

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

August 13

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What Motivated The Apostle Paul?

In 2 Corinthians 11:24-28, we learn from the apostle Paul himself, that he suffered considerably for the cause of Christ. For instance, he informed that he was beaten with rods. He was stoned. He suffered shipwreck, not only once, but three times. He suffered a variety of perils (i.e. serious and immediate dangers). He suffered weariness and toil. He suffered sleeplessness. He suffered hunger and thirst. He suffered in cold and nakedness, besides the other things which came upon him daily, his deep concern for all the churches.

However, in spite of all his suffering, the apostle Paul kept on, keeping on, he fought the good fight, and he kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7). Now, some may be thinking, how did he do this? What was it that motivated him to endure these sufferings, and to keep the faith? So, with these thoughts pressed upon our minds, let's take a look at some things that would have motivated the apostle Paul to keep on, keeping on.

The Sacrificial Love of Christ Motivated Paul.

I first suggest to you that the sacrificial love of Christ motivated the apostle Paul to keep on, keeping on. You see, the apostle Paul declared the effect that the sacrificial love of Christ had upon him when he said, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which

I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). Simply put, Paul did what he did, because of what Christ did for him, and this mentality enabled the apostle Paul to persevere in times of suffering because his focus and purpose was not upon himself, but rather it was upon Christ, who loved him, and died for him.

A Sincere Trust In Christ Motivated Paul.

I also suggest to you that a sincere trust in Jesus Christ motivated the apostle Paul to keep on, keeping on during times of suffering. In 2 Timothy 1:8-12, Paul exhorts Timothy to not be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord, and he encourages Timothy to likewise share in his sufferings for the gospel. You see, the apostle Paul whole-heartily believed and trusted in the testimony of the Lord. He had complete confidence in the Lord, and in obtaining eternal life. For, as he declared in verse 12, "...I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day." My friend, such confidence and trust in the Savior Jesus Christ, gives one the courage and strength to endure troublesome times, and I am convinced that it was this sincere trust in Jesus Christ that helped motivate Paul to keep on, keeping on during the hard times which he encountered.

A Desire To Preach The Gospel and To Be A Soul-Winner Motivated Paul.

I likewise suggest to you that a fervent desire to preach the gospel of Christ to others, and to be a soul-winner for Jesus motivated the apostle Paul to keep on, keeping on when difficult times arose. Now, although the apostle Paul was often persecuted for preaching the gospel of Christ, he was not ashamed of the gospel (Romans 1:16), and he was thankful for the opportunity he was given to preach it (1 Timothy 1:12). In 1 Corinthians 9:16, Paul even declared, "...woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!" My friend, it's important to note that Paul did not preach the gospel for monetary gain, for personal recognition or glory, but

rather he sacrificed and endured for the cause of Christ so that he might win the more to Christ (1 Corinthians 9:19-23), and this love for the gospel and for the souls of men which was possessed by the apostle Paul certainly would have motivated him to keep on and to preach on, no matter what the trial or affliction was that came along the way.

A Desire To Please God, Along With A Desire For A Home In Heaven Motivated Paul.

Last, but certainly not least, I suggest to you that it was Paul's desire to please God, along with his desire to obtain an eternal home in heaven that motivated him to keep on, keeping on when the going got tough. You see, Paul was not out to please men, but rather he diligently sought to please God (Galatians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:4), and my friend, this desire to please God which was possessed by Paul, would have without a doubt motivated and enabled him to press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14). Once more, Paul's focus was not upon Paul, even when the going got tough, but rather his focus was upon pleasing God, so that by doing so he may lay hold on eternal life (1 Timothy 4:11-16), and inherit an eternal home in heaven (Philippians 3:20). Therefore, my beloved brethren, may we all likewise strive to possess the single-mindedness of the apostle Paul (Philippians 3:13), and may we too always make it our aim to be well pleasing to the Lord, our God (2 Corinthians 5:9) no matter what!

Brethren, may we also let the things that motivated the apostle Paul to be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, likewise motivate us to do the same (1 Corinthians 15:58), and just as Paul kept on, keeping on, no matter what, may we too always keep on, keeping on, no matter what (Philippians 3:12-14)!

✍️ Brad Phillips

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

Believe in Jesus Christ. (John 8:24)

Repent of your sins. (Acts 17:30)

Confess Jesus Christ. (Matthew 10:32)

Be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)

Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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