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PAUL'S MOTIVATIONS TO KEEP THE FAITH

(2 Corinthians 11:23-28)

INTRODUCTION

Christian living does not eliminate the "bumps" in life.

The apostle Paul provides us an example of this:

(Acts 20:22-24) "... not knowing the things that shall befall me ... "

(2 Cor. 4:8-11) "We are troubled on every side ... "

(2 Cor. 6:3-10) "... in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities ... "

(2 Cor. 7:4-5) "... joyful in all our tribulations ... our bodies had no rest ... "

(2 Cor. 11:23-28) "... in labors more abundant ... the care of all the churches."

(Galatians 6:17) "... for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus."

(Philippians 3:7-8) "... I suffered the loss of all things ... "

(2 Tim. 3:10-11) "... what persecutions I endured ... "

I ask, "So, how is your day going?"

MOTIVATIONS FOR STEDFASTNESS

1. (2 Cor. 5:10-11) "... knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men ... "

I even obey the laws of the land knowing what the authorities can do to me. It's motivating.

2. (2 Cor. 5:14-15) "For the love of Christ constrains us ... that they which live should not live unto themselves, but unto him who died for them, and rose again."

This great love story moves me to obey and keep obeying; it's amazing grace.

3. (1 John 4:19) "We love, because He first loved us" - it's reciprocal love.

4. (Romans 1:14-15) "I am a debtor ... so, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are in Rome also."

(1 Cor. 9:16) "Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel."

Bumper sticker: "I owe, I owe, so oft to work I go."

5. (Matthew 28:20) "... Lo, I am with you always" - we are not alone in our task.

6. (2 Timothy 4:6-8) "... a crown of righteousness ... " - reward motivation