

The Call to Serve: Following Paul's Example of Service

Primary Text: Philippians 2:17 – “But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.”

Theme: Serving in the church is not about position, but about pouring ourselves out—just as Paul did. True servants give, not to be seen, but to make Jesus known.

Introduction

The Apostle Paul lived a life of total surrender. From the moment he met Jesus on the road to Damascus, everything changed. He moved from persecutor to servant—laying his own life down for the gospel. When Paul encountered Jesus, he didn't ask, “What can You give me?” He asked, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” (Acts 9:6). That question is the heartbeat of every true servant in the church.

Point 1: Service Begins with Surrender

Acts 20:24 – “However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me.” Paul didn't serve for comfort, applause, or recognition. Service starts when we stop asking, 'What do I want?' and start saying, 'Lord, I'm Yours.'

Romans 1:1 – Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus. Galatians 2:20 – “I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”

Point 2: Service Is the Overflow of Love

2 Corinthians 5:14–15 – “For Christ's love compels us...” Paul was not motivated by duty, but by love. When we serve because we love Jesus, serving fulfills us rather than drains us.

Point 3: Serving Strengthens the Church

Ephesians 4:11–12 – “Christ gave leaders to equip His people for works of service, so the body of Christ may be built up.” When we serve, we help the church grow stronger and healthier.

Point 4: Serving Is a Sacrifice, Not a Spotlight

Philippians 2:17 – Paul rejoiced even as he was poured out for others. Every unseen act of service is an offering to God. 2 Timothy 4:6–8 reminds us: “I am already being poured out like a drink offering... I have fought the good fight.”

Point 5: Serving Leaves a Lasting Legacy

1 Corinthians 15:58 – “Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord.” Paul didn’t build buildings—he built people. Your service today builds tomorrow’s testimony.

Conclusion: A Life Poured Out

Paul lived as a servant, suffered as a servant, and finished as a servant. The greatest use of a life is to spend it serving something that will outlast it. Let’s serve like Paul: with humility, love, and perseverance. Matthew 25:40 reminds us, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me.”

Closing Prayer

Lord, make us servants like Paul—humble, faithful, and joyful. Teach us to pour ourselves out for You and for Your church. May our lives reflect Your love and bring glory to Your name. In Jesus’ name, amen.