

08/20/23 Message

Part of Blurred Faith

August 19, 2023

Message: Blessed to Give

Series: Blurred Faith

This is a series discussing the real impact life has on our faith. It is often too easy to abandon or detour from God's will when our faith is blurred. Sometimes, just sometimes we don't realize our faith is blurred because we don't know what it's like to live without the blur!

Paul Brings Clarity to Blurred Faith

Acts 20:32-38 (NLT)

32 "And now I entrust you to God and the message of his grace that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those he has set apart for himself.

33 "I have never coveted anyone's silver or gold or fine clothes.

34 You know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the needs of those who were with me.

35 And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

36 When he had finished speaking, he knelt and prayed with them.

37 They all cried as they embraced and kissed him good-bye.

38 They were sad most of all because he had said that they would never see him again. Then they escorted him down to the ship.

- God's grace will build you up and give you an inheritance (v32)
 - His grace is sufficient (2 Cor 12:9)
 - God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus (Phil 4:19)
- God's grace is AVAILABLE to everyone, but it's not GIVEN to everyone
 - It's an inheritance to those He's "set apart" for Himself
 - Those who are sanctified (saved)

- Review of salvation
 - Justified (the decision to believe in Jesus; “just if I” had never sinned)
 - Sanctified (the journey of following Jesus; from decision to heaven)
 - Glorified (spending eternity with God in heaven)

When Satan or the world tries to divide or destroy you, remember the goal. Choose Jesus, follow Jesus, spend eternity with Jesus - no where in that is the world, no where in that is Satan. Get him out of the equation!

—Pastor Chad

- Paul said he never coveted anything from anyone
 - Coveted is when you want something someone else has
 - You desire it and when you desire it, you become convinced you deserve it

How Paul Kept His Faith Clear

- Paul worked to supply
 - His needs
 - The needs of others
- Paul recognized
 - It is more blessed to give than to receive
 - Luke 6:38
 - Deuteronomy 16:17
 - Hebrews 13:16
 - Proverbs 22:9
 - Malachi 3:10

Blurred faith causes us to forget what God wants, what He expects, and it causes us to forget what He demands. It's about obedience.

We become complacent about our obedience, it's a sin of omission.

Sin is a want problem! It's a heart problem! God gets hurt in the crossfire of sin, because it's Him you're disobeying and He's hurt because you choose your want instead of choosing Him!

—Pastor Chad

If you don't give faithfully... then you suffer from blurred faith! Because God calls every single one who has been set apart for Himself... God calls every single one who has been saved... to faithfully give your time, your talents, and your tithes to Him through the ministry of the local church, to be His hands and feet, to change this community, and share Jesus with a lost and dying world.

—Pastor Chad

- Paul is challenging us to be faithful as we
 - Work hard
 - Give generously