

Gal. 6.

Man - Motive -
Money - Miracle

(1). "Gods Man for the 1970's".

Introd:- (1). Recently I saw a picture..and illustrative black and white sketch..that I shall not easily forget. I wish I could adequately describe it. Here is feeble effort.....It pictured a portion of our world..per. as it would be seen from satellite sev. thousand miles above surface..Northern curve of earth..and in some detail the north shores of Medit. Sea..from Italy to Asia Minor. Across top curve of earth..large figure of a man..as though reclining on that earth..hands resting on mntn. ranges..as leaning forward..to gaze ^{INTENTLY} on that area of our earth. Ancient cities marked...Tarsus..Ephesus..Philippi...Athens..Corinth..Rome. And a title underneath:-
"PAUL - AN EMPIRE BUILDER FOR GOD."

(2). Men of 1970..that pic. is not overdrawn. He was just that. God's great missionary strategist. Too often we have sent missionaries into jungles..to mud huts (where they are needed)..BUT bypassed the great cities..per. as considered too hard..tough..wicked...and so our cities have gone to the devil..lit..become cess-pools of ev. slimy evil imag. PAUL..under mighty impulse of Spirit of God..went for the cities first..set up his churches..even in Corinth, the "sin-city" of his day..preached X and saving power in the intellectual center of world..Athens..and pagan political center..Rome. And in synagogues with religious traditions. And in market places with their prodigals. He was busy ev'where "building an Empire for God..." in wicked world/.

(3). And as I gazed at this pic..I thought..."What would Paul think..feel..do..if he were here..at this retreat..facing our world in 1970? What plans make? What priorities lay down bef. us? " What think of fact that ONE QUARTER of all humanity living today? How feel when find that our world is being commonly called the "Post-Christian World"? What surge of spiritual zeal rise up in his heart? To what Universities would he go? What commercial houses invade? What liberal churches would he challenge by lip & letter? What pornographic lit..perversions of sex wd. he blister?

I. Well, Paul's gone to heaven..BUT WE ARE HERE..1970..

(a). Why? Bec. God put us here..in midst of our world..with greatest respons. of any generation..ONE QUARTER.... Like David, Paul "served his own generation, and fell asleep". Bef. we sleep..we are here to serve our generation. Having found peace with God, Paul made war on all that was godless. What manner of men must we be to do likewise. ...and per. do well today// to learn much from this man.

Learn to be the X'n ~~men~~ ^{men} we shd. be in this mod. age.

(b). Let's begin with matter of conversion. Paul had a meeting with J.C. Not a preacher..or a sermon..or creed. A PERSON. That's what conversion is. Not an experiment but an experience. Saul was CHANGED..thoroughly..and civil-ization took a turn for the better. Saul DIED and Christ began to live within. Your experience? Per. not blinding shaft from heaven..but conversion described as a glorious event..Acts.26:18. "To open their eyes..and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God..that they may receive forgiveness of sins..and inheritance among them...which are sanctified by faith...." And in Phil 4:3..."Whose names are in the book of life". Written in heaven! Whose? Acts 13:38-39...Like Paul.

(c). Now let me read John 1:11-12. Conversion is but the birth of new life..X-life within..Then "POWER TO BECOME". As baby has power to become a man..so the second birth brings power to become strong man of God..for any age. Take time with me NOW..to see the marks of the man of God..in life of this man Paul. Let me not over-exalt this man..A man, with faults, failings, sins..Yet to walk, as I have, uncounted miles in his footsteps..Greece..Asia Minor ..is overwhelming experience..humiliating beyond belief.

II. What was he like? What burning passion impelled him?

(a). He said: "I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus".(Gal.6:17). The marks of the man of God. What are they? 1. Branded by devotion, dedication to a task. He said: "This ONE THING I do." He laughed at the frowning crags of Asia's barriers..This little Jew..almost a dwarf..(4½')? out-paced, out-played, and out-passioned all his contemporaries. His task was not getting across a viewpoint, but over-coming the legions of hell'. Unwelcomed, unsponsored, unloved..on he went, blind to ev. jewel of earthly honour, deaf to every voice of siren-ease, and insensitive to the mesmerism of worldly success. Marked! Who today? You, me? 2. Branded by humility. Moths could not corrupt this God-given robe. Never fished for praise with humility's bait, but in long line of sinners named himself first. He might have swaggered in the richly embroidered robes of the Chancellor of a Hebrew school..but "What things were gain to me..I count as loss for Christ". The lovely fruit of the Spirit grew in him. His were the gifts of the Spirit. He held city-wide revivals while he patched tents to pay expenses. Sometimes he almost starved..yet when table full he sometimes fasted. Wished everyone blessing..yet could wish self accursed.

