

Purpose Propelled People

- with apologies & all due respect to Rick Warren...
Characteristics & Commitments of Those Who Keep Going
from Acts 20:22-27

"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

"Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God."
Acts 20:22-27 - NIV

The old saying is that "when the going gets tough, the tough get going." But where do they go & why?
This passage is more than just the record of Paul's crazy commitment. This text also lets us hear and see the heartbeat and mind of one who moves forward into uncertainty – other than the certainty of danger. This gives us an inside feel for what should drive us forward in life, as well as a reminder to move forward in obedience, minimizing the need to look back with regrets. Here are some characteristics and commitments of purpose propelled people; the kind of person I trust you want to be, to the glory of God..

God's Spirit is the Compelling Force in their Life

"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem..." vs. 22

Is your life more Spirit directed or corrected? Does He compel you or do you try to repel Him?

Spend some time in: Romans 8:12-17; Galatians 5:16-2; Ephesians 5:15-33 & Colossians 3.

Uncertainties Do Not Derail Them: not trapped in the "paralysis of analysis"

"...I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there." vs. 22

Paul "knows" a lot. Circle all the "knowing" words in Acts 20:22-27 (know, knowing, consider).

Yet, what does he know he doesn't know. Would that stop or delay you? Do you try to justify not taking steps of faith as avoiding folly? Are you more "ready, aim, fire" or "ready, aim, aim, aim, aim, aim...?"

Difficulties Do Not Deter Them

“I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison & hardships are facing me.” vs. 23

Jesus promised difficulties to all His disciples. He graciously forewarned us and promised to help us.

At his conversion & calling, Paul was told to expect to suffer for Jesus (Acts 9:16). Read Mark 4.

Which character from Pilgrim’s Progress are you most like: Pliable or Faithful?

God’s Calling & His Glory Are Their Life

“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race & complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me --the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.” vs. 24

Paul told the Philippians, for him to live was _____, to die was _____ (Phil. 1:19-26)

Talk about a focused man on a mission. What purpose are you living for and willing to die for?

What race do you HAVE to finish, what task do you HAVE to complete? Are you still in the race, on the job?

Obedience Minimizes Their Regrets

“Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.” vs. 26, 27

How clean are your hands? See Ezk. 33:9; Luke 9:23; 12:4-12; 21:12-19; 24:26; Acts 14:22.

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