

Convictions of a Master Builder

Missions Sunday

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“According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it.”
- 1 Cor 3:10

Conviction #1 - Priority of Proclaiming Christ

“For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.” 1 Cor 2:2

Do we share this conviction with Paul?

Be encouraged by GFC’s ‘gospel footprint’ for the first 20 years.

Dream of a significantly deeper and broader gospel footprint in the next 20 years.

Conviction #2 - Establishing and Nurturing Local Churches

Striking...where Paul went, he left a local church.

“And after they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.’ And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.” - Acts 14:21-23

- With next to nothing
 - In a pagan, hostile society (Roman Empire)
 - No cars, no Wi-Fi, no electricity
 - No books...not even a complete Bible yet
 - And the church flourished

- We must remember the value of the local church. The work we do should not just lead people to Christ, but also establish them in a local church. Where teaching, encouraging, discipling, correcting, serving, etc. takes place through the body.

Conviction #3 - Sacrifice is Normal and Expected

“And now, behold, bound in spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.” - Acts 20:22-24

For Paul, sacrifice was normal...and it was worth it

- Because it is not worthy to be compared to the glory that is to be revealed to us (Rom 8:18)
- Because it is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison. (2 Cor 4:17)
- That he may by all means save some (1 Cor 9:22)

How does that compare with our American Middle-Class Christian version of sacrifice?

Sacrifice by definition means that we must be losing something...something dear to us.

Like Paul, we need to buy into the Economy of the Kingdom...what does God call valuable, and what does God call worthless.

“But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ.” - Phil 3:7-8

Conviction #4 – Need for Perseverance

“Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” - Phil 3:12-14

Most of the real work is done in the prayer closet, or one on one, day in and day out discipleship.

What can we learn from Paul here...faithfulness in the slow ‘soul work’ of evangelism and discipleship. Day in and day out.
Perseverance...for years and decades.

How does our church’s mission’s work match with the convictions of Paul?

How does your personal life match with the convictions of Paul?

For more information about missions through GFC, visit our website graceky.org/missions