

Why Paul Was Ready To Die

Int.

1. Aim: To lead the audience to understand why Paul was ready to die and to realize that we must be ready also.
2. Text -Acts 21:13
 - a. Paul had just returned from 3rd missionary journey
 - b. Agabus had just warned him not to go because he would be bound - v.11
 - c. Paul's reply . "Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." Acts 21:13 NKJV
 - i. Break = to crush or break something to pieces .. Paul meant this as a rebuke to the brethren, for they were not helping but hurting
 - ii. He had respect for their judgment, but he was not one who would shrink from his duty because of danger.
 - iii. He would not change his course to avoid persecution.
3. Death is an appointment all will meet some day
 - a. Paul realized this and admitted he was ready.
 - b. Later in life he said the same thing - II Tim. 4:6-8 "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."
4. Why was Paul ready to die?

Discussion

I. BECAUSE HE WAS WHOLE HEARTED EVEN WHEN WRONG

- A. In his studies he advanced beyond his fellow students - Gal. 1:14 "And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers."
- B. He consented to the death of Stephen - Acts 8:1-3
- C. He laid waste the church when he thought the church needed to be persecuted
- D. We admire zeal in any person
 - 1. But We are disgusted with half-heartedness or lukewarmness
 - 2. Whether it be in Work, Marriage, Sports or whatever
 - 3. Even Christ was disgusted with the people at Laodicea - Rev. 3:14-22
- E. Paul was ready to die because he was whole hearted even when wrong. He had zeal!

II. BECAUSE HE HAD LEARNED THE TRUTH

- A. This means that he was at one time wrong, even though he thought he was doing right - Acts 26:9 "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth."
- B. When the Lord appeared to him he asked, "What wilt thou have me to do?" - Acts 9:6
- C. We should do the same when God's will shows that our lives are not what they should be.
- D. We should not :
 - 1. Harden hearts
 - 2. Get mad and Try to Go against God's will

- E. When it comes to Baptism we learn that
 1. It is required - essential - I Pet. 3:21
 2. We should obey rather than rebel against God's will.
- F. Paul was ready to die because he had learned the truth. And he obeyed the truth!

III. BECAUSE HE DID NOT TRY TO JUSTIFY HIMSELF IN ERROR

- A. Most of us go through life trying to blame others if we are in the wrong.
 1. Blame parents
 2. Blame husband or wife
 3. Blame environment
 4. Adam tried to blame Eve for his sin - Gen. 3:12 Eve blamed the serpent Gen. 3:13
- B. One lesson we need to learn in life is that we make mistakes
- C. When Paul came face to face with his mistake he asked "What wilt thou have me to do?"
Acts 9:6
- D. He went into the city and would not eat or drink until his soul was right with God.
 1. The spiritual matters were more important than the physical
 2. We should do the same with our salvation - it is most important
 3. We should put the spiritual first in every walk of life
- E. Paul was ready to die because he did not try to justify himself in error.

IV. BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST AND REALIZED THAT HE**WAS A SON OF GOD** - he knew death was not the end but the beginning

A. Every believer is not a saint

1. It takes more than faith alone

- a. Jn. 12:42-43 "Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."
- b. Jn.1:12 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

2. The devils believed but were not saved - Jas.2:19 "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble."

3. It takes some work

- a. Jas. 2:20 "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"
- b. Jas. 2: 24 "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."

B. We must put on Christ

1. Gal.3:26-27 "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

2. And Put off sin - Rom. 6:1-4

3. We become new creatures - I I Cor. 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

C. Paul was ready to die because he had been baptized into Christ and realized he was a Son of God.

V. BECAUSE AFTER BAPTISM HE WAS FRUITFUL -- II Tim. 4:7 "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:"

A. He fought a good fight

1. He was a good soldier II Tim. 2:3-4 "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

- a. Right Army = Lord's Army
- b. Right Leader = Christ is commander
- c. Right fight = to go to heaven

2. He chose suffering over sin

B. He finished the course.

1. He trained well
2. He trained on the course
3. He strained every muscle
4. He had his eye on the finish line

C. He kept the faith

1. Regarded the gospel as a treasure
2. Guarded and defended the gospel with his own life

D. He was ready to die because after baptism he was fruitful

VI. BECAUSE HE KNEW CHRIST WOULD BE WITH HIM EVEN IN DEATH

- A. Those who live with God shall die with God
- B. Rev. 14:13 "...blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth..."
- C. Paul was ready to die because he knew Christ would be with him even in death.

VII. BECAUSE HE KNEW DEATH WOULD BE GAIN

- A. He would loose all pain and sorrow in this life - Phil. 1:21 "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."
- B. He would gain the joy of heaven
- C. Paul was ready to die because he knew death would be a gain

VIII. BECAUSE HE KNEW CHRIST WOULD KEEP HIS PROMISE RELATIVE TO

ETERNAL LIFE - II TIM. 1:12 "For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day."

CONCLUSION

1. Are you willing and ready to die for the cause of Christ?
2. Why?? Why not??
3. Make yourself ready to die for Christ!!
4. A cause not worth dying for is not worth living for.

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Night Dec. 16, 2007
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