

was continually overwhelmed by the goodness and graciousness of God toward him and he wanted all his friends, acquaintances, and fellow Jews to find the Savior. His heartbeat was, by any means he could, to reach as many people as he could, as quickly as he could. He really cared.

Let me ask this question: "Do you really care?" Just like in the life of Paul, it is a matter of the heart. In this passage Paul shares at least three things that ruled his heart.

1) A Heart for the Truth .

Paul begins in verse 1 by saying, "I am speaking the truth." He was all about the truth. As Saul of Tarsus, his heart truth was to deal with those of "the way" who were perverting the world and religion, and thus needed to be squelched since Jesus, the imposter, was dead. After being confronted on the Damascus road with the eternal truth of a living Lord Jesus, Paul understood the truth and he became more passionate about it than ever before.

a. God's love compels us.

It is difficult to fully comprehend how when we were sinful, outside of God's grace, and rebellious, God still loved us. God's love poured out of heaven into a manger in Bethlehem, flooded the hill called Calvary, and continues to be poured out into our hearts today. It is a love that requires action, invokes relationship, and inspires change (2 Corinthians 5:14). The word "compels" literally means to urge us or press us forward in order to communicate to the world God's truth.

b. God's love captivates us.

When we truly sense God's love poured out into our hearts, we become overwhelmed by the enormity of it. The strength and determination of God's love is so massive that once experienced, nothing can separate us from it. When we get a clear understanding of and experience in God's love, we will be captivated. It is very similar to the great love stories of literature. In the story of Romeo and Juliet, they shared a captivating romantic love. It carried them to an untimely death.

c. God's love converts us.

This may come as a surprise, but people are all different. For some, they respond by seeing on the cross exactly how much God loves them. For others, they respond to seeing the cross in terms of how God deals with sin. Still others respond to a combination of these two truths. But make no mistake, it was not God's desire to punish sin and offer judgment that prompted Calvary. Calvary is God's display of love. The truth is that God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus into the world while we were sinful to pay the required price for our sins. Out of His great love He saves us.

It seems that our society is infatuated with an aversion to truth. Half-truths, deceit, and dishonesty are all in vogue. For the past few years, we have all been frustrated by national politics. Who of us knows what to believe and whom to trust? When truth is not center-stage, then the entirety of society is fragile because the foundation of trust is gone. One of the results of this type of fracture is "apathy." Think about it. When truth is relative, nothing or no one can really be trusted, confidence is non-existent, security is lost, and apathy sets in because "what's the use?"

This could explain the sentiment of apathy in the US today. The George Barna group tells us that 40% of evangelicals do not believe in absolute truth. Is it any wonder that baptisms, church membership, and attendance are down? A heart for the truth seeks to understand and know these reasons.

2) A Heart for the lost .

Paul heads the list of all the people we can name who is focused on winning the lost and discipling the saved. He, like Jesus, was all about reaching people. By looking at verses 2-4 we discover;

a. An uncompromised conscience .

Paul made it clear in the latter part of verse 1 that believes a person's conscience is a very helpful tool, but he also teaches, writes, and believes that a person conscience can be damaged or destroyed. Young Timothy was pastoring a church that was giving him a very difficult time. When Paul wrote his first letter to this young man, he spoke of the damaged conscience in chapter 4:2. He uses the word "seared." In most translations it is accompanied by the graphic description of a "hot iron", "a branding iron", or a "heated iron." You see, lying (and sin) makes the conscience scarred and insensitive. To really care we must have a sensitive heart, a heart for truth, and a heart for lost people. Sin damages our conscience.

b. An uncommon concern .

Paul uses words like "intense sorrow" and "continual anguish" to describe his inner emotions about his fellows Jews being saved. How long has it been since you have fretted over someone's salvation? How concerned are we that someone in our family, our list of friends, or our acquaintances, is outside of grace? Jesus was concerned about all and the call for us is to be concerned.

c. An unchanging commitment .