3. Branded by suffering. Wait! Who today follow him in this? We hear much about ministry of healing. Do we dare look at ministry of suffering, in our ease-seeking age? Paul suffered bec. he made war on all that made war on God and on the children of men. This "wandering Jew", prince of preachers..and his foe, prince of hell, spared each other no beatings. Free-for-all..no holds barred! Hunger, fasting, lashings, stoned, starved, soaked in Medit. 36 hours..danger, loneliness, count 195 stripes, 3 shipwrecks, 3 beatings with rods, prison record, deaths so many that count lost...And he says: "Our light affliction

(4) which is but for a moment! Contempt of suffering! Branded by passion O that we might catch a little of his spirit! Beatings could not cast the flame out of him; fastings and hunger could not kill it; not misunderstandings and misrepresentations quench its fire; waters could not drown it, prisons break it; perils could not arrest its growth. On and on the flame burned until life ebbed from body near Rome. His yielded, given-over life died to self, to world..and was indwelt by His Lord..and filled with His Spirit. So that..standing before King Agrippa he could say.."I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision"..He had seen the Saviour..and from that moment followed HIM. And we? 5. Branded by love. He loved His Lord. Key to all real X'n living and service. He loved men, friends, enemies, hardship, toil,..Mighty dynamo of love pushed this man on. Ravenhill says: "We are suffering today from a plague of ministers who are more concerned that their heads be filled than that their hearts be fired." "The Church of this hour boasts an all-time high in the I.Q. of its ministry..but we are having an all-time low in spiritual gifts, for the devil shudders not, Brother Apollos, at your verbal Niagaras." "Our cities are alive with impurity and a X'n, dreaming before his television night by night has a dead brain and a bankrupt soul." Paul laboured lit. day and night..warning every one with tears..bec. he loved.

Conclus:- 1. Can we take one more Brand? Let me..dare I quote to you the words of a demon? That devil didn't inter his words to be helpful to X'ns, I assure you..but they can be! Acts 19:15.."Jesus I know, and PAUL I KNOW, but who are ye?" If you met that demon..what say to you? Me? The X'n is known in heaven..Paul was known in hell also! And I think you know why. In Corinth he established a church on devil's doorstep..In Rome snatched souls from under nose of Caesar. In Athens stormed intellectual capital of world with resurrection truth. While Paul lived hell had no peace! 2. What weapon did he use?

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3. Branded by suffering. Wait! Who today follow him in this? We hear much about ministry of healing. Do we dare look at ministry of suffering, in our ease-seeking age? Paul suffered too, he made war on all that made war on God and on the children of men. This "wandering Jew", prince of preachers, and his foe, prince of hell, spared each other no beatings. Free-for-all, no holds barred! Hunger, fasting, lashings, stoned, starved, soaked in blood, 36 hours, danger, loneliness, count 185 stripes, 3 shipwrecks, 3 beatings with rods, prison record, 14 years. C.T. Studd: "And he says: 'so many that count lost...'"

"Some like to live within the shadow of church or chapel bell. I want to run a rescue shop, Within a yard of hell." "Hell."

could not cast the fire, could not kill it; not waters could not quench the fire; break it; perils could not arrest its growth. On and on the flame burned until life ebbed from body near Rome. His yielded, given-over life died to self, to world, and was indwelt by His Lord, and filled with His Spirit. So that standing before King Agrippa he could say: "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision". He had seen the Saviour, and from that moment followed Him. And we? 3. Branded by love. He loved His Lord, key to all real X'n living and service. He loved men, friends, enemies, hardship, toil... Mighty dynamics of love pushed this man on. Ravennell says: "We are suffering today from a plague of ministers who are more concerned that their heads be filled than that their hearts be fired." "The Church of this hour boasts an all-time high in the I.Q. of its ministry, but we are having an all-time low in spiritual gifts, for the devil snubbers not, Brother Apollos, at your verbal Niagara." "Our cities are alive with impiety and a X'n, dreaming before his television night by night has a dead brain and a bankrupt soul." Paul laboured day and night, warning every one with tears, too, he loved

Conclusion: -- 1. Can we take one more brand? Let me dare I prove to you the words of a demon? That devil didn't into his words to be helpful to X'ns, I assure you, but they do! Acts 19:15. "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are ye?" If you met that demon, what say to you? We? The X'n is known in heaven, Paul was known in hell also! And I think you know why. In Corinth he established a church on devil's doorstep. In Rome attached souls from under nose of Caesar. In Athens stamped intellectual capital of world with resurrection truth. While Paul lived hell had no peace! 2. What weapon did he use?

Where'dge his blade? More than once he said: "I am PERSUADED". Revealed truth held him like a vise..His battleaxe was Word of Living God..His strength was faith in that Word. And as swung that weapon, bathed in hours of prayer...with self dead and Christ living within..no devil could stand before him. Demons suffered more from Paul ~~God~~ Paul suffered from them. The demon I quoted knew this Paul because of so many things. He had no ambitions..so nothing to be jealous about. No reputation so nothing to fight about. No possessions so nothing to worry about..No rights, so could suffer no wrong..Already broken so no one could break him. Dead, so none could kill him. Less than the least, so who could humble him? Suffered loss of all things, so no one could defraud him Do you wonder that a demon said: "Paul I know"..Over this God-intoxicated man, hell suffered headaches.

3. What would Paul say, think, feel, do..if he lived today? ONE QUARTER OF HUMANITY WAITING...demon powers assailing....."As much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel..." I'm WORK WITH GOD

Who follows in his train? Who will cry to God today.. "Lord, brand me..mark me..as God's man for this so-called Post Christian Era...Mark me with devotion to my task or witnessing, praying, living for God...With true humility..By suffering where that will glorify Thee.. By passion for You, and for the lost..By love for the Saviour..and for all men...AND, LORD, MAKE ME TO BE KNOWN IN HELL, because I count for Thee. Let me grasp the weapons of prayer and the Word of God. Teach me to BECOME..God's Man for the 1970's. Amen."

GMA Men's Retreat - Mar 27/71
 Prince George, BC - Evang. Free - May 5/70
 Delburne - Mar 22/70
 Evang. Ch. Laymen's Retreat - Banff - Jan 17/70