

## Seven Things That Ought to be Dear To Christians, and Why

Acts 20:17-27

### I. Introduction (Acts 20:24)

- ⇒ Few things in this life are precious (dear) - like Family, True Friends
- ⇒ But the Apostle Paul here goes beyond these things, and lists for us what really ought to be dear and precious unto us!

### II. Some Things That Ought NOT Be Dear To Christians (Acts 20:22-24)

- ⇒ **The Immediate Future** (Acts 20:22; Rom 8:35-39)
- ⇒ **Persecutions and Troubles** (Acts 20:23; Phil 1:29)
  - If Christ suffered so should we
- ⇒ **Your Life Itself** (Acts 20:24; Luke 17:33)

• Paul not concern what going to happen to him in Jerusalem -  
Why because knew nothing could separate him from the love of God True of us to!  
→ This going to happen

### III. Seven Things That Ought To Be Dear To Christians, and Why

#### ⇒ **Our Salvation - Our Forgiveness**

- Paul never got over what happened to him that day on the road to Damascus.
  - His salvation was so good that he loved to tell about it again and again (Acts 13:38-39)
- Peter never got over his conversion (2 Pet 1:1[precious faith]) - it was precious to him.

→ ought to be dear to us!

- Everybody who has ever been saved, first realizes just how wicked they were in God's eyes.
- Paul had been above reproach in the eyes of the Jews, but his own righteousness was filthy in the sight of God - as is all ours!
- Everybody who has been born again went only to Christ (**John 14:6**),
  - ↳ Not to anyone else, and claimed the forgiveness and eternal life that waited for them simply because of the cross and not their own efforts!
- Finally, everyone who is a true Christian *knows so* -
  - Once they surrendered to the saving power of Jesus Christ, they never were the same -
  - Not perfect, but brand-new on the inside, with heaven as their home, the Holy Spirit as their guide, the Bible as their torch, and the Lord Jesus as their Friend!!!
- If you can find something better than that... I'd like to know about it!

⇒ **The Simplicity of the New Testament Local Church - Our Family, *→ ought to be dear to us!* The Fellowship of Believers (Acts 20:17-20)**

- Not a "organization," or an ornate building, but rather a group of people that are themselves saved, and committed to spreading the good news of forgiveness by faith in Christ, to all the world!

- It has **People**, who are the church - Saints (**Eph 1:1**)
  - It has a **Pastor (Acts 20:17 [elders])**, someone who lives with them, lives like them, and guides them by the Bible.
  - It has a **Pre-eminent Focus - serving the Lord (Acts 20:19)** not just people!
    - o I don't serve you, but God first, and seek to get everyone in this room to serve Him too, every day of every week, no matter the tears and troubles!
  - And it has the **Preaching and Teaching** of the word of God (**Acts 20:20**), both publicly, and in homes (discipleship).
    - o And that's ALL!
  - Watch out for "churches" that emphasize music, entertainment, clergy and hierarchy, education, novenas, candles, or anything above the MESSAGE!
- ought to be clear for us!*
- ⇒ **The Saviour - Our Friend (Acts 20:21["faith toward Jesus Christ"]; 1 Pet 2:3-7["which believe he is precious"])**
- If you are saved, you have a *personal*, living relationship with the very One who loved you and gave himself for you!
  - There is NO ONE that I love more than He... NOT Mohammed, Joseph Smith, Buddha, Mary, Mother Theresa .
    - o NO ONE ELSE LOVES ME LIKE JESUS!
  - Paul's love was all wrapped up in ONE person, his Saviour (**Phil 3:7-10**)!
- listen to what he said*

- Many hearts are empty this morning because they have no depth to their relationship with Jesus –
  - No prayer time at all,
  - No desire to study His Word,
  - No commitment to tithing and obeying God's word - so they are miserable
- And yet, Jesus is the abiding friend, Lily of the valley, Rose of Sharon, Joy Unspeakable, the Friend of sinners –
  - Who would want to throw that away?!  
     ➔ *ought to be dear to us!*
- ⇒ **Soul Winning - Our Focus (Acts 20:21-26)** - this is where our love is serious.
- We can say we treasure our relationship with Christ, but this shows it!
- Soul-winning is our desire to “testify” - tell what Jesus does for sinners!
- The message is, and always has been: Repentance toward God (realise you have broken His laws, and are guilty), then have Faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ (surrender to His saving power)!
- ***That's it!*** Anything more than that, and you have a **false** Gospel that cannot save anybody! Only religion.