Paul doesn't stop his words with just conscience and concern. He raises the stakes to the level of commitment. He writes an unbelievable thought, saying, "I could wish I were lost, if it meant my brothers would be saved." What a huge commitment. Paul has such a desire to see his countryman saved that he would literally sacrifice his own life for their benefit. He was committed to it. He would give all.

3) A Heart for the Savior .

We have already discussed the compelling, converting, and captivating love of God, but in this understanding is the big question; Do you have a heart for Him? Today, we can have a heart for many things and they can be good things, but they are not Him. We can a heart for our church, our buildings, our class, our small group, our choir, or any of the hundreds of good and great things which are part of the body of Christ. However, when these things capture our heart, we have missed the best. It's Jesus. Quickly, think with me about Jesus, our Savior.

a. The only one .

Jesus is the only one who could die for our sin. He is God's only Son, given for God's only ones, and that is you and me. Without Him, we have no hope.

b. The only hope .

It is sad to say but most of us have seriously forgotten what it is like to feel hopeless. The writer of our current Sunday School series told the story of being swept off the boat while moving an oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico. He found himself in the water, in a storm, and the boat could not stop to look for him. After an hour or so in the water, he came to grips with the fact that he was probably going to die out there. Relaxed, trying to stay afloat, nearly two hours after falling into the water, a rescue boat came after him. It took them a while to find him, and his strength was entirely gone. But he was saved. He went from hopelessness to the peace of knowing it was going to be all right. We've forgotten that feeling of hopelessness.

c. The only way .

In our multicultural society, many have bought into the mindset of universalism. Why is this so? Because it has been so subtly worked into society and the church. Jesus is still the only way.

Conclusion

So the question I ask us today is this; "What do I care about?" or "Who do I care about?" Our hearts are swayed by so many things. We cry when our dog gets run over, but are unmoved by our friend who is outside of Christ. Parents shed tears when their daughter comes down the aisle to be married and are insensitive about her not coming down the aisle to be saved. The question is, "Do we really care?" The Apostle Paul cared.

A hymn from the 1975 Baptist Hymnal asks that question. Listen to the words.

Do You Really Care?

Revived to Sing

Did you enjoy the Senior Revival? We hosted the first session last Sunday afternoon, and thank you to all for doing your part to make sure things went well. Our people served faithfully, the lite lupper (meal between lunch and supper) was a good time of food and fellowship, and overall, Calvary people attended all the sessions well. While the attendance was down some over last year's numbers, they were still good meetings. The preaching was awesome and the music was ... well, it was an animated blessing! Bud and Barbara Lee are such great servants. I hope you grew to love and appreciate them for their service and sincere hearts.

Why do the people of God sing when we gather? Congregational singing is part of what we do when we gather as believers. It is a very important part. But what is its value? Why do we make it a priority? Why do we sing? Because we have something worth singing about!

Have you received any good news lately? Someone recently shared good news with me. Actually, it was better than good news – it was terrific news. When the magnitude of the news soaked in to my heart and mind, I let out a shout! It was a heartfelt, exuberant, fervent expression that came from the joy of the news I'd received. As the people of God, we live in the reality of wonderful news. We have eternal truth about our great God and Savior and who we are in Him.

Here's some wonderful news worth singing about:

- * We are loved by God with His everlasting love.
- * We've been saved by grace through faith.
- * We have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- * We are his workmanship.
- * He has brought us from the domain of darkness to the Kingdom of His Beloved Son.
- * He has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.
- * We are sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.

Our singing is an expression of our unity in the gospel. We sing together because we belong to one another (Romans 12:5). We sing what we believe, and it becomes a shared proclamation of the Gospel. Our singing is "one-anothering." Scripture tells us to "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16).

It is a foretaste of the day when we will express our worship unhindered. Our singing together is a glimpse of our eternal future together when our worship is pure and we cry out, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (Revelation 5:13). May our fervent worship through singing cause us to long all the more for that day!

