Our True Endeavor presented by The Ministry of YOU

The Apostle Paul received revelation about our true endeavor as active service members of the body of Christ. As I was meditating on what the Holy Spirit was beginning to teach me, I really began to think about the life of the Apostle Paul. Paul himself gives us some insight into his former life before Christ and his early years as a new convert. He shares his testimony in his letter to the Galatians.

15 NLT Galatians 1:11-15; Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to understand that the Gospel message I preach is not based on mere human reasoning. I received my message from no human source, and no one taught me. Instead, I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ. You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion. I violently persecuted God’s Church. I did my best to destroy it. I was far ahead of my fellow Jews in my zeal for the traditions of my ancestors.

But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by His marvelous grace. Then it pleased Him to reveal His Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles. Paul was a very educated man. However, the Gospel message he had received to preach, he attributed it to revelation that he had received directly from the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ. What was this revelation the Apostle Paul received directly from Jesus Christ? He explains it in his letter to the Ephesians. NLT Ephesians 3:3-7; As I briefly wrote earlier; God Himself revealed His mysterious plan to me. As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight into this plan regarding Christ. God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by His Spirit, He has revealed it to His holy apostles and prophets. And this is God’s plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God’s children. Both are part of the same body. And both enjoy the promise of BLESSINGS because they belong to Christ Jesus. By God’s grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving Him by spreading this Good News.

What is our true endeavor as active service members of the body of Christ? Paul reveals the answer to this question in his letter to the Ephesians. At the time of this letter to the Ephesians Paul was in prison. However, he referred to himself as a prisoner of the Lord and not the system. KJV Ephesians 4:1-3; I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk

worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in Love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

In order to get an even better understanding, let’s take an even closer look at the words the Apostle Paul chose to use in these verses of Scripture. Let’s start with the phrase “that ye walk,” in the Greek, it’s the word peripateo (per-ee-pa-eh-o), and it means to regulate one’s life; to conduct oneself. So, Paul is explaining to us how we should live and conduct our lives. In addition, he uses the word “worthy” and it’s the Greek word axios (ax-ee’-oce), and it means after a godly sort. In other words, we should be acting like God (Love) now that we are His children!

Next, the word “vocation,” in the Greek this word is klesis (klay’-sis), and it means a divine calling. Also, I looked at this word in the Merriam and Webster dictionary. It ‘s defined as the work in which a person is employed, an occupation. This helped me understand even better. There is something I must do as a divine calling or just like an occupation. And I am called! This phrase “ye are called” is the Greek word kaleo (kal-eh’-o), and it means to be called out loud by name. So, if we are called by name, that means this call is specifically for everyone to walk in, with no exceptions.

What is this call and godly manner of life that we are now regulating our life according to? The Love of God (Agape)! The Love of God is now our new occupation! Paul now reveals our true endeavor as active service members of the body of Christ. It is to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Paul was very intentional under the influence of the Holy Spirit with the words he chose to use. For instance, he said, endeavor to do this. The word “endeavor” is the Greek word spoudazo (spoo-dad-zo), and it means to make haste, to exert oneself; give diligence. This is an aggressive word of urgency. What is this urgency? To keep the unity! The word “unity” is the Greek word henotes (hen-ot-ace’), and it means agreement.

We are supposed to be keeping the unity of the Holy Spirit Who now lives in every born-again spirit-filled child of God in the bond of peace. The word “bond” is the Greek word syndesmos (soon’-des-mos), and it means that which binds together. What binds us together as children of God? The Holy Spirit Who lives in all of us collectively. Now, let’s look at the word “peace.” The word “peace” in the Greek is Eirene (i-ray’-nay), and it means peace between individuals, and harmony.

Paul goes on to expound on this revelation in the verses that follow. In verses four through six in the same chapter. There’s one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, Who is above all, and through all, and in you all. The Merriam and Webster defines the word “one” as being a single unit; being one in particular and being the same in kind or quality.

I clearly see “The Ministry of YOU” in operation in Paul’s life. Remember, “The Ministry of YOU” is based on the Word’s of our Lord Jesus Christ. AMP Matthew 7:3-5; Why do you look at the (insignificant) speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice and acknowledge the (egregious or conspicuous) log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother. “Let me get the speck out of your eye when you there is a log in your own eye? You hypocrite (play-actor, pretender), first get the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

How do I know this? Paul included this insight in his own testimony. NLT Ephesians 1:16-17; When this happened, I did not rush out to consult with any human being. Nor did I go up to Jerusalem to consult with those were apostles before I was. Instead, I went away to Arabia (desert) and later I returned to the city of Damacus. What was Paul doing in the Arabian desert? He was getting the beam out of his own first. In order to teach peace and unity to others, he had to get peace within himself first. Remember, Paul was once Saul who had violently persecuted God’s Church. These are his own words about himself (Ephesians 1:13). We know he did it because of another letter he wrote to the Philippians. AMP Philippians 3:7-13; But whatever former things were gains to me (as I thought then), these things (once regarded as advancements in merit) I have come to consider as loss (absolutely worthless) for the sake of Christ (and the purpose which He has given my life). But more than that, I count everything as loss compared to the priceless privilege and supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord (and growing more deeply and thoroughly acquainted with Him, a joy unequaled). For His sake I have lost everything, and I consider it all garbage, so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him (believing and relying on Him), not having any righteousness of my own derived from (my obedience to) the Law and its rituals, but (possessing) that (genuine righteousness) which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.

And this, so that I may know Him (experientially, becoming more thoroughly acquainted with Him, understanding the remarkable wonders of His Person more completely) and (in that same way experience) the power of His resurrection (which overflows and is active in believers), and (that I may share) the fellowship of His sufferings, by being continually conformed (inwardly into His likeness even) to His death (dying as He did); so that I may attain to the resurrection (that will raise me) from the dead. Not that I have already obtained it (this goal of being Christlike) or have already been made perfect, but I actively press on so that I may take hold of that (perfection) for which Christ Jesus took hold of me and made me His own.

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I made it my own yet; but one thing I do forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the (heavenly) prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Holy Spirit revealed these spiritual truths to the Apostle Paul because He wanted to understand that our true endeavor is the call to our new vocation or occupation which is to walk in the Love of God (Agape) and to be willing to labor to keep the unity of the Spirit at all costs. The enemy comes to divide (Galatians 5:20), which is the opposite of unity. The writer of Hebrews which I believe is the Apostle Paul expresses the same sentiment. KJV Hebrews 6:10; For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of Love, which ye have shewed toward His Name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minster.

Let’s take a look at the highlighted words for even better understanding. The word “work” is the Greek word ergon (er’-gon), and it means business, employment, that which anyone is occupied; that which one undertakes to do, enterprise, undertaking. Next, the word “labour” is the Greek word kopos (kop’-os), and it means intense labour united with trouble and toil. Moreover, the word “minister” in the Greek is to be a servant, attendant, to serve; to supply food and necessities of life, to provide take care of, distribute the things necessary to sustain life, to attend to anything that may serve another’s interests.

Last but not least, the word “saints” in the Greek this word is most holy. We are all now God’s most holy people. We have all answered the high calling of God. We have the same occupation or work to serve one another through Love. We must understand, we all have a bond now, we united by One Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded us to live in peace within ourselves and with one another.

In closing, these are Words spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ on His teaching and revelation of the Love of God. NLT Matthew 5:43-48; You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, Love (Agape) your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For He gives sunlight to both the evil and the good, and He sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love (phileo) only those who love (phileo) you, what reward is there for that? Even the corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect (full grown, adult, of full age, mature), even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

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