

# HOW PAUL SERVED THE LORD

Acts 20:17-27

## INTRODUCTION

Paul looked on himself as a servant of Jesus Christ – Romans 1:1-3

This was also true of ...

- Peter – 2 Peter 1:1-3
- Jude – Jude 1

The same should be true of every child of God today – Romans 6:16-18

Looking at Paul's manner of service will help us in our service to Christ

## HE SERVED GOD "WITH ALL HUMILITY"

Paul's service was not with outward show

His service was "with all humility"

There were many things about which Paul could have been proud or arrogant – II Corinthians 11:16-28

Paul had the "mind of Christ" – Philippians 2:1-11, "Have this mind among yourselves"; cf. I Corinthians 2:16

## HE SERVED "WITH TEARS"

Paul's service is shown to be sincere by this expression – cf. II Corinthians 2:4

He had deep and loving care for these saints

He had a great concern for truth as opposed to error

He did not allow sadness or disappointment to stop him – Philippians 3:17-18; I Corinthians 15:32; II Corinthians 1:8-10; Acts 14:19-22

## HE ENDURED "TRIALS"

Consider the parable of the sower and the rocky ground hearer – Matthew 13:20-21

- "20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away."

Paul bore much and served much. Many now, bear little and serve little.

## HE "... DID NOT SHRINK FROM DECLARING ... ANYTHING ... PROFITABLE"

He preached as he admonished Timothy to preach – II Timothy 4:1-5

Paul preached without being afraid of what men would do to him; he showed no fear of men – Galatians 1:10-12

He solicited the prayers of the Ephesians to pray for him "that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak" – Ephesians 6:16-20

## HE DEMONSTRATED WHAT HE PREACHED

As Paul preached to others, he demonstrated that truth in his life

- Philippians 3:17; 4:9
- I Corinthians 4:15-17; 11:1

Paul emphasized this principle  
Romans 2:21-23

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## HE TAUGHT “IN PUBLIC AND FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE”

Paul taught God’s word to whomever and whenever any would listen

Paul was truly “not ashamed of the gospel”  
– Romans 1:16

Paul himself was “ready in season and out of season” to “reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching”  
– II Timothy 4:2

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## HE WAS DETERMINED THAT “IMPRISONMENT AND AFFLICTIONS” WOULD NOT MOVE HIM

Paul considered teaching and preaching the gospel and the love of Christ to be of more value than his own physical wellbeing  
– Romans 8:31-39

Paul fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith – II Timothy 4:7-8

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## “I DO NOT ACCOUNT MY LIFE ... AS PRECIOUS TO MYSELF”

Paul showed this to be true both before and after this text

- Persecutions in Ephesus – Acts 19:23-31
- Agabus prophesied of persecutions Paul would encounter in Jerusalem  
– Acts 21:8-14

The former persecutor of “the Way” is now the persecuted preacher of “the Way” as Jesus declared – Acts 9:10-16

## HE WAS ABLE TO SAY, “I AM INNOCENT OF THE BLOOD OF ALL OF YOU”

Paul fully accomplished the charge of Jesus to “carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel” – Acts 9:15; cf. Ezekiel 3:17-19

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## “I DID NOT SHRINK FROM DECLARING TO YOU THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD”

With all humility, tears, and trials – Verse 19  
He kept back nothing profitable – Verse 20  
He testified to all repentance toward God and faith toward Jesus our Lord – Verse 21  
He risked his life to save others – Verse 24  
He preached the kingdom of God – Verse 25  
He was free from the blood of men because he declared all of God’s counsel – Verse 26

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## CONCLUSION

We are exhorted to be “imitators” of Paul

- I Corinthians 4:16
- I Corinthians 11:1

We also look to other faithful Christians as examples

- Hebrews 6:9-12

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## “What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- **Hear the Word of God**
  - Romans 10:8 – “But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)”
- **Believe that Jesus is the Savior**
  - Romans 10:11 – “For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.’”

## “What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- **Repent of your sins**
  - Acts 3:19 – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”
- **Confess that Jesus is the Son of God**
  - I John 4:15 – “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.”

## “What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- **Be immersed in water (baptized)**
  - Acts 2:38 – “And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”
- **Remain faithful**
  - Hebrews 3:14 – “For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.”