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, October 9, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am
Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship.....10:30 am
Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbrough, Joseph Coats, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Evening Worship..... 6:30 pm

Wednesday, October 12

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am
Youth Study..... 6:30 pm
Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm
Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, October 13

R Team.....6:30 pm

Sunday, October 16, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am
Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship.....10:30 am
Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel, Kirkpatrick, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship..... 6:30 pm

Tuesday, October 18

SJBA Stewardship / Leadership Dinner 6:30 pm

Wednesday, October 19

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm
Prayer/Bible Study 6:30 pm
Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, October 20

O Team.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

October 10 — Columbus Day

October 12 — Prayer Warriors 10:00 am

October 16 — Collect for Food Pantry

October 18 — Stewardship Leadership Dinner, Copeland, 6:30 pm

October 20 — Food Pantry Day

October 23 — Diversicare 2:30 pm

October 24-26 — Missouri Baptist Annual Meeting, St. Charles, MO

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

Sunday Nights

We will have Sunday Evening Service here tonight. Hope to see you here at 6:30.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We will meet Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Come to Pray!

Volunteers Needed

For the past several years our Card Ministry has been fulfilled by Maxine Ferbert. She now feels it is time for her to pass that along to someone else. Thank You, Maxine, for your faithful service. Is God calling you to this ministry?

Also, the Nominating Committee will soon be calling asking members to serve in a variety of capacities in the ministry of our church. Prayerfully consider serving!

Just a Reminder ...

The whole month of October is **Pastor Appreciation Month**. Please let Pastor Allan and Ellen know how much they are appreciated and loved!

Food Pantry Collection

Next Sunday, October 16, is our collection day for Patee Park Food Pantry. If you would like to donate dry or canned goods you may do so by placing your grocery items in the basket in the hallway. You can also donate monetarily if you would rather. Thank you for your willingness to give.

Diversicare Nursing Home

October 23, 2016

2:30 pm

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

Stewardship Leadership Dinner

This SJBA Annual event will be October 18, 6:30 pm, at Copeland Baptist Church. Let Bro. Allan know if you are willing to attend.

Thank You!

Last Sunday as we hosted the Senior Adult Revival, many helped make our part a huge success. Thanks to Shirley and the kitchen ladies, the ushers, and Bro. Tim for running the sound. The entire week was such a blessing for all who were able to attend.

For the Record

Sunday School.....	46
Visitors.....	1
Total.....	47
Contacts Made.....	7
Morning Worship.....	53
Children's Worship.....	7
Sunday Night	65
Wednesday Night	9

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received ...	\$ 2,962.70
MMO Received	\$ 1,805.00

Offering Received by Mail:

October Counting Team:

Don Beavers and Daniel Waters

October Van Driver:

Mike Green

Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

October Birthdays:

03...Don Hart
08...Brigida Winans
09...Elvera Crow
10...Fred Kerns
10...Jaden Schottel
14...Dillon Burgess
18...David Schottel
18...Abby Sutton
19...Caitlyn Schottel
22...Angie Liechti
28...Ellen Lane
31...Tim Izer

October Anniversaries

Mike and Martha Green
October 1, 2005

Prayer Requests ...

Larry Danner—cancer treatment
Cynthia Burdick—cancer treatment
Jim Winans—living community
Maxine and George Ferbert—strength
David Schottel—knee replacement
Karissa and Matt Long

Nellie Reynolds—strength
Betty Campbell—healing
Pat Puckett—eyes, healing
Marcia and Don Hart—future plans
Audrey Dugan—strength
Sue Higgins—regain strength
Robbie Hutcherson, Loleta's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Buddy Means—Mary Sharp's nephew
Ellen Blanton and Lois Ulmer—
 Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law
Stella Davis and Linda Rails—Doris
 Richardson's sisters
Audrey Dugan Bob Barquist
Kathryn Beavers Ann Riddle
Louanne Laurence Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Leona Reynolds
Kevin Duty Kenny Duty
Madeline Swink Bobby Griswold
Bill Haskins Debbie Sands
Brenda Burgess Judy Anderson
Carolyn Houts Roscoe Lane
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People

Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
