

PAUL'S MOTIVATIONS FOR SERVING THE LORD

Acts 20:22-24.

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Just what could motivate a man to give up everything that is meaningful to most people in this life, and to live in such a way that he continually invited danger, threats, persecution and finally, death?
- B. Paul, at Ephesus, on way to Jerusalem, to be imprisoned and sent to Rome for trial, knowing the trials awaiting him, made the above statement of our text
- C. Then at Caesarea this statement which gives us insight into character of a great man of the Bible. Acts 21:13
- D. He later wrote Gal. 2:20 and following that: Phil 3:7-8
- E. Maybe if we can find out what motivated the apostle Paul, we can find motivation for ourselves.

DISCUSSION: (Title)

I. GOD'S LOVE FOR PAUL (External force)

- A. Note Paul's constant reference to God's love Rom 5:8 Surely Paul was reminded of what is said in Jhn 3:16.
- B. Considering the kind of world God loved, impresses us with the quality of His love. 1Jhn 4:10.
- C. After saying he was "crucified with Christ," Paul added: Gal. 2:20.
 1. Paul was touched by God's love Eph 2:4,5.
 2. That kind of love should motivate us as it did Paul 2Cor 5:14,15.

II. PAUL'S LOVE FOR GOD (internal force)

- A. Natural to love one who loves you Matt 5:46; Paul responded to God's love by returning that love – "*We love him, because he first loved us.*" 1Jhn. 4:19.
- B. Paul shows how critical ones love is 1Cor 13:1-3,13.
 1. When we are motivated by love, it makes even the difficult duties of life easier. 1Jhn 5:3.
 2. In fact, unless our service to God is motivated by genuine love, it is worthless. Gal 5:6.
- C. Jesus showed the need for love, by how He interacted with people and His teaching.
 1. As we encourage one another to serve the Lord, we should "consider one another, to provoke unto love and good works." Heb 10:24.
 2. Love and good works go hand-in-hand. When people are motivated by love, they will do what the Lord wants them to do. 1Cor 16:14

III. PAUL'S SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY (internal force)

- A. Paul recognized the great love which God had for him, and responded in kind by his great love for God.

1. He also had a sense of responsibility. Because he had received God's grace Rom 5:1,2
2. He felt his responsibility to share gospel with others Rom 1:14,15. Should be our feeling Eph 1:3
- B. Paul refers to this strong feeling of responsibility to take the gospel to other people in Acts 20:24.
 1. Paul recognized the principle from Ezk 33:8 to which he referred in Acts 20:26,27.
 2. Note his attitude in 1Cor 9:16.
- C. Paul's sense of responsibility led him into all manner of danger as recorded in: 2Cor 11:23-28; but makes it clear that it was all worth while. Phil 1:21-26.

IV. PAUL'S CONCERN FOR LOST SOULS (internal force)

- A. Paul's concern for the Jews Rom 9:3; 10:1.
- B. Paul called to be apostle to Gentiles Acts 26:16-20.
 1. Yet in various cities he preached "To the Jew first, and also to the Greek", Rom 1:16.
 2. After rejected he turned to Gentiles Acts 13:46-48.
 3. Concern for souls led him to Europe (Macedonia), Acts 16:9,10, even though he knew the dangers and opposition that awaited him.
- C. Paul's reply in Caesarea shows his concern for lost souls Acts 21:8-14.
 1. Jesus wept over Jerusalem Lk 19:41
 2. Paul wept over Jews and Gentiles. Acts 20:31; 2Cor 2:4.

V. PAUL'S FAITH IN LORD'S HELP (internal force)

- A. Paul knew that he was never alone. Matt. 28:20 So, he wrote: 2Tim 4:16,17.
- B. Paul had assurance from the Lord Acts 18:9,10.
- C. Strengthened by Christ Phil. 4:13

VI. PAUL'S HOPE OF HEAVEN (internal & external force)

- A. Paul spoke of his hope: Acts 23:6; Rom 8:24,25; Heb 6:17-20; Paul believed Jhn. 14:1-3
- B. Regarding tribulations in this life 2Cor 4:16-18;5:1 and Peter wrote of the same hope 1Pet 1:3-9.
- C. This hope carried Paul through life; serving the Lord in spite of all difficulties 2Tim 4:7,8.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Paul was motivated to surrender his will to the Lord's and spend his life serving Him who had died for him.
- B. Those things which motivated Paul to that kind of commitment should also motivate us to do the same.

From a lesson by Jim Sasser