

The Heart of a Disciple

8/5/12

1. A passion to seek and obey God's will no matter the cost

Acts 15:36-17:13

2. A passion to strengthen fellow believers

Acts 15:36-17:13

3. A passion to share Jesus and His gospel

Acts 15:36-17:13

4. A patience to reason, explain and present evidence

Acts 17:1 Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.

² And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures,

³ explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ."

⁴ And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a great multitude of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women.

⁵ But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and coming upon the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people.

⁶ And when they did not find them, they *began* dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have upset the world have come here also;

⁷ and Jason has welcomed them, and they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus."

⁸ And they stirred up the crowd and the city authorities who heard these things.

⁹ And when they had received a pledge from Jason and the others, they released them.

5. Trusts God and His Bible to save

¹⁰ And the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea; and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

¹¹ Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, *to see* whether these things were so.

¹² Many of them therefore believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men.

¹³ But when the Jews of Thessalonica found out that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Berea also, they came there likewise, agitating and stirring up the crowds.

6. Thanksgiving

1 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

² We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention *of you* in our prayers;

³ constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,

⁴ knowing, brethren beloved by God, *His* choice of you;

7. Conviction and courage

⁵ for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

⁶ You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.

⁹ For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,

¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.

2:1 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain,

² but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.

8. Knows God trusts him

³ For our exhortation does not *come* from error or impurity or by way of deceit;

⁴ but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men but God, who examines our hearts.

⁵ For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed-- God is witness--

⁶ nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

9. Parental affection, concern and labor

⁷ But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing *mother* tenderly cares for her own children.

⁸ Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

⁹ For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, *how* working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

¹⁰ You are witnesses, and *so is* God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers;

¹¹ just as you know how we *were* exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father *would* his own children,

¹² so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

¹³ And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted *it* not as the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

¹⁴ For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews,

¹⁵ who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men,

¹⁶ hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.

10. Joy and grief

¹⁷ But we, brethren, having been bereft of you for a short while-- in person, not in spirit-- were all the more eager with great desire to see your face.

¹⁸ For we wanted to come to you-- I, Paul, more than once-- and *yet* Satan thwarted us.

¹⁹ For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?

²⁰ For you are our glory and joy.

3:1 Therefore when we could endure *it* no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone;
² and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith,

³ so that no man may be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this.

⁴ For indeed when we were with you, we *kept* telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know.

⁵ For this reason, when I could endure *it* no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor should be in vain.

⁶ But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you,

⁷ for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith;

⁸ for now we *really* live, if you stand firm in the Lord.

⁹ For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account,

11. Prayer

¹⁰ as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹ Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you;

¹² and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all men, just as we also *do* for you;

¹³ so that He may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

12. He's like Bob and Betty; he does not retire