

New Hebron Missionary Baptist Church <u>newhebronlr.org</u> Pastor Rodney E. Smith, Sr. Bible Study

"...from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation..." (2 Tim. 3:15)

Sacrificial Leadership

{1 Corinthians 9:15-18}

One Sunday after church Anthony was riding home with his dad. He loved the peaceful ride with him because his father was his best friend. While they were approaching an intersection a car ran through the red light and almost smashed into the truck. His father instinctively reached out with his right hand to keep Anthony from hitting his head on the dashboard. He gave no thought about himself but his only priority was protecting his son. This is the type of sacrificial attitude that God desires for all of His leaders to display. We must realize that leadership requires us at times to give up comfort and convenience for the glory of God.

v.15) "But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void."

- "But" Paul is making a contrast to his previous claims in the beginning of this chapter. He's stating that he has neglected his rights that should have been afforded to him by the church. {1 Cor. 9:4-7; 1 Cor. 9:11,14}
- He is telling them that the same way they forsake things for the greater good, so does he.
- "better for me to die...make my glorying void" not arrogance or conceit but rather when he preaches it's done without people questioning his motives.

v.16,17) "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! (*) For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me."

- Preaching the gospel was Paul's calling and command, and he couldn't stop preaching if he wanted to. He was driven by a deep seated desire to please the Lord. {Jer. 20:9}
- Has God called and commanded you to do something? Are you willing to honor God and obey His command and use whatever He's given you in His service?

v.18) "What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel."

- Paul will not make the gospel an expense to those who hear it. His job was to feed the flock and not fleece the flock.
- He was not going to urge the Corinthians to do anything to him because it would be a hindrance to the gospel and an abuse of his authority as an apostle.
- Leadership is not about what you can get, it is about what you can give for the sake of the Kingdom. {Jn. 10:12-13}

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