

## What Motivates You?

We all could use some motivation from time to time to stay on the "strait and narrow." And it's always good to get advice from a seasoned Christian concerning matters like this. So let's do so.

Paul mentions in 2 Corinthians 5:9, "Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him." In the six verses that follow it seems to me that Paul was listing some things that kept him motivated to continually make sure that his actions were pleasing God. Some of them may surprise you, but if you will utilize these as Paul did, you will definitely stay motivated. Notice what motivated Paul:

**The Judgment.** "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body..." (v.10). Paul knew that he would be judged by his actions and that prompted him to stay faithful. Note: It could be said that Heaven was also a motivational encouragement for Paul as he was confident of going there after the Judgment (Philippians 1:21-23).

**Fear.** "Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men..." (v.11). Paul knew that God meant what He said and he respected it and even feared disappointing God, and that kept him moving forward.

**Others.** "For we...give you opportunity to boast on our behalf...if we are of sound mind, it is for you." (v.12-13). Paul knew that his actions affected and influenced others, and that spurred him on to keep doing what was right.

**Love.** "For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again." Knowing that Christ loved him and died for him drove Paul to return that love to Christ and keep on living for Him.

Need some motivation to keep on keeping on in the faith? Then remember the coming Judgment of God, that God means what He says, that we can influence others toward God, and how much God loves us! Stay motivated!

- Edd Sterchi, Broadway church of Christ, Campbellsville, KY (*Bulletin Digest*) -

*You only fail when you stop trying.*

### *News Notes*

**COVERED DISH DINNER:** Today about Noon at the Fellowship Building followed by our afternoon worship at 2:00 p.m. at the Church Building.

**CARE & SHARE BEARS:** Will resume this Tuesday, Feb. 4th at 9:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to participate.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Next Saturday, Feb. 8th, 8:30 a.m. at the Columbiana Church of Christ.

**PANTRY:** Noodles.

**SICK & SHUT-IN: City Hospital:** Gary Evans. **At Home:** Ed Wiersbicki, Debbie Waite, John Sprout, Peggy Linger, Randy Beagle, Bob McMahan, Scharlotte Jones, Becky McKitrick, Dean Spencer, Harry Huff, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Marlene Evans, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox-Chester:** Janice Hutchins, Mary Johnson. **Elsewhere:** Carolyn Carbone, 103 Orange Blossom Lane, Ranson, WV 25438. Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Dr., Lisbon, OH 44432.

### **The Lord Is My Helper**

A little girl, when asked to repeat the 23rd Psalm, said, "The Lord is my shepherd, that's all I want." She may have been a little confused about the actual wording, but she expressed a truth that should be the property of every Christian. There is no blessing so valuable as the ability to lean upon the sufficiency of God, to find in Him all that we want. The firm basis of such trust was brought to Paul's attention when the Lord said to him, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9). Consider the unsearchable riches which one possesses when the Lord is his helper.

**There is a feeling of security that transcends social and financial security.** The child of God can be content in all circumstances of life. "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Phil. 4:11).

**There is a peace that passeth understanding** (4:7) and floods the Christian's life with unspeakable joy (1 Pet. 1:8). This peace is greater than all the treasures earth can yield.

**There is freedom from fear of all types.** "So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Heb. 13:6). Fear of bodily harm and even death is dissipated when we walk with the Lord. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me" (Psa. 23:4).

**There is a crown of life that glitters through eternity.** "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. Do thy diligence to come shortly" (2 Tim. 4:8). In addition to these wonderful blessings, the Lord promises us what we need physically. Indeed, there can be no want when the Lord is our helper.

- Author Unknown  
(via Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL)