

## **Paul's 12 Step** (a model for Gospel living)

### I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

#### A. Slide#2 Remembrance 9/11, 12 yrs later:

1. Remember where you were? How you felt? Eerie (no planes in sky). Fearful (what would be next). Remember how **spiritual** the US got? (all of a sudden ok for news casters to call for prayer - People flocked back to church). Patriotism (flags everywhere). New phrases (Let's roll. War on Terror. Vigilance. Homeland Security's Color Coded Advisory Condition/Red/Orange)
2. Fast-forward 12 years: What are we supposed to remember? (Loss of lives 2,977 victims; more than 90 countries lost citizens in the attacks on the World Trade Center. - Loss of security (attack us on our soil?). How did it change us? (not just travel restrictions; personally?) What have we done since then? (start sharing our faith more?). How it has changed the lives of all military families? (deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan) How did it change our views towards Muslims? (people still seeing all Muslims as bad, rather than just the extremists).
3. Mical & I were watching 1 of the 9-11 specials on the 10th anniv. Lyzbeth Glick was being interviewed. She was married to Jeremy Glick, 1 of the men who led the charge against the high-jackers on flight 93 that crashed into that Penn field.
  - a) She was talking with her husband when he said, "We're going to rush the hijackers." Then he put down the phone, but didn't hang up. She listened until there was silence.
  - b) When they found the **black box**. They offered the families to come listen to it. She wanted to. But she walked out right before the end, as she said, she wanted to know exactly what happened, but couldn't stand "*hearing the silence*" again!

#### B. Prayer for families. Our nation. Other nations that deal with it almost every day.

### II. Intro:

- #### A. Slide#3 **Fritz Kreisler** (1875-1962), the world-famous violinist, earned a fortune with his concerts and compositions, but he generously gave most of it away. So, when he discovered an exquisite violin on one of his trips, he wasn't able to buy it. Later, having raised enough money to meet the asking price, he returned to the seller, hoping to purchase that beautiful instrument. But to his great dismay it had been sold to a collector. **Kreisler made his way to the new owner's home and offered to buy the violin.** The collector said it had become his prized possession and he would not sell it. Keenly disappointed, Kreisler was about to leave when he had an idea. "*Could I play the instrument once more before it is consigned to silence?*" he asked. Permission was granted, and the great virtuoso filled the room with such heart-moving music that the collector's emotions were deeply stirred. "I have no right to keep that to myself," he exclaimed. "It's yours, Mr. Kreisler. Take it into the world, and let people hear it."

#### B. Slide#4 **The Gospel** (2,4,8,9) A glad announcement, good news.

1. Gospel = *God Spell*. *Spell* (old Eng; Germanic Orig.) = *narration; story*)
2. Its **God's Story** of His character, His love, His grace; wrapped in **Jesus' story** of His death, burial & Res.

### III. Slide#5 **PAUL'S 12 STEP, a model for Gospel living. (1-12)**

- A. Paul gives the Thes church, after his 2nd time through, how to *Model Ministry*.
1. You might say, "I'm not in ministry". To which I would respond... "well you're supposed to be!"
    - a) As soon as you are a **member** of the body of Christ, He calls you to **minister**.

### IV. Slide#6 **GOSPEL MOTIVES (1-6)**

#### A. Slide#7 **BE PURPOSEFUL (1)**

1. **Not in vain** = not hollow or w/o content.
2. They're preaching had **immediate & impressive** consequences, & a **permanent change** took place in the lives of the believers.
3. Paul came w/a definite Aim, & he hit what he aimed for.

#### B. Slide#8 **BE BOLD (2)**

1. **Suffering & spitefully treated in Philippi** is in Acts 16:22-24 (rt b4 ch.17 of the Thes story)
  - a) **What happened in Philippi?** stripped naked, beaten w/rods, whipped, thrown in jail, fastened their feet in stocks.
  - b) "A Roman instrument of torture w/more than 2 holes for the legs so they could be forced widely apart unto a position which soon became intolerably painful." (LKGNT)
2. Paul was a man of tremendous courage.
3. "Courage is fear that has said its prayers." (Dorothy Bernard)
4. **Do you need courage?** - Don't try to drum it up within you.
  - a) *Think of God's love for you; think of your love towards Him; meditate on the honor of walking w/Him; speaking of Him to others; think of being entrusted w/this precious life saving news; soon you'll find yourself driven/compelled with courage.*
  - b) Martin Luther stood frightened before his adversaries of Rome but courageously said... "*Hear now I stand*" against the Pope.
  - c) "And having thus chosen our course, let us renew our trust in God and go forward without fear and with manly hearts." Abraham Lincoln

