

Men's Retreat 2024: Paul & the Body

Summary: God created our bodies for Christ Jesus to inhabit through The Spirit; each of them have been prepared of God to give Him pleasure and to exemplify His characteristics. Each of us have a unique way God lives through us, which our bodies are fitted for. Those who realize their own ineptness and utter need, and who sincerely desire to obey Jesus and carry out His will, will be empowered through The Spirit and given strength for such a task. Because God has purchased us with Jesus' blood and desires to live through our bodies, we ought to submit them to Him so that He might use them to magnify His character. This is something The Holy Spirit strongly desires to do; He is searching for a man to use, for a man wholly submitted to Christ so that He might use their body to live through.

- I. The Father prepared Jesus a body to inhabit that Jesus might perform God's will, being a faithful witness of His character
 - a. Hebrews 10:5-7
 - b. Revelation 1:5, C.f., Proverbs 14:5a – *faithful witness*
 - c. In the same way, God has prepared each of us a body for Himself to inhabit through His Spirit and use to be a witness of Jesus' character, and thus God's
 - i. 1 Corinthians 6:13b, 19-20
 - ii. Colossians 1:16b – *Our bodies are created for Him*
 - iii. God desires to dwell in our bodies and use them to display His character and power.
 1. Isaiah 66:1-2
 - a. Poor
 - b. Contrite Spirit [Contrite = "Smitten"]
 - i. This word is only elsewhere used to speak of Mephibosheth.
 - ii. 2 Samuel 9:3, 7-8
 1. David knew he was lame on both feet
 2. David chose to show him kindness/grace anyway
 - a. Psalms 147:10-11
 - iii. Though we can do nothing for Him, He desires to dwell in our bodies and use them.
 1. Psalms 132:13-14, 17
 - a. Revelation 1:20
 - c. Fears God's word [I.e., will obey God when He speaks]
 2. 2 Chronicles 16:9
 - a. Zechariah 3:9; 4:10, Revelation 5:8
 - b. Complete heart [A heart wholly devoted to Jesus, without deviation from that course – *does not mean flawless*]
 - c. The Holy Spirit is running to find a man to use!
 - II. In order to be used of God in this way, we need His power.
 - a. Colossians 1:29 – *Paul toiled according to God's provided ability to produce God's work*
 - i. Ephesians 1:19 – *God's exceeding power is for our use and benefit*
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 15:10 – *labor according to God's grace*
 - b. Zechariah 4:7-10 – *The LORD works through our bodies via His Spirit*
 - III. In practice, Paul gave up his body to many afflictions, faithfully abiding in God's calling no matter what.

- a. Acts 20:22-24 – *Paul, like Jesus, was firmly purposed*
 - i. 2 Timothy 2:9-10 – *focus on eternal truth*
 - b. Paul's hope was that Jesus' character would be magnified through His body whatever the cost.
 - i. Philippians 1:20-21
 - 1. John 12:23b-25, 27-28 – *The hour is come for the Son of Man to be glorified; do not avoid, but embrace*
- IV. We have a sure hope that God will indeed use our bodies to manifest the life of Jesus
 - a. Romans 8:11-13
 - i. Hebrews 11:11-12
 - ii. Romans 4:18-20
- V. Through the breaking of our bodies, light comes forth
 - a. Judges 7:16, 19
 - b. 2 Corinthians 4:6-7