

Commitment to Personal Ministry-2 Corinthians 4

What does a commitment to personal ministry look like?

-A commitment to personal ministry is a commitment with eternity in mind

You might be asking, why an eternal perspective?

-Everything we do, whether it is working, raising our family, serving in the church, volunteer in the community should be done with eternity in mind.

-30 times, the word ministry appears in the NKJV ministry(diakonia)-

1) service, ministering, esp. of those who execute the commands of others

a) It is serving others.

b) It is executing the commands of others

2) of those who by the command of God proclaim and promote religion among men of the office of Moses of the office of the apostles and its administration of the office of prophets, evangelists, elders etc.

a) Our ministries promote Christianity not so much from an advertisers perspective as much as we are promoting a life in Christ.

3) the ministrations of those who render to others the offices of Christian affection esp. those who help meet need by either collecting or distributing of charities

a) We collect and distribute to charities. For example, operation Christmas Child.

4) the office of the deacon in the church.

a) It is what a deacon does.

5) the service of those who prepare and present food

a) food prep and service

-9 times the term ministry is used in 1 & 2 Corinthians

2 Corinthians 4

Verse 1-An personal/eternal perspective of ministry is understanding that ministry is received.

1) The ability or capacity minister to others is something that is received from The Lord.

a) Do we realize by the mercy of God we are in ministry?

- 2) Paul so stated that we do not lose heart
 - a) The idea here is we are not a faint hearted coward.
 - b) It is more than a lack of courage
 - c) This lack of courage can lead us to behave in an ungodly manner.

Verse 3-An personal/eternal perspective of ministry is not a hidden gospel

- 1) Real ministry wants to reach the lost.

1 Corinthians 1:18-For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Verse 5-A personal/eternal perspective of ministry is, it is not about us.

- 1) Paul said we don't preach ourselves
- 2) We preach Christ
- 3) We are bondservants to those we are serving.

Verse 6-A personal/eternal perspective of ministry, is our light shining to shine out of the darkness.

- 1) Our light is to shine out of the darkness.

How is your light shining at work?

How is your light shining to your unsaved family and friends?

Verse 7-A personal/eternal perspective of ministry, is understanding where the power comes from.

- 1) Our ministries should be displaying the power of God.

Verses 8-11-A personal/eternal perspective of ministry, is knowing through The Lord, we persevere.

- 1) I firmly believe The Lord allows these things to happen to strengthen us.

Verse 16-A personal/eternal perspective of ministry, is recognizing the contrast between the outward and inward man.

- 1) You look in the mirror and you can see the outward man is perishing.

How is your concern for your inner man?

Verse 17-A personal/eternal perspective of ministry, is seeing trials through an eternal lens.

- 1) Think about all the ministry challenges Paul encountered.

- 2) Paul called these challenges a light affliction.

Verse 18-A personal/eternal perspective of ministry, is contrasting, the value of the temporary vs the eternal.

Have you personally contrasted the value of the temporary vs. the eternal?
Are you living for the seen or the unseen?

Psalm 103:21-Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You ministers of His, who do His pleasure.

Hebrews 1:14-Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?