- Soul-winning drives Christians to go to the uttermost parts of this world, at any cost - in the face of threats and persecutions  
(Acts 20:22-25): - *Paul wonderful example of this -*
- o Because people are lost in their sins - even if they are religious.
- o Just as there is a heaven, there also is a hell!
- o Nothing diverts Christians from telling people God's truth - from completing the ministry we all have!
- o Because someone reached out to me - I am debtor to tell someone else!
- o Because our Lord commanded us to **GO (Mark 16:15)**
- o Every Christian in this room has a ministry - to tell someone "Jesus saves!"
- o To testify that He has saved you, and is coming again soon!
- o It is not a drudgery, but a delight - something treasured and enjoyed!
- Notice that we are responsible for whether or not people know about this Saviour (Acts 20:26) - you better stay in motion Christian, and tell somebody!

*→ ought to be dear to us!*

⇒ **The Sure Word of God - Our Foundation (Acts 20:27; Ps 119:97; Ps. 1:2; 2 Pet 1:19).**

- It is unbelievable, but modern day "Christianity" is ignorant of this Book - believed a lie that it has to be updated, changed, and have words added before it is worthy of your time and effort to memorize and meditate in!

- ~~Up until 150 years ago~~, it cost people their lives just to own a copy of this Book!

- And they gladly risked their lives because it is not the words of philosophers, or pop-artists, or princes or popes, but of God Himself!

- Every Christian's foundation is NOT the church - it is NOT your good works - it is NOT your prayers that get you through each day - we are kept, and protected by every word of God!

- The greatest treasure in this universe besides Christ Himself is that Book you hold in your hands! - AV 1611, The King James Bible

→ ought to be dear to us!

⇒ **The Shed Blood of Jesus Christ - Our Fountain (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 1:18,19)**

- Because of the blood of Jesus Christ your conscience can be clear today
- Because of the blood of Christ, if you are saved, you have direct access to the Father, the Creator, the Lover of your soul!
- That blood is STILL THERE in heaven - it has never lost its power to save, and sanctify!

ought to - be done  
to us!

⇒ **The Second Coming of Jesus Christ - Our Finish! (2 Tim 4:6-8)**

- We treasure things that matter –
  - Like fighting the good fight,
  - Finishing our race (course),
  - Staying true to God and not wavering and backsliding.
  - All so that at our finish, when we see Christ, we will hear Him say “Well done” and receive something that will make everything worth it all - *a crown!*
- But Christians need to be warned,
  - That if we get so sidetracked,
  - And get so imbalanced,
  - Then we will forfeit the treasure, the blessing,
  - The honor of hearing those words “Well done”
  - And will instead be ashamed of the wasted life we lived only for ourselves!
- Are you looking forward to that day?
  - If not, maybe you have nothing to look forward to,
  - Maybe you are not saved, and have no sure home in heaven,
  - No joy of salvation because it hasn't happened to you yet - it can!

### III. Conclusion

⇒ We have looked at seven things that ought to <sup>be</sup> DEAR to a Christian

- **Our Salvation - Our Forgiveness Our Precious Faith**
- **The Simplicity of the New Testament Local Church - Our Family, The Fellowship of Believers**
- **The Saviour - Our Friend**
- **Soul Winning - Our Focus**
- **The Sure Word of God - Our Foundation**
- **The Shed Blood of Jesus Christ - Our Fountain**
- **The Second Coming of Jesus Christ - Our Finish!**

⇒ My friend the question is

- Are they DEAR to you?