

Imitators - continued

Compassionate

28 And he was with them going in and going out at Jerusalem, 29 preaching boldly in the name of the Lord: and he spake and disputed against the Grecian Jews; but they were seeking to kill him.

Paul was compassionate for the lost. He desired to see all sinners saved (Acts 9:28-29). He prayed and sorrowed for the lost among his fellow-Jews (Romans 9:1; 10:1). He traveled far to reach the lost (Romans 15:19). Can we imitate this?

Committed

30 And when the brethren knew it, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus.

Paul was committed for the cause of Christ. He kept going from the very beginning until he finished the long course (Acts 9:30). He was faithful to the end (2 Tim. 4:6-8). Can we imitate this?

We live in a world where many are opposed to Jesus Christ. But, like Paul, let's be converted, convicted, courageous, caring, compassionate, and committed to Christ. - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Freedom *from* sin does not mean we are free *to* sin.
- The world seeks to please men, the Christian seeks to please God.
- Without God, all men are failures.
- Some people lack the courage to die, while others lack the courage to live.
- God is our loving Father so we need to act like his obedient children.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Paul said to King Agrippa, “Become such as I am...” (Acts 26:29). Paul wrote to Christians and said, “Be imitators of me...” (1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1; Philippians 3:17) and “these things do...” (Philippians 4:9). He wrote again and said that he was “an example of them...” (1 Timothy 1:16). Paul is clearly our example of Christian living. Consider just one passages of scripture in Acts 9:18-29 where the conversion of Paul is recorded and let’s see what we can and should imitate in Paul.

Converted

18 And straightway there fell from his eyes as it were scales, and he received his sight; and he arose and was baptized.

Paul was converted to the Lord. He left the religious world of Judaism and didn’t go back (Acts 9:18). He left behind his past (Philippians 3:5-11). He kept others focused on Jesus (1 Corinthians 1:15; 3:7). He was thankful and humbled (1 Timothy 1:12-16). Can we imitate this?

Convicted

19 and he took food and was strengthened. And he was certain days with the

disciples that were at Damascus. 20 And straightway in the synagogues he proclaimed Jesus, that he is the Son of God. 21 And all that heard him were amazed, and said, Is not this he that in Jerusalem made havoc of them that called on this name? and he had come hither for this intent, that he might bring them bound before the chief priests. 22 But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews that dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is the Christ.

Paul was convicted for truth. He stood for God’s word regardless of the cost (Acts 9:19-22). He proclaimed the truth to leaders (Acts 9:15). He proclaimed the truth to foreigners (1 Timothy 2:7). He proclaimed the truth to enemies (Galatians 2:5). He proclaimed the truth to friends (Galatians 2:11-14; 4:16). Can we imitate this?

Courageous

23 And when many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel together to kill him: 24 but their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates also day and night that they might kill him: 25 but his disciples took him by night, and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket.

Paul was courageous for Christ. He lived for Jesus in the face of enemies (Acts

9:23-25). He lived through many trials (Acts 21-28; 1 Corinthians 4:9ff; 2 Corinthians 6:4ff; 11:23ff; 1 Thessalonians 2:2). He suffered and was imprisoned for Christ (2 Timothy 1:8-12; 2:9; 3:10-12; 4:9-18; Philemon 1,9). He labored hard with humility (1 Corinthians 15:9-10). Can we imitate this?

Caring

26 And when he was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: and they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.

Paul was caring for the church. He desired to see his brethren built up (Acts 9:26-27). He confirmed them (Acts 14:22). He cared for them and did all he could to serve them (2 Corinthians 11:28). He wanted to be with them (Romans 1:8-15; 15:22ff; 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20; 3:1-10). He prayed for them (Ephesians 1:16; Phil. 1:3; Colossians 1:3). Can we imitate this?

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