

Sermon Outline with References

Acts 26:29

'I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains' — Acts 26:29

I. The Christian's Desire for Revival**A. Context of the Passage****B. Doctrines from the Text**

- 1) There is a need for salvation (Isa 5:20)
- 2) Salvation is the work of God not man
- 3) The Christian's desire is for the salvation of all (Ezk 33:11)
- 4) The Christian's desire is for the maturity of all Christians (Pr 9:9)

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) Self-Examination
- 2) This is a matter we must take first to the Lord in prayer (Psa 127:1)
- 3) Be diligent in sharing the Gospel

II. The Certainty of the Progress of the Gospel**A. Exposition of the Text****B. Doctrines from the Text**

- 1) The means of the progress of the Gospel (Zech 4:6)
- 2) The Gospel will advance progressively (Mt 13:31-32)
- 3) The Gospel will advance entirely (Mt 13:33; Isa 11:9b)
- 4) This work will be thorough
 - a) All enemies destroyed (1 Cor 15:25-26)
 - b) All aspects of life touched (Isa 11:6-8)

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) We are to pray with certainty (LC 191)
- 2) We are to live with patience (Zech 4:10)
- 3) We are to be diligent in what the Lord has given us to do

III. The Christian's Desire for the Flourishing of the Church**A. Exposition of the Text**

- 1) Paul's chains (Acts 24:30; 2 Cor 11:33-38)
- 2) His desire was that others would not endure such suffering
 - a) Which is unpleasant to the one suffering
 - b) Which hinders freedom to minister

B. Doctrines from the Text

- 1) Not that Christians fear suffering and death for Christ's sake (Jn 16:33)
- 2) Not that the Church will be devoid of suffering and death for Christ's sake (Jn 15:19-21)
- 3) It is good that Christians should live quiet and godly lives (1 Thes 4:11-12)
- 4) It is good that the Church should experience great purity, unity and peace (Psa 122:6-8)
- 5) It is good that the state should experience the blessings which accompany Christianity (Pr 14:34)

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) We are to be prepared for suffering in these days
- 2) We should pray that the Lord would prevent such through the means of the spread of the Gospel
- 3) We should pursue quiet and godly life (Jer 29:4-7)
- 4) We are to beware the common temptation of complacency in times of peace (Amos 6:1a)
- 5) We are to beware the common temptation of quarrelsomeness within the Church which may occur in times of peace (Jdg 19-21)
- 6) We are to do all we can to maintain the purity, unity and peace of the Church
- 7) We are not to shy away from the societal blessings of the Christian faith and life, but are to desire those for not only our benefit and that of our posterity, but also for the good of our neighbour. (Psa 33:12a; Isa 2:2-5)