

# Sacrificing to Save Others

Introduction.

We were sent into the world even as Christ was sent into the world.

We are to be the light of the world even as Christ was the light of the world.

We are to carry out the ministry of reconciliation even as Christ carried out the ministry of reconciliation.

We are to take up our cross even as Christ took up His cross.

We are to sacrifice even as Christ sacrificed in order that others would be saved.

Theme: We are called to sacrifice so that others will be saved, in keeping with Christ's sacrifice for the salvation of others

The doctrine of election should be a motivation and not a deterrent in our willingness to sacrifice in order that others might be saved.

Often times the opponents to the doctrine of election, falsely assert that if the doctrine of election is true, then there is no need to evangelize.

There is much misunderstanding that surrounds our responsibility in bringing the gospel to others when the doctrine of election is considered.

Some of these misconceptions are nothing more than "straw men" arguments against the doctrine.

Other misconceptions are sincerely believed by others.

Tonight we hope to clear up some of those misconceptions.

Key Verse: 2 Tim 2:10 (NASB) For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

2 Tim 2:10 (NIV) Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

2 Tim 2:10 (KJV) Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that

they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

I. It begins by understanding that we need to sacrifice even as Jesus sacrificed for the salvation of others.

A. Our lives are to be brought into the pattern of Christ's death.

Phil 3:10 (NASB) that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

Phil 3:10 (NIV) I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

B. It is our responsibility as Christians to be willing to suffer in order to be instruments of God's grace to apply the effects of Christ's atonement.

Col 1:24 (NASB) Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body (which is the church) in filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions.

Col 1:24 (NIV) Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

C. This suffering is for the benefit of Christ's body, the church, (the elect.)

Col 1:24 (NASB) Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body (which is the church) in filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions.

II. Paul expressly states that he suffers in order that the elect would be saved.

A. Paul's understanding of election is motivation for and not a deterrent to be willing to suffer for the sake of the salvation of others.

2 Tim 2:10 (NIV) Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

B. Paul repeatedly speaks of suffering on the behalf of the elect.

Col 1:24 (NASB) Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body (which is the church) in filling up

that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions.

2 Cor 1:6 (NASB) But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer;

- C. It is necessary for Paul to suffer if the elect are going to be saved.

2 Tim 2:10 (NIV) Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

- III. Paul exhorts Timothy to be willing to suffer hardship even as he is willing to suffer hardship.

- A. Paul exhorts Timothy to suffer hardship along with Paul.

2 Tim 2:3 (NASB) Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

- B. The mind set towards suffering is to be like that of a soldier.

2 Tim 2:3 (NASB) Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

A soldier seeks to please the one who has enlisted him. So too, we are to seek to serve Christ.

2 Tim 2:4 (NASB) No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

- C. The mind set towards suffering is to be like an athlete who competes for a prize.

2 Tim 2:5 (NASB) And also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.

- D. The mind set towards suffering is to be like that of a farmer who will share in the benefits of his hard work.

2 Tim 2:6 (NASB) The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops.

- E. Paul himself suffers for the gospel's sake.

2 Tim 2:7 (NASB) Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.  
2 Tim 2:8 (NASB) Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel,  
2 Tim 2:9 (NASB) for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned.

IV. The scripture repudiates the conventional objections to election.

- A. The belief in election does not remove the “desire” for the lost to be saved.

Rom 10:1 (NASB) Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.

- B. Belief in election does not mitigate the need for praying for the lost.

Rom 10:1 (NASB) Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.

Rom 10:1 (NIV) Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.

Rom 10:1 (KJV) Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

- C. Belief in election does not remove “persuasion” from the presentation of the gospel.

2 Cor 5:11 (NIV) Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.

We should seek a positive response from those who hear the gospel.

We should call people to faith.

Acts 26:25 (NASB) But Paul said<sup>^</sup>, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I utter words of sober truth.

Acts 26:26 (NASB) "For the king knows about these matters, and I speak to him also with confidence, since I am persuaded that none of these things escape his notice; for this has not been done in a corner.

Acts 26:27 (NASB) "King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do."

In that calling to faith we are to allow God to work.

Acts 26:28 (NASB) And Agrippa replied to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian."

Acts 26:29 (NASB) And Paul said, "I would to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains."

Paul is willing to wait for God to work but his desire is that Agrippa and all who hear his word will be saved.

Acts 26:29 (NASB) And Paul said, "I would to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains."

V. Conclusion:

- A. Some would argue if election is true, and God has appointed people to be saved then there is no need to evangelize.
- B. That argument is as senseless as saying that if the elect are going to be saved then there is no need for Christ to die.
- C. Salvation will not come apart from Christ's death.
- D. God has not only appointed the ends, He has also appointed the means.
- E. Jesus had to sacrifice in order for others to be saved.
- F. God has called us to sacrifice so that others would be saved.