



Sermon Series: Parting Thoughts From Paul, Part 2

Sermon Title: One Mission

Speaker/ Date: Scott McCrea, July 18, 2021

1 Corinthians 16:5-11

Again, identifying a clear mission is essential for living a productive, God honoring life – especially for Christians. In 1 Cor 15:58, Paul makes it clear that our mission is to do the work of the Lord

Paul explains that they are doing the work of the Lord, which means that they're telling others about Jesus and making disciples of Jesus. **Matthew 28:19, Romans 10:14–15**

Making disciples is about continuing the cycle of redemption, passing on the faith that was passed to you. To be called to Christ is to be called to do the work of the Lord.

Big Idea: When we do the work of the Lord, we are making disciples of Jesus Christ

There are 4 principles of effectiveness that we can pull out of Paul's descriptions of how both he and Timothy are doing their work of the Lord.

Pt 1: You must live **Intentionally**

1 Corinthians 16:5-9

Paul is very intentional in his plans. He had a vision where he was going. He knew that winter was a dangerous time to travel so he even thought he might spend the winter in Corinth. He planned the route that he was going to take to get there. Paul knew when he intended to leave. His plans involved staying until Pentecost was over. Paul knew that in order to be effective in carrying out his ministry he had to be strategic in his actions.

The same goes for us today.

a) Well first, you have to evaluate the situation.

Is there a mission field around you?

b) Then prepare. One of the key ways that you can effectively carry out your mission is to prepare. Prepare yourself by knowing what is in the bible. Pray for opportunities to present the gospel. Practice presenting the gospel to someone. Tell your testimony.

PT 2: Live with Flexibility

When Paul makes plans he knows that they are all subject to God's will. Paul knew about the sovereignty of God. That God is involved in the details, and Paul is willing to submit to God – even if the plans are changed.

Be flexible in your plans because God may take you in a different direction than you planned. If you try to maintain your plans against God's trying to lead you in a different direction you will end up frustrated and disheartened. If God redirects you, it is going to be because He had bigger plans for you.

PT 3: live Realistically

1 Corinthians 16:8-9

Paul was met with many adversaries, yet he was in God's will. Paul said that he faced many adversaries, yet he saw that as a great opportunity to do the work of the Lord. He was realistic. He knew that troubles didn't mean that God was putting roadblocks up to redirecting him, troubles were just a fact of life. To be realistic is to know that even if you doing the right and biblical thing, you're going to face problems.

PT 4: live Relationally

1 Corinthians 16:10-11

Paul puts a heavy emphasis on treating others well. Again, Timothy is a young pastor who is obviously heading to Corinth. Paul has a concern here that there might be an issue when Timothy arrives. Paul is concerned that they won't receive Timothy well.

Paul knew the importance of being relational.

How you act towards others has a significant impact on how effective you will be in making disciples of Jesus.

- After all, if you don't treat others well then you're not going to have a good relationship with them –
- And let's face it, if you don't have a good relationship with someone, you are not going to be very effective in witnessing to them about Jesus.

How you act towards others will directly influence your ability to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **What is the context of this portion of Paul's letter? What had he just finished discussing, and what were the major application points for us in today's world?**
- **What is the clear mission of every Christian? Why is this called "the work of the Lord"?**
- **How did Paul set an example of how we should live as we are doing the work of the Lord?**
- **What types of things/situations in the world around us interfere with your ability to do the work of the Lord?**
- **Give some inspiring examples of people (family, friends, missionaries, martyrs, etc) who are doing the work of the Lord at great personal cost.**
- **How can you be a source of encouragement for others as they do the work of the Lord?**