

“The Marks Of A Sold Out Life”

Let’s take a look at Paul tonight.

I love the Apostle Paul.

He is the absolute greatest example of how God can grab hold of a life on the wrong road and completely transform and change its direction to the point that it changed the world around him for the Glory of God.

It gives me hope that God can take my mess and do the same thing.

Everywhere Paul went he made an impact!

Paul’s life was literally turned upside down after his encounter with the Living God.

His life and ministry became so radical and over the edge that it caused issues with other church leaders over some of his unorthodox ways.

And He lived this radical right up to the very end of his life.

Paul’s final address:

In his letter to Timothy-

Paul is writing from prison.

He knows that the curtain of his life is about to come down.

The final act is about to be played out.

The stage lights are about to go dark....

and he writes....

2 Timothy 4:6-8

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

What makes a man declare those kind of words with such confidence?

What can make us declare those same words with the same confidence?

Two words! **SOLD OUT**

Paul was sold out to the service of Jesus Christ!

"Sold Out" – what does that *really* mean?

When I say something is sold out, what does that mean to you?

If you went to the store and the clerk said “we are sold out” what is he saying?

As Christians we often hear that phrase spoken in church. In fact I heard it spoken by pastor during one of the prayer meetings last week and by him many times before that.

He will be preaching and ask us...

- Are you sold out?
- Do you want to be sold out?
- And shouts of “yes” come from all over the sanctuary!!!!

But what are we really being asked here?

What are we really yelling “yes” and “Hallelujah” to?

I wonder sometimes if we really give thought to those responses when we say them?

Or are we caught up in the emotion of the moment.

When the Lord first began to show me this I at first thought it was a message for leaders, ministers, or those in ministry.

But this message is for anyone who would dare make the declaration... “I am a Christian”

So what does sold out really mean?

it means...

- You have no private reserve or stock left in the back room of your life.
- No secret stash hidden away to be kept for another time.
- EVERY bit of your stock has been brought up front and "purchased".

There is NOTHING left to be purchased.

Out of the word sold comes sell.

Sell out is - to dispose of entirely by selling.

God brought three words to mind that can be associated with sold or sell out.

I want to look at those tonight and help us get a better understanding.
Maybe challenge us all to come up a notch.

How many know everyone of us can benefit to come up a notch in our spiritual walk?

THE FIRST WORD IS

1. Purchase or Purchased

You cannot be sold out without there being the transaction of a purchase!

Purchase means: to acquire by payment for equivalent value.

Acquire means to come into possession or ownership of; get as one's own

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- We have been purchased by God!
- We now belong to Him!
- We are no longer our own.

What does that mean? No longer our own?

Paul had an understanding of this.

HERE'S THE SECOND WORD ASSOCIATED WITH SOLD OUT...

2. Spend or Spent

In talking to the church at Corinth and his ministry to them Paul mentions willing to be "spent".

2 Corinthians 12:15

And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.

Contemporary English Version:

So I will gladly give all that I have and all that I am. Will you love me less for loving you too much?

Spent means: to pay out, disburse, or expend; dispose of (money, wealth, resources, etc.): to **use up, consume, or exhaust**: to give (one's blood, life, etc.) for some cause.

What Paul is saying is I am **gladly** willing to be *used up* for you.
I am willing to be *consumed* and *exhausted* for you!

Exhaust means: to drain of strength or energy, wear out completely, or fatigue greatly.

BUT Consume means to waste, destroy, swallow up, totally engulf or devour!

I don't know about you, but it gives me a whole new perspective on "Our God is a consuming fire!"

- I wonder if we are willing to say that to the Lord?
- "Lord, I'm willing to wear out completely for you!"
- "I'm willing to drain all of my strength and energy for you!"
- "I'm willing to be wasted, engulfed and destroyed by you"
- Or can we say it to those he calls us to serve?

That's a death sentence!

No wonder Paul wrote to the Galatians:

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who **live**, but Christ **lives** in me; and the life which I now **live** in the flesh I **live** by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Pretty much what we say most is ...

- “Lord I’m too tired to do that”
- “I feel worn out today”
- “I’m too exhausted to get involved with ministry”
- “I’ll donate \$10 instead”
- “I’ve got to save some time and energy for myself”

OUCH! OUCH! OUCH! I felt that!

Don’t let be selfish. Allow me to share the pain with you.

Because look- after all this you have to come to the truthful conclusion that being sold out to Jesus means you **WILL** be depleted!

Not might be...**WILL** be.

It’s no wonder Paul also penned these words:

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for **My strength is made perfect in weakness.**” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

We often talk a lot about balance.

We say we need to balance play and work.

We need to balance ministry and personal time.

In fact I’ve talked about it a lot myself.

But I have to tell you as the Lord has unfolded this to me, lately I've been re-thinking on that and I realize that while God is a God of balance in some things, he is also a God of extreme in others.

- Redemption was EXTREME!
- The cross was a “sell out”
- Jesus exhausted and spent himself completely to purchase us
- There was no balance in what he did for us!
- It was radical, over the top, over the edge and unorthodox!
- Jesus did not keep any inventory reserve for himself in the back room.
- He sold himself out to redeem us!
- **Everything** was spent to purchase us!

THAT'S WHAT SOLD OUT IS!

The third word that comes to my mind is...

3. Sacrifice

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

living sacrifice.

Sacrifice means: to sell or give away at a loss: To surrender or give up, or permit injury or disadvantage to, for the sake of something else.

The surrender or destruction of something prized or desirable **for the sake of something considered as having a higher or more pressing claim and value.**

Philippians 2:17

Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

Sacrifice has great cost with it.

It is expensive!

Yet at least 3 times already we have heard Paul say glad or gladly.

He found spending his life for Christ a privilege not a duty or drudgery.

I have come to realize (the hard way) there are two games that God does not play.

He does not play “Let’s make a deal”

He does not play “The price is right”

Those are games we play.

God- I’ll do this if you do that

God- I’ll do that if it only costs such and such but doesn’t cost me anymore than that!

Those games don’t work if you want to be sold out!

Sold out doesn’t make deals.

Sold out doesn’t negotiate the price or the cost!

Its one price fits all! EVERYTHING!

I know this whole lesson can leave you exhausted.

But let me take you back to the final act of Paul’s life.

.⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

⁸Finally...

THERE IS A FINALLY COMING!

He wrote: “I have finished the race!”

Friends, we are in the Last Stretch of the Race!

This thing is almost over!

Here’s what happens in the last stretch...

- The runner is focused!
- He exerts every ounce of strength he has to keep going!
- Now is NOT the time to slow down!
- Now is NOT the time to drop back!
- He is Sold Out!
- He will exhaust himself till the end of the race!

Quitting is NOT an option for the sold out Christian!
Resignation is NOT an option for the sold out Christian!

Every ounce of energy must be spent to cross the finish line!

Here's some good news... There is REST on the other side.
Once the runner crosses the line he can stop running!
He can fall on his face and catch his breath!

What a day that will be when my Jesus I shall see!

Hebrews 4:1

Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

Hebrews 4:9

There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.

THERE IS A REST THAT AWAITS US!

One day this race will be over.

One day this fight will be over.

One day I can "Lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside."

But for right now.

I need to keep running.

I need to keep pressing.

I need to keep fighting.

And I need to be SOLD OUT!