

THAT THEY MAY BE SAVED

1 Corinthians 10:32-33 “I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.”

St. Paul was a passionate missionary. He literally traveled much of the then known world to spread the Gospel. He boldly proclaimed Jesus Christ as Savior of the world even though doing so brought about his imprisonment and eventually a martyr's death. 1 Corinthians 10:32-33 is evidence of how far he was willing to give up his own rights for the sake of the salvation of unbelievers, “I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.”

How passionate are you in spreading the Gospel? Do you sacrifice your own rights for the sake of creating a relationship with men, women and children who do not believe in Jesus as their personal Savior? How does your personal biography (life story) match up with St. Paul's? Here are some highlights from his missionary life: 1) Shipwrecked three times; 2) arrested three times which led to a total of roughly five and one-half years of his life spent in custody either waiting for a trial or held in prison until he is martyred; 3) Paul earned money making tents, in order to support himself in his real ministry of witnessing to Christ. Acts 18:1-4.

The Holy Spirit created faith in your heart to receive God's forgiveness of your sins and give you the promise of eternal life. This is not where God wants your personal biography to end. Peter wrote in 1 Peter 3:14-15 “Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...” Jesus says, “. . . you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

When Peter and John were ordered to stop preaching and teaching about Jesus they replied, “. . . for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:20) Read the hymn below which gives you ideas how you can tell others of the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, fill my heart and mouth with the words of the Gospel to share with others and grant me the faith to then boldly do so for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Hark, the voice of Jesus crying, "Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting—Who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I, send me, send me"?

If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus, You can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked With the Judgment's dread alarms,
You can lead the little children To the Savior's waiting arms.

If you cannot be a watchman, Standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven, Off'ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties You can do what God demands;
You can be like faithful Aaron, Holding up the prophet's hands.

Let none hear you idly saying, "There is nothing I can do,"
While the souls of men are dying And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly, Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth, "Here am I, send me, send me!"
(TLH 496)