#### C. Slide#9 **BE HONEST (3)**

1. The Gospel didn't have it's source in **Error** (the facts are true)
2. The Gospel is not **Unclean** (Christianity didn't require immoral rites to promote it, as the cults did)

3. The Gospel wasn't Deceitful (deceit = to bait, crafty design or catching)

D. Slide#10 BE PLEASING TO GOD (4)

1. Don't you like hearing, "you have been approved"? [Maybe for a home loan; an auto loan; you get to advance to the next level of the hiring process; etc.]
2. You & I have been approved & entrusted with His Best News for others.
  - a) Every member of God's family has the **right** and the **obligation** to make known this great salvation to his/her fellow humans. - Charles Hodge
3. And we do this to please God, not our fellow man.

E. Slide#11 BE SINCERE (5)

1. Flattering words - the idea of deception for selfish ends. LKGNT pg.589
  - a) Have you every witnessed to someone for the sake of getting to tell others your glory story?
2. Cloak for covetousness - pretext for greed.

F. Slide#12 BE HUMBLE (6)

1. No demands, "Hey, we are "A"postles." - Pure Humility.
2. "It is better to be approved by God & suffer than to be applauded by men & prosper."

V. Slide#13 GOSPEL METHODS (7-9)

A. Slide#14 BE GENTLE (7)

1. Paul had the same love for the Thessalonians as a *new nursing mother* delights to care for her newborn.
2. Young believers need **spiritual parents** to lovingly nurture them in the Lord.
  - a) Paul's ministry was a ministry of **courage** but it was also a ministry motivated by **Love**.
    - (1) Who said Paul was stern & cold?
3. Here is such a deep, gentle, tender Love.
  - a) Yes, love has to be **Tough** sometimes, but it must **1st** be taught to be **Tender**.
    - (1) Which part of love are you best at... **Tough** Love or **Tender** Love?
4. **Cherish** – Deut.22:6 used for a bird warming her eggs.

B. Slide#15 BE AFFECTIONATE (8)

1. Only here, *warm affection*.
2. For Paul it was important that **the gospel** wasn't only **the right words** being spoken but **the right life** being lived.

C. Slide#16 BE LABORING (9)

1. **Exhausting Labor & toil** – Every Jewish boy had to learn a trade. Paul's was Tentmaking. Paul was careful not to take funds from new converts.
  - a) Paul always careful with the \$ thing. *It's for believers that understand, not unbelievers you're trying to win.*

## VI. Slide#17 **GOSPEL MANNERS (10-12)**

### A. Slide#18 **BE PURE** (10)

1. **Devout, just, blameless** - or in one word **Integrity** sums up how Paul walked among them.
  - a) **Integrity** is in short supply in Christian circles today.
2. **Devoutly** (describes duty toward **God**); **just** (describes duty toward **man**) [rt in public behavior]; **blameless** (Signifies that no charge could be maintained, whatever charges might be made)
  - a) Its being a *"what you see is what you get"* Christian.

### B. Slide#19 **BE DIRECT** (11)

1. I was like a **mother** to you, but I also had to be a **dad** sometimes. [a little sterner]
2. **Exhortation** – To exhort to a particular line of conduct.
3. **Comfort** – To encourage to continue in a course. (eg. "you're doing better", "I see your progress", "I can see changes", "keep on", "come on")
4. **Charge** – To solemnly charge, urge, implore.
  - a) *How many people stop because so few say, "Go."*
5. Hmm, might this also speak to the the **difference** in **mom** & **dads** roles? (vs.7 & 11)

### C. Slide#20 **BE WORTHY OF GOD** (12)

1. **Walk worthy** – Does *your example* as a Christian make it easier for others to **grow**?

- D. Slide#21 Like the violin collector said in the beginning, "I have no right to keep that to myself," - *"It's yours. Take it into the world, and let people hear it."*