – and that is to Him! He is my all and all, and the only desire I have in my life is to glorify Him daily until I am with Him.

I’m not looking back, but only forward, with great expectations for being part of His Glorious Church – the *Last Church* – the one that will be caught up to meet Him in the air!