

A Productive Prisoner

And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

– Acts 28:30-31 –

I don't know about you, but I hate being unproductive. Life in some ways is about the work we do – not about our jobs or careers, but about leaving the path behind us better off for having come through. God has a purpose for our being here – something for us to produce. This is true for all mankind universally, but redemption in Christ gives it a turbo charge. Once converted, our lives are to be kinetic epicenters for the Kingdom of God. Every day presents countless opportunities to live for Christ and accomplish something for His glory. We have no greater example of the boundlessness of this paradigm than the Apostle Paul.

After his Damascus experience with the risen Lord, Paul never yielded any ground to circumstance or situation to sway him from his newfound focus. The Lord Jesus and His Kingdom were everything to the Apostle. Whether in poverty or prosperity, in the marketplace or the synagogue, on shore or at sea, free or bound – Paul was all about glorifying God by producing steadfast followers of Jesus Christ. His mission and purpose could not be deterred or derailed by anything Hell threw at him. Take away his freedom and he would sing (loudly). Silence his voice and we would write (voluminously). Stop his pen and he would pray (incessantly). The Apostle understood something – that a risen Lord was at the end of this journey called life. He therefore wanted to ensure that he fought a good fight, that he finished his course, that he kept the faith. This drove him continuously and caused him to know how to be productive toward that coming Day no matter the environs of the moment. Even when shackled, Paul was producing epistles, prayers, and converts.

Are you in prison today, dear reader – bound perhaps not by bars and chains but by some situation or circumstance that seems insurmountable? Shift your focus. You are not here by accident. God is still on his throne, and the risen Lord at His right hand. He has something for you to produce today. Rest assured that if you commit your bonds to His purposes, Hell itself cannot withstand your ability, even here, to magnify God and produce something of eternal value that will glorify your Lord. To Him be all the honor and praise.

-- D. Murcek