

I Corinthians 16 – 27 February 2022

“Addicted To The Ministry”

Introduction

- *After dealing w/ divisions, marriage/family, liberty issues & order in the church, Paul completed his reminders to the Corinthians w/ the biggest subject of all in Chap 15
 - *The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
- *After all the teaching and learn, Paul looks around the proverbial room and sees...people
 - *People that he's been wanting to help
 - *People that he loves
- *Paul has addicted himself to loving & serving people
- *Ever heard a pastor say, “I’m in the ministry”, wrong, all believers are in the ministry (or service)
- *Us Armed Forces understand this, we say, we’re in the service. (Meaning – in the service to the U.S.A.)
- *Today let’s look at 4 indications that P.A.U.L. had addicted himself to the ministry for people**

1st indication Paul was addicted to the ministry – His support for the *poor* (Vs 1-4)

Read Vs 1-2

1. They're sending money to the poor Christians back in Jerusalem (Rom 15:26 & Gal 2:10)
 - a. Idea is to collect money on regular basis, so they wouldn't have to gather it up at the last second
2. There are many aspects to financial service in the Kingdom of God
 - a. Read I Tim 5:3, 17
 - b. Honor widows, give double honor to elders
3. Why 1st day of week – That's when church met

Read Vs 3-4

1. *Liberality*: Paul calls their giving a grace or gift
2. A Corinthian would deliver it for accountability

CONCLUDE

1. II Cor 9:6-7 – God loves cheerful giver
2. Do you joy in helping others be lifted up?

2nd indication Paul was addicted to the ministry – He anticipated God's adjustment (Vs 5-9)

Read Vs 5

1. Paul's writing I Cor to them on the outbound leg of his 3rd Missionary Journey from Ephesus
2. Understanding the plan we have, let us always make room for God's interference
3. Jesus compared the H.S. to the wind; are we so rigid that we can't flow where H.S. wants to take us?

Read Vs 8-9

1. Paul knew to look for paths and missions that God was opening up for him
 - a. When was the last time we did something unplanned for the Lord?
 - b. Tony – Helped lady carry up groceries and then gave her the Gospel
2. Paul knew that adversaries always come with following God's will
3. Be looking for God's leading, not our will

3rd indication Paul was addicted to the ministry – His unity with the brethren (Vs 10-12)

Read Vs 10-11

1. Paul cares for young Tim b/c of his service for God regardless of his age
2. Paul knew there's a reason Tim might have been overlooked, so Paul remembered him on purpose
3. When you look at Christian youth around you
 - a. Christian youth aren't the future of the church... they ARE the church just as much as me
 - b. Don't accidentally hold them back from serving God & speak as if they're not ready
 - c. They can learn the Word, serve, worship and evangelize just as adults can
 - d. *Noisy children in church aren't a problem, a quiet children's ministry is*

Read Vs 12

1. Great reminder of the unity between Paul & Apollos in spite of divisions talked of in Chap 1-4
2. Similar/different, young/old – have unity w/ all

4th indication Paul was addicted to the ministry – He's motivated by love (Vs 13-24)

Read Vs 13-14

1. Be strong in faith and do everything in love
2. What a combination of strength & love
3. Love isn't wimpy/flimsy, but stands strong on the principles & life-giving power of God's Word

Read Vs 15-16

1. Servants learn from servants addiction to serving
2. How do you serve?
 - a. From compulsion?
 - i. Exp – Kids at home w/ Christian parents
 - ii. Only last until they gain freedom
 - b. From the mind or head?
 - i. Exp – Employees earning a paycheck
 - ii. Only serves so deep or so wide
 - c. From the heart and soul? (Read Eph 6:5-7)
 - i. Wants to give and love others forever
 - d. From the heart, empowered by the H.S.?
 - i. Wants to love others & CAN last forever

Read Vs 17-18

1. Financial givers are gifted to gift, be addicted to it
2. Giving to others of whatever gifts you have
 - a. Whether financial, physical labor, or mental training & support
 - b. Will “refresh” others
 - c. *Refresh* – to cause others to be able to rest and become stilled
3. It’s loving thing to remove the burden from others

Read Vs 19

1. A & P were residents of Corinth (after leaving Rome) but were on this trip w/ Paul in Ephesus
2. There’s a commonality between the churches, think well of each other
 - a. Build the bonds of love with all other true believers

Read Vs 20

1. Paul ended 4 of his letters w/ this (& Peter 1)
2. “Holy kiss” – every culture has different customs, but what’s the principle
 - a. This is verse that every teenager boy brings to their pastor once cute girl starts coming to church
 - b. Don’t know how long the kiss of these immoral Corinthians could last & still be considered holy...
 - c. It means “Don’t just support each other but also have a tenderness for each other”

Read Vs 21-22

1. The send-off message is, love Jesus Christ and long for his coming
2. Ask someone, “do you love Jesus?”
 - a. Jesus did this to Peter after Peter’s denial
3. Maranatha – Come Lord Jesus (from Aramaic)

Read Vs 23-24

1. Grace and love are sustaining factors
2. This isn’t something we need to learn; this is something we just need to go tell someone

Conclusion

In & behind all we do for Christ, there's a person we're trying to help, support, defend or encourage. Paul was addicted to serving others with the grace of Jesus Christ? Are you?

1. Be there to support the Poor

- a. Do you joy in improving Kingdom of God?
- b. Helping poor Christians will aid them in having what they need to advance the Kingdom

2. Anticipate God's Adjustments

- a. Addicts know that it's God's mission, so be prepared for Him to change our direction

3. Show Unity with all believers

- a. Paul & Apollos were different enough that Corinthians divided over who they liked best, yet Paul wants unity with ALL

4. Be motivated by Love

- a. Don't serve from compulsion or just from the mind, but serve from the heart by the power of the Holy Spirit