

Life Worth Living; A Life of Purpose

Acts 20: 18-24

We have set aside today to honor our seniors. Far too often, those who are no longer able to attend are simply forgotten. We live in a society that seems to have turned its back on seniors. Many feel they have nothing profitable to contribute to society. Many times they are viewed as a burden rather than the blessing they truly are!

Have you actually taken the time to sit down with one of these dear saints lately? I can assure you, they are an asset to our unfaithful generation. There is much to be learned from them. As I go into their homes, trying to be a blessing, they always provide the greatest blessing to me.

God placed these particular verses on my heart today. In it we find that Paul is near the end of his 3rd missionary journey. Some may have thought that his work was over, he was getting to old to be effective, and maybe it was time for someone else to take the lead. Paul shares a brief testimony in [V.24](#). He was making preparation to go to Jerusalem. He was aware that bonds and affliction awaited him there, but yet he was determined to follow Jesus. His life made a tremendous impact on others. He was loved by many and hated by multitudes.

I want us to understand that one life can make a difference. [Verse 24](#) reveals several [attributes](#) of a life of influence. Many of the saints here today possess these [attributes](#). I want us to look at: Life Worth Living; A Life of Purpose.

I. A Settled Life (24a) – [But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.](#) Paul was well aware of the potential danger in Jerusalem. He was no stranger to adversity. He had endured his share of persecution – beatings, stoning, and imprisonment. He understood that storms will come to those who live godly in Christ Jesus.

- Notice what he said, “[But none of these things move me](#)”. What a statement! Paul had an Anchor that was sure. He had weathered many storms; his life was built on the Rock. He was settled in his faith.
- We have all faced storms in life. A life that isn’t settled in Jesus, firmly anchored to the Rock, will not endure the storms.

- Now, I have thought much about these dear saints at Fellowship. I know life hasn't always been easy. Many of you have served God faithfully for years in spite of the difficulty. You have that Anchor; the storms that come may rage, but they don't move your faith.

- Let me say to the younger generation, if we are to have a life worth living, we must be settled in the faith. Be absolutely certain of your salvation. You can't live a life for Someone you've never met, that you don't know. Once you have settled your salvation, drive some stakes deep in the faith. You're going to need them; storms will come and test your resolve, [1 Co.15:58 – Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.](#)

I. A Settled Life (24a)

II. A Surrendered Life (24b) – [neither count I my life dear unto myself](#). He was literally saying, "I'm not living for Paul; I'm living for Jesus". He certainly faced things that his flesh didn't enjoy, but he wasn't serving the flesh; he was serving Jesus! Paul understood that it wasn't about him, it was all about Jesus. He was willing to die for the cause of Christ.

- There are many who have walked this road of faith and reached the same conclusion. Those saints that I admire and respect have surrendered themselves to the Lord. They aren't living for self!

- We see far too much of that in America today. What is most important in your life; is it your home, job, or hobbies? Who is most important in your life? Many of us would have to honestly say, "Me." It may be our families, but likely not the Lord. We like to talk spiritual, but really, is Jesus all to you today?

- These dear saints have given of themselves, sacrificed personal desires for the cause of Christ. You can't live a life of purpose if it's all about you! You can't expect everything to be your way or no way. What about what God wants? [Rom.12:1 – I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.](#) [Phil.3:7 – But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.](#) The Lord requires and deserves a surrendered life. There is more, a life worth living is not only:

I. A Settled Life (24a)

II. A Surrendered Life (24b)

III. A Satisfied Life (24c) – [so that I might finish my course with joy](#). Paul was looking forward to finishing his course with joy. But wait a minute; he's heading to Jerusalem, bound in the spirit, and unsure of the future. The Scripture reveals that he wasn't invited into a garden for a picnic. He would face some difficult days.

- I believe that Paul knew that. So why in the world is he talking about joy? Was he crazy or mad? NO, he was satisfied with being wherever God wanted him to be. He wasn't worried about the high priest; he had come face to face with Jesus!
- Notice what he said in [Phil.4:11-13 – Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. \[12\] I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. \[13\] I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me](#). His joy was in the Lord, whether it was in Ephesus or Jerusalem, a prison or a palace, free or bond, it did not matter.
- I promise you these saints would tell you that they are satisfied with Jesus. They haven't enjoyed the riches of this life, but they have enjoyed the riches of the Father. There is a difference in happiness and joy. Happiness is an emotion that comes and goes; it is often short lived. Real joy, being satisfied in Jesus, is a way of life.
- I will never be rich or famous, but I have real joy in my soul that this world knows nothing of! What I've got can't be found in material possessions, it comes from the Lord. Let me give you one more attribute of a life worth living. It is:

I. A Settled Life (24a)

II. A Surrendered Life (24b)

III. A Satisfied Life (24c)

IV. A Secure Life (24d) – [so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God](#). One might have a hard time understanding why Paul was determined to go to Jerusalem. Why would anyone go into a potentially dangerous situation? Paul answers that question for us. His wasn't a personal ministry, one of his own provisions; he had received it from the Lord Jesus.

- How many of you today can say, without a doubt, I know I'm saved? If you can truly say that, you are secure in Jesus! We often associate old age as nearing death. These dear saints have nothing to fear. Hey, when the life is gone from this mortal body, I will have just begun to live! There aren't enough demons in hell to prevent me from living for all eternity.

- Paul wasn't worried about dying in Jerusalem; he knew he would live forever in the New Jerusalem. You can have that secure life also!

I am grateful for the privilege of knowing some dear saints of God. They have made a great impact on my life. I believe many of them have lived a life worth living, a life of purpose.

What about you dear friend? Is your life all it can be for Jesus? If the Lord doesn't return before our time to die, will we have made a difference in the lives of others? The life of a Christian should be a life of joy and satisfaction.

Maybe you need to come and ask the Lord to help you live that life. Maybe you need to seek Him in salvation. Maybe you need to go to one of these dear saints and tell them you love them for the example they've been for you. Won't you mind God?