

September 1, 2019

## The Necessity of Preaching the Gospel

### 1 Corinthians 9:16-18

#### Intro

- “This week, I *have* to \_\_\_\_\_.” “In the next year, we’ve *got* to \_\_\_\_\_.”
- What has “laid necessity” on you?

➤ *William Tyndale: “Always singing one note”*

“I mention Paul, because what he was we ought every one of us to be; and though we cannot share in his office, not being apostles; though we cannot share in his talents or in his inspiration, yet we ought to be possessed by the same spirit which actuated him, and let me also add we ought to be possessed by it in the same degree.”

–**Charles Spurgeon**, “Soul Saving Our One Business,”  
*Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*, v. 25

#### Why this Necessity?

- ἐπίκειμαι = “to lie on or upon; crowd, press hard; be urgent, insist; be in force, be imposed”

#### The Call of the Preacher

- Paul did not treat his role as optional. This was not just a job; this was a *calling*.

“Calling is the truth that God calls us to himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion and dynamism lived out as a response to his summons and service”

—Os Guinness, *The Call*, 4

*“For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. 14 And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. 15 But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, 16 was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone...” (Galatians 1:13-16)*

- Paul did not apply for the role of Apostle. He didn’t sit down for an interview.
- “If you can do anything else but pastoral ministry, then do that. If you can’t do anything else, then you might be called.”

➤ *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals* by John Piper

*“But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.” (1 Thessalonians 2:4)*

“The minister is not a free agent or loose cannon. It is not his own will or whim that governs him. It is not even the will or whim of a particular church that directs him. It is God’s gospel that he preaches, and he is free to preach no other. It is the will and purpose of Almighty God that guides his life and dominates his awareness of who he is and what he must do. He labors under a present sense—often a weighty sense—of his stewardship from God, and he serves the church in accordance with that stewardship, discharging his responsibility to the body of Christ as one standing before God himself.” —**Rob Ventura and Jeremy Walker**, *A Portrait of Paul: Identifying a True Minister of Christ*, 57

## The Urgency of the Need

- What does humanity need?

*"... that I might win more of them" (v. 19) "... that by all means I might save some." (v. 22)*

- We live in a culture that wants to celebrate everyone's individual approach to life and spirituality.
- People's self-understanding often does not reflect their true spiritual reality.

➤ *"Unskilled and Unaware of It: How Difficulties in Recognizing One's Own Incompetence Lead to Inflated Self Awareness" (David Dunning & Justin Kruger)*

*"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?" (Romans 10:14)*

*"I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. 15 So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome."  
(Romans 1:14-15)*

## The Beauty of the Message

- To a people caught up in competition and patronage, Paul got to proclaim a free gospel! Paul chose to become a walking parable of the gospel story itself.

“What kind of gospel would we need to hear in order to give up our sense of entitlement? This is what we would need to hear: we can stop trying to achieve, purchase, and deserve everything we’ve been after. ‘Here. Take it. It’s free.’ That sense of security we’ve been trying to achieve, the one that made us buy into the special life narrative, ‘Take it, it’s free.’ That love and affection that we’ve been trying to buy with our carefully chosen words, with sheer romantic willpower, ‘Take it, it’s free.’ That respect and dignity that we so desperately desired that it drove us through graduate school and has us at work 70 hours a week, ‘Take it, it’s free.’ These are outlandish claims, but they are the outlandish claims of the free-of-charge gospel that we encounter in the Scriptures. ...The jig is up. The game is over. Everything you’ve been trying to purchase is available for free.”

–**Stephen Um**, *1 Corinthians: The Word of the Cross*, 168-169

## The Reward of the Servant

- “What then is my reward?”

*“If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.”*  
**(1 Corinthians 3:14)**

➤ *John Bunyan*

“Whatever good thing you do for Him, if done according to the Word, is laid up for you as treasure in chests and coffers, to be brought out to be rewarded before both men and angels, to your eternal comfort.” –**John Bunyan**