

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Truly Surrendered

Bill Brinkworth

Many have their own idea of what a sold-out Christian is. Some think that just faithfully attending church and occasional praying puts them in the close-to God Christian category. Neither of those thoughts are even close to what it is to live for the Lord and be surrendered to whatever He requires of us.

Although not perfect, and called of God for a different time and purpose, Paul is a good example of a heart and life surrendered to the Lord. A look at Paul's attitude and efforts towards living for God are certainly not what we see much of today.

Here is some of what we see of what Paul's surrendering involved, as found in Acts 20:

- He shed many tears (vs. 19) and faced many temptations (trials).
- Taught and preached everything he knew (vss. 20, 35).
- Went door-to-door teaching (vs. 20).
- Taught to everyone (vs. 21).

- He knew for certain that the Holy Ghost was going to use him (vs. 22-23).
- His task was more important than his life (vs. 24).
- One of Paul's driving forces was to complete the work God had given him to do (vs. 24).
- He would not have anyone's blood on his hands, as He had preached and taught to all he had an opportunity to minister to (vs. 26-27).
- He did not covet any of this world's riches (vs. 33).

Ultimately, the best example to follow is that of Christ. However, there are some that exhibit Christ-like attributes which are good to emulate. Paul is one such man.

“God’s reward for good service to Him is more service! He uses whom He can trust the most!”

— *Barbara Brinkworth*

Some Ignore God’s Message

Bill Brinkworth

Paul was taken to be judged before the Roman procurator, Felix. False accusations were flowing against the preacher from envious, bitter, Jewish leaders that resented Christianity. The Roman judge heard from those accusers.

Felix, however, was not ignorant of who Christians were (Acts 24:24), and what they were teaching. Perhaps, he had heard around the city about Christ, or how Christianity had been sweeping the country-side. He had his own

opinions about Christianity, and he was wise enough not to hear only the complainer's side of the story.

Then, Felix allowed Paul to speak. Instead of cowering under the authority of the man that was managing the affairs for the Romans, Paul took the opportunity to talk to the ruler about spiritual things. The preacher spoke of living a righteous life, not indulging in sin, and about the judgments God would bring. Even though Paul's judge, as history tells us, was known for his cruelty, murders, and even considered himself licensed to commit any crime he desired, Paul did not waiver or hold back on any of the truths from the Word of God. Felix could have easily given the word, and Paul's life would have been snuffed out, but Paul boldly preached on.

The preaching did affect the procurator. Acts 24:25 records that the man trembled at what he had heard. His fear did not guide him to repentance, however. He dismissed Paul and promised that they might speak again. He had the opportunity to be saved, but he put it off. Felix missed a time he could have been saved.

Many are so much like Felix. They hear the convicting message from the Word of God. It cuts deeply into their heart. Conviction of past sins floods their memories. Uneasiness of their sinful past robs them of peace. They often have the opportunity right then and there to confess Jesus as their Saviour and to get their sins forgiven, but they put it off until "tomorrow" or "later".

For some reason that “other time” rarely comes. All too often they miss the last opportunity they had for salvation, and die lost, without Christ, and spend their eternity in Hell. They often get so close to salvation, but miss an eternity with Jesus.

Never say “No” to God’s provoking of your heart about anything, especially salvation. You may never have tomorrow!

“We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)” II Corinthians 6:1-2

Work and Pray

Pastor Norman Gartin

“Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.” Luke 10:2

If Jesus asked you to pray for something specific, would you? In Luke 10 we see that Jesus had done that very thing. He had made a prayer request, and it was important.

Jesus prefaced His request with some information that was related to, “... The harvest truly is great” The

scope of the situation is expansive and promising. There is a great hope to be found in these few words that the number of those to be saved is great.

The second thing declared by the Lord is that there is a problem, "... the labourers are few" There are not many that are burdened for souls enough to show and tell people the way.

The next portion Jesus gives us is His prayer request, "... pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth labourers into his harvest."

This prayer request made by Jesus Christ the Lord is a specific request recorded in the New Testament. In another place Jesus says "... Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35), again indicating the urgent need to reap the harvest of needing souls. We are to pray to the Lord, that the Lord would send more laborers.

I believe the Lord would have us pray for those who already labor in the fields, such as pastors, evangelists, missionaries, and others who labor to promote the glorious Gospel. Jesus has also commanded us to be a part of the answer in the "Great Commission" passages of Scripture.

I ask myself these questions:

- Do I see the fields? Unsaved family members, friends, and associates come to mind first. Those in faraway places and in my own town are also fields to be harvested. Truly there is a great harvest of souls

waiting for someone to come with the message of eternal hope.

- Do I pray for those who have gone, or will go, into the harvest? Jesus will send forth laborers, and we should pray for them. We will quickly pray for our needs, but for the souls of those we do not know it is harder to pray urgently.
- Do I labor in the fields myself? For each of us, it is pretty easy to justify what we do or do not do in this regard. For years in the street ministry, I have heard Christians make excuses for not sharing the Gospel with the lost personally. It doesn't need to be hard or scary. You can hand a tract to a cashier, or leave one with your tip in a restaurant.

Will you have a part in answering the prayer request of Jesus? Will you pray to the Lord to send forth laborers, and will you be one of them?

“You are either a missionary or a mission field.”