

for everyone, so share. Paul is calling them to trust. To trust that Jesus will bless his people and that his people will live generously. Paul is motivating the Corinthians to live by faith, as they risk giving away their money, trusting Jesus as their security and not what they own.

When I trust my wealth as my security what happens? For me, I become more fearful and less likely to give. The devil drops into my head; 'What'll happen to me if I give away my money. Who'll look after me'? The inference being, I need to look after myself.

How the devil twists and distorts things. Paul hadn't called

them to give away everything; give from what you have not what you don't have, is what he said. Give as Jesus has lead you. Paul is inviting the Corinthians to risk giving what they felt Jesus had laid on their hearts. It's to be a gift of love.

What motivates you? Especially when it comes to money and possessions. What, or who has Jesus placed on your heart? Invite him to show you how you might help and if it involves money; how much. But let it always be an act of faith; an act that flows from a heart motivated by Jesus.

What motivates you?

Let's pray. Jesus, thank you for all your gifts and blessings to me. I invite you to lead me in how I used these gifts. I invite you to send the Spirit so that whatever I do is done with no strings attached but it is an act of love and trust in you. Jesus, motivate me.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

1 July 2018

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

2 Corinthians 8:7-15



In this letter of Paul to the community of faith in Corinth he has looked at different issues that had arisen. Here he's dealing with a touchy subject; money.

In dealing with this subject we see how Paul seeks to motivate and encourage his readers in the way they live. What motivates you? What encourages you?

One thing that doesn't motivate me is people twisting my arm for money. I'm not encouraged by manipulation, or being made to feel guilty. All these things do is motivate me in the opposite direction.

What motivates you?

Earlier in this letter Paul wrote; "the love

of Christ compels me." (2 Cor. 5:15) What motivates Paul; his relationship with Jesus. And that is a relationship of love, a relationship which breathes new life into Paul. Paul is motivated by Jesus having given his life on the cross for him. Paul is motivated by Jesus having been raised, which means Paul has died to the old and has been raised to the new. Paul is motivated by Jesus promised return. So he seeks to live true to his new identity in Jesus, as he looks forward to Jesus return.

Paul's motivation for writing this letter was his love and concern for the people he knew in Corinth. He's writing to build them up, not to destroy them.

Even when Paul challenges them it isn't so he can say; 'See, I was right.' 'I told you so.' This kind of thinking isn't found in this letter.

When someone says; 'I told you so' how does that make you feel? Inspired to do better, or put down, or just not interesting in listening. What motivates you?

Here Paul begins with a word of encouragement. He's not trying to butter them up but he encourages them to be living out their relationship with God and the community of faith in a consistent manner in all areas of life.

They trust God, they're articulate, insightful, passionate, loving; so let these qualities flow into this

area of life as well. Paul begins with a word of encouragement.

Then he seeks to motivate them with a life story. He points to what the community of faith in Macedonia are doing. Other people's life stories are something that really motivates me; and there are so many amazing real life stories of faith.

One of my favourite is still; 'The Heavenly Man' by Brother Yun. I read his story and wanted to be like him. I'm reminded I am also a 'Heavenly Man'. Jesus is shaping my life. I'm not a slave to circumstance. Circumstance in Jesus merely become an opportunity to live out the amazing life Jesus has invited me to share with him.

What stories motivate you to action? What

movies motivate you?

I love 'Brave Heart' which motivates me to fight for Jesus and not compromise. I love 'Gladiator' which motivates me to stand true, to live true to who I am. What movies or books, or life stories has The Spirit used to

What Movie/Story Motivates you?

motivate you?

Paul also uses the story of Jesus to motivate the people in Corinth; "You are familiar with the generosity of our Master, Jesus Christ. Rich as he was, he gave it all way for us – in one stroke he became poor and we became rich". (2 Cor. 8:9)

Paul isn't out to create guilt but trust. This Jesus we follow won't change his spots. He was

generous then, he'll be generous now. This Jesus can be trusted, trusted with your life. Trusted far more than your money, which doesn't care about you in the least, let alone love you. Jesus loves you; he has given himself totally for you, he's not going to change.

I find that a powerful motivation; trusting Jesus. The Jesus I read about in the bible stories is the same guy today. I can expect him to act the same way today as he did then. That's why we have his life story, so that we know him personally, so that we can build our life trusting him.

If I knew nothing about Jesus; what he thought, liked, disliked, did in his spare time. If I knew nothing about Jesus I wouldn't be able to trust him. But I do know about Jesus; I have his life story to read. What he

reveals about his character is as true today as then; he hasn't changed his mind. This is the guy I can trust and follow. I can confidently, boldly follow Jesus example.

Then Paul seeks to motivate these people as he reminds them of their earlier decision. Paul isn't out to make them feel guilty, but is seeking to encourage them to continue the good work they had begun. It was their choice, a good choice, so keep it up.

I love Paul's phrase; 'Your heart's been in the right place all along.' This is not an appeal to guilt but an encouragement to live from the heart. To live from faith in Jesus; letting it find a physical expression of love for their brothers and sisters in the faith. Paul's desire is that their action flows from the heart, that it be an act of faith.

Otherwise, don't do it. If it's not from the heart, if it's not an act of faith in Jesus, don't do it. You're not impressing anyone. Acting from a sense of guilt and competitiveness will only destroy the gift, because the gift will come with so many strings attached.

What's Jesus Motivating you to do?

The first string is usually an expectation that the receiver should be grateful for my generous gift, and if they're not I complain about it till the cows come home. Paul reminds his readers to give without strings attached, not even expecting a thank you. Give because it flows from a heart that has been inspired by Jesus, that is a living expression of Jesus'

love finding physical form in a gift.

Paul encourages the people in Corinth to give as they can, not from what they can't do. Paul is encouraging these people to be wise stewards of the gift Jesus has blessed them with. Let this be a gift of love, of care, given to their brothers and sisters who are in need.

Paul doesn't try and get as much out of the Corinthians as he can. He's not out to get a huge donation so he'll look good. His goal isn't that the Corinthians give a big donation so they can brag. No, Paul motivates the people he loves, to look at what Jesus has blessed them with and then to give from what they have.

Paul is reminding the Corinthians that they are part of a bigger community, and within this community there will be enough