

“Commitment” Makes a Difference

Acts 20:17-24

Alaska Baptist Church

Sunday, August 29, 2010

To make a difference, we must remain committed to the cause of Jesus Christ and to His will for our lives.

“Commitment”

“The state of being bound emotionally or intellectually to an ideal or course of action.”

- Webster's II New College Dictionary 1999

“Three Dynamics of Paul’s Commitment”

Acts 20:17-25

(v. 17) “From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.”

(v. 18) And when they had come to him, he said to them, You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time,

*(v. 19) serving the Lord with all
humility and with tears and with
trials which came upon me through
the plots of the Jews;*

*(v. 20) how I did not shrink from
declaring to you anything that was
profitable, and teaching you publicly
and from house to house,*

*(v. 21) solemnly testifying to both Jews
and Greeks of repentance towards
God and faith in our Lord Jesus
Christ.*

*(v. 22) And now, behold, bound in spirit,
I am on my way to Jerusalem, not
knowing what will happen to me
there,*

*(v. 23) except that the Holy Spirit
solemnly testifies to me in every city,
saying that bonds and affliction
await me.*

(v. 24) But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

(v. 25) And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face.”

I. Paul's *Attitude*

A. His *Circumstances*

1 Corinthians 11:23-28

B. His Critics

In many of his letters, Paul found it necessary to defend himself from people who had gone to his converts and questioned his motives, integrity, and doctrine.

*“He (the LORD) only is my rock
and my salvation: He is my
defence; I shall not be moved.”*

Psalm 62:6

“When you encounter adverse circumstances or attacks of critics as you are traveling down the highway of the Christian life, don’t look for “EXIT” signs!”

II. Paul's *Abandon*

A. His Motive

Abandon meant, forgetting about his own personal needs or desires and seeking the will of God and the good of others.

“For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.”

Mark 8:36

B. His Method

“For I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Galatians 2:20

C. His Model

“For the Son of Man (Jesus) did not come to be ministered to, but rather to minister to others, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

- Matthew 20:28

III. Paul's Aim

A. To Finish well

“...that I might finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, and to testify solemnly of the gospel and the grace of God.”

- Acts 20:24

Don't let your failures cause you to quit.

1. God expects it (Psalm 103:14)
2. God forgives it (Isaiah 30:18)
3. God uses it (Jonah 3)
4. God sees past it (Hebrews 11)

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.”

- 2 Timothy 4:7

B. To Pleasant His Lord

*“...that I might **finish** my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, and to testify solemnly of the gospel and the grace of God.”*

- Acts 20:24

C. To Reach Others

*“...that I might **finish** my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, and to testify solemnly of the gospel and the grace of God.”*

- Acts 20:24

The greatest calling known to man is to live for Jesus Christ and to share the gospel with others.

To make a difference, we must remain committed to the cause of Jesus Christ and to His will for our lives.

“A line in the sand...”

Jesus is drawing a line in the sand today, asking for yours and my unconditional commitment. Will you cross it?