



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Leadership Series: (YOUR CALLING)

JULY 27, 2011

Dave DePue / (785) 249 7604 / www.capitolcom.org / dave.depue@capitolcom.org

This is last of our summer Bible studies in the series on leadership. We developed these for our weekly 30 minute meetings and as a desk devotional for others who were not able to join us in our discussion time. We will be traveling out in the districts and working on ministry events in Kansas City (August) and Wichita (September). We will, of course, continue our weekly devotionals shared at agency meetings.

INTRODUCTION

Have you been diligently working to excel in a career, in leadership? Few have exceeded Saul of Tarsus in scholarship, fervor, and focus (Philippians 3:3-7). Yet his early impact most assuredly would have vanished in one generation. However, Saul's encounter with Jesus gave him a new name and a calling (Acts 9:3-15). His books have been "best sellers" for nearly two thousand years, and he has made a positive impact on more than a billion people.

A LEADER MUST BE SURE OF HIS CALLING

Romans 11:29 For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.¹

The Apostle Paul defended himself against the attacks of the false teachers who had infiltrated the Corinthian church. He explained that his confidence was not merely self-confidence. Paul explained that God was the source of his certainty (1 Corinthians 4:2 and 2 Corinthians 3:4). Such confidence is the strength of a leader. "Effective leadership depends on that kind of resoluteness, courage, boldness, and determination."² Self-doubt is debilitating to leadership. People who have qualms about their own giftedness or calling tend to be hesitant, timid, and fainthearted in choices. Consider the setbacks experienced by Churchill, Lincoln, and Wilberforce! "You should be so emphatic about your calling that no trial, however severe, could make you question your life's work."³

HARD WORK IS IMPORTANT, BUT....

Ecclesiastes 9:10a Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might;⁴

Be devoted to the task at hand. A sports team in a championship series must win the current game to qualify for the next. We cannot be distracted by the future and effective in the present. It is handicapping for a leader to treat present work as a stepping stone!

CONCLUSION

Effective leaders are competitive. They expect to win, to achieve. Paul described that passion based on his calling (Philippians 3:14). He knew that God had set him apart for leadership (Galatians 1:15). The ruling body of Judaism in Jerusalem saw this boldness during their trial of Peter and John. The Apostles' confidence remained unshaken, even in the face of death (Acts 4:13). Are you wondering if your talents line up with your career field? Best selling author Bob Buford founded a non-profit organization to help professionals take a "half-time" break and reassess their "game plan". You might review his web site: www.halftime.org. Unsure of your calling? Ask our Lord what He would have you to do!

A Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I am thankful that You are Sovereign, Lord over all heaven and earth. Please give me peace in my career, this calling where I am serving. If this is not where I am gifted or called, please prompt me in another direction. Show me where I am in Your will and give me favor with others around me. Show me the way and bless each of my steps.

I pray in Your Son's Name, Amen.

¹ The Holy Bible. New Living Translation. (Tyndale House). 2007.

² John MacArthur, Called to Lead. (Thomas Nelson Inc.) pp90-91.

³ Ibid

⁴ The Holy Bible. New American Standard Bible. (Lockman Foundation). 1995.

DEVOTIONAL DISCUSSION

LEADERSHIP/STAFF/GUESTS: WEDNESDAYS 12 NOON, GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM: 264 WEST