

"How To Avoid Becoming a Castaway Christian"

Text: I Cor. 9:24-27

Intro:

- The Apostle Paul instructs us in how to avoid becoming a castaway Christian.
- Definition: Castaway - thrown away rejected.
- In other words, a Christian who is no use, or non-effective in their witness for Christ.
- A Christian who is of no use to God.
- In life whatever, it might be if it is useless, no longer operating the way it should, then we usually throw it away.
- E.G., Refrigerator, TV, Automobile
- The same way with Christians, who have lost their effectiveness for Christ.
- They become a castaway.
- Don't lose their salvation but lose their testimony.
- The Apostle Paul provides us some preventive measures that we can take to avoid being a castaway Christian.

I. KEEP UNDER MY BODY.

- Christians always blaming either the devil or the world for their problems.
 - Majority of the time it is the lust of flesh and the fulfilling the desires of the flesh that defeats the Christian.
 - See James 1:13-15 - Must remember our flesh is unsaved.
 - All through the scriptures, the Christian is warned about the flesh.
 - See Gal. 5:16-17 & Gal. 6:7-8
 - Romans ~~6:11-13~~, 7:18, & 8:5-8.
 - Colossians 3:5-10, 12-14
 - To avoid being a castaway, the Christian must learn to keep his body under.
- How do we accomplish this?
- 1) Crucify the old flesh - Gal 2:20 - Let Christ live through you.
 - 2) Reckon your flesh dead - Rom. 6:6-11.
 - 3) Live a discipline life, one of sacrifice.
 - Notice from the word discipline, we get disciple.
 - Luke 9:23, Jesus instructs us how to live a discipline life or how to be a disciple. *of his*
 - A lot of people saved but not really disciples of Christ.
 - Luke 9:23 - "deny himself" - sacrifice, going to cost you something, the flesh doesn't like.
 - "and take up his cross daily" - indicates sacrifice is to be on a daily basis not just once and awhile. *Religious - diet*
 - "follow me" - a lot of unsaved folk sacrifice on a daily basis but for the Christian our focus is to follow the leader - the Lord Jesus Christ. *③ animal instinct*
 - He is our example in everything on how we are to live. *worship creation environment put creation Mother-earth*

4) Live a life of moderation, temperance, self-control

- Temperance is a fruit of the Holy Spirit - Gal. 5:23
- Paul said in Phil. 4:4-5 - "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand."

- To avoid becoming a castaway Christian - not only to keep the body or flesh under but also # 2.

II. "BRING IT INTO SUBJECTION"

- This indicates that our flesh should be subject to something.
- Something should rule or have authority over our stinken flesh.
- That is exactly what it is stinken flesh.
- Paul calls it "our vile body" in Phil. 3:21.
- The question is what should our flesh be in submission to?
- Not itself - the results would be disastrous.
- "For the wages of sin is death"
- Works of the flesh - Gal. 5:19-21
- If not the flesh, then there is only one other alternative, the Holy Spirit.
- Our body or flesh should be in submission to the Spirit.

- Why?
 - 1) Jesus said it is the spirit that quickeneth; (makes alive), the flesh profiteth nothing.
 - 2) Bible says about the heart - Jer. 17:9. *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it.*
 - 3) Bible tells us in Rom. 8:8-9 that we can't please God in the flesh.
 - 4) Holy Spirit produces fruit in our life - Gal. 5:22-26.
 - 5) Holy Spirit guides into all truth - John 16:13
- When the Holy Spirit is guiding your life, you know that you can't go wrong.

- Two things to avoid becoming a Castaway Christian -
 - 1) Keep under your body
 - 2) Bring it into subjection - allow the Holy Spirit to control.

- We want to notice I Cor 9:27
- Paul says - "lest that by any means, when I have preached to others,"
- We want to notice "any means"
- I believe the Apostle Paul is telling us that there is more than one way to preach the "Gospel" than by giving someone the plan of salvation orally.
- The Christian preaches to others in the way he conducts his life.
- Paul tells us in II Cor. 3:2 that the Christian is like an open letter for all to read.
- "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men."
- The world watches the way we speak, our manner (how we treat other people), how we conduct our business, how we dress.
- That is why the Apostle Paul exhorts all Christians in I Thess. 5:22 to "Abstain from all appearance of evil"

- Someone may never read the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Bible but they should see the Gospel of Christ being reflected in the way we live our life.

• I believe if we as Christians do what Paul tells us in I Cor. 9:27

1) Keep under my body - crucify that flesh daily.

2) Bring it unto subjection - under the control of the Holy Spirit - complete submission to Christ.

- avoid being a castaway Christian - no use to God

- Christians have a big Lordship problem.
- Jesus Christ is their Saviour but not Lord over their life. - **See Romans 12:1-2.**
- If we do this, then avoid being a castaway Christian.
- Let me ask you a question are you a castaway Christian?
- Has God put you on a shelf?
- Because you would rather give in to the sinful desires of the flesh rather than the heavenly desires of the Spirit?