

NONE OF THESE THINGS MOVE ME

Acts 20:17-24

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The truly great men have been those who have had a great goal in life.
 - 1. Abraham called "the father of all them that believe" Rom 4:11 - had a great goal in life Heb 11:8-10
 - 2. Moses took the long view on life Heb 11:24-27
- B. If greatness may be found in men whose goal in life was great, then Paul must be found with this number
 - 1. His goal Phil 3:13,14
 - 2. Didn't consider this his home Phil 3:20,21
- C. When Paul was on his way to Jerusalem and spoke with the Ephesian elders, he spoke of the things that would befall him; but said: "none of these things move me."
 - 1. Paul had his mind set on his goal
 - 2. Nothing on earth could move him from reaching this goal
- D. For discussion today look at some things Paul would not allow to move him from his purpose in life.

DISCUSSION:

I. PHYSICAL AFFLICTIONS 2Cor 11:24-27

- A. Paul was beaten, shipwrecked, stoned, etc, etc
- B. His life was in jeopardy every hour
- C. All these things could not move Paul - but many times little things move us from our goal.
 - 1. Aches & pains sometimes keep us from assembling
 - 2. Ridicule keeps us from teaching
 - 3. Pressure from the world keeps us from standing for Christ - being a child of God

II. FLESHLY APPETITES Rom 7:15-25

- A. Paul buffeted his body to bring it in subjection 1Cor 9:27
- B. Paul was determined that the flesh would not keep him from his goal
- C. See Paul's instructions Rom 12:9; 1Thess 5:22
- D. But are we as determined as Paul?
 - 1. Our desires for material "things" makes us do things we shouldn't
 - 2. Desire for "fun" (recreation) - we participate in many questionable activities and miss the assemblies
 - 3. Desires of the flesh are good in their proper place, but we must control them instead of them controlling us. (eating, drinking, socializing, sexual, etc)

III. WORLDLY POSITION OR HONOR Phil 3:4-11

- A. Paul gives his credentials; but gave it all up for Christ
- B. Many today are not willing to give up worldly position for the sacrificial way of the cross

- 1. Desire for high position sometimes takes precedent over doing right.
 - 2. We sometimes fail to give to God the honor given to us as did Herod Acts 12:20-23
 - 3. Scholastic achievement, sports, etc sometimes are allowed to stand in our way.
 - 4. For the young, the pressure is to achieve (sometimes from parents) and many times right is not considered
- C. Nothing inherently wrong with achieving in most cases, but if we sacrifice truth, right, or service to God to achieve worldly position it becomes sin

IV. FRIENDS AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS Acts 22:3

- A. Notice Paul's early training and influence of friends and family
- B. But when the truth was shown to him, he obeyed
- C. This is not so with many today
 - 1. I would if my husband/wife would
 - 2. My parents were this or that, so I will be
 - 3. My best friends will make fun of me
 - 4. Many in institutional churches because of friends and or family
- D. Remember Matt 10:34-38; Mk 10:28-31

V. STANDING ALONE 2Tim 4:16,17

- A. It is easy to stand in a group, but Paul stood for Christ even when all forsook him
- B. If being forsaken by one's own proves one to be a heretic, then both Jesus and Paul were such.
- C. We must stand for Christ regardless of what others do
 - 1. Many stand as long as the majority stand, but will not stand alone
 - 2. Some just quit rather than "go along" with error and others just conform to the thinking of the crowd, but Paul did neither - he stood alone for Christ

CONCLUSION:

- A. No one ever said standing for Christ was easy 2Tim 3:12
- B. Are you letting yourself be moved away from your goal of serving the Lord to the best of your ability
- C. If so, then resolve now to make a new determined effort to be strong 1Cor 15:58
- D. Don't let anything stand in your way of obeying and serving God now 2Cor 6:2