

Truths About Faith 1 Cor. 15.29-35 CTW: Mat 5.13-16

In our journey through this letter, we saw that Paul had been giving the Corinthians reasons for the faith from a logical point of view. Now this morning Paul's letter is giving the Corinthians reasoning not from logic, but by appealing to their experiences. And as he does, there are some truths that can be applied from their lesson to our lives.

1. Faith is Personal – 29

- a. Some were confused, coming from non-Christian thoughts, of purpose of baptism, and therefore faith.
- b. They practiced proxy baptism, such as if I were baptized for my grandmother so she would be saved.
- c. Yet my faith cannot be source of salvation for you, nor can yours be mine. We are Christian not by birth or culture, but by determined acceptance of God's gift.
- d. Yet same time, it is not for us to sit on, but for us to share with our neighbors, our children, our parents and even siblings.
- e. Now being so open, so "narrow-minded" if you will, can be intimidating, but

2. Blessings are worth the risks by far. – 30-32

- a. 2 thoughts to these verses. 1 is NIV, Paul puts himself in personal danger, whereas others translate this as Paul is in danger from being a Christian.
- b. Though both views viable, putting himself in danger is more logical, as he would wrestle with the non-Christian philosophies and rhetoric of that day, like he were a lion.
- c. Thus the picture is to see them come to faith in Christ, to see God working in their lives, it is worth literally the death he has come close to countless times.
- d. Are we as excited? Do we get excited to see God answer prayers in our lives? By not letting the Gospel affect our lives, we can become blind and ignorant of such wonders.
- e. This attitude can lead us to mistaking the common for holy.

3. Because We are Holy – 33-34

- a. Paul points out to them that they were living their lives much like anyone without hope. They would fellowship with those who don't know Christ. They were proud of it, much like having someone with an improper relationship.
- b. Paul is not saying to stay away from non-Christians, but not to embrace them like we would one another. Instead, they should repent and live pure lives. Only then will others take note.
- c. Matthew 5.16, Jesus gives us same challenge, to let our light shine so they see our good work and praise God. People are not going to listen to us if they do not see a difference in us.

Let me bring this home for us this morning. How real do we take our faith? Is this something we share willingly, let people know of why we have this hope? Do we live a life that draws people to wonder about us? If we remember that faith is personal, it is for sharing. Though it can be intimidating, the risks are worth it because we are holy. It is time we start taking our faith seriously, just as Paul encouraged the church of Corinth to do.