

Some Things Lost In The Shuffle

Acts 20:16

Introduction:

- A. Paul was in a hurry , yet he had time to:
 - 1. Stay 7 days at Troas and meet with disciples on Lord's day. (vs. 6-7)
 - 2. Send to Ephesus for Elders and wait for them. (36 miles sea, 70 by land).
- B. Like Paul, we are busy – but, unlike Paul, we don't find time for important things.
 - 1. Rush to be places we “have got to be” - to do things we “have got to do”.
 - 2. Demands of modern life keeps us constantly on the run. (cf. Old Snuffy Smith and Zippy Code)
- C. Some things that are often lost in the shuffle:

Discussion:

I. Real Gratitude.

- A. *Thankfulness* and *thanksgiving* to God and man. (Col. 3:15; 1 Tim. 4:4,5; Rom. 14:6; 16:4)
- B. Neglected by so many people. (cf. Luke 17:11-19).
 - 1. May say we are thankful, if asked, but no time to stop and express it.
 - 2. May yell the *expected meaningless “thank you”* as rush on our way.

II. Common Courtesy.

- A. Means (**Philo** [friend] **phronos** [mind] or “friendly thoughtfulness” -Vine)
- B. Commendable in anyone. (Acts 27:3; 28:7).
- C. Expected of Christians. (1 Pet. 3:8).
- D. Tossed aside by our fast-paced life style.
 - 1. On highways and streets.
 - 2. In crowds and public gatherings.
 - 3. At home and at work.
 - 4. By merchant and customer.

III. Real Communion.

- A. Too rushed to really commune with God in our worship.
 - 1. Some are too rushed to attend public worship -- either regular or “gospel meetings.”
 - 2. Others rush in, rush through, and rush out -- no real communion with God and brethren.
- B. Too rushed and/or preoccupied for communion with each other in worship. (cf. 1 Cor. 11:20,21,33)

IV. Christian Companionship.

- A. Too rushed for hospitable companionship (1 Pet. 4:9)
 - 1. Too busy to just enjoy another's company. (cf. Luke 10:38-42).
 - 2. Too busy to just “stop an visit a spell.”
- B. Too rushed to “keep company” with brethren.
 - 1. A few minutes before or after services is a good time or any time you can get together.
 - 2. Church discipline ineffective because did not keep company. (cf. 1 Cor. 5:11; 2 Thess. 3:14).

V. Bible Knowledge.

- A. Depth of knowledge cannot be gotten “on the run”.
 - 1. Can get some math by hurried reading, hearing it -- will not pass course, unless you are a genius.
 - 2. Can get some Bible from hurried reading, tapes, sermons, etc. - must go further.
- B. Depth of knowledge takes time, effort and concentration.
 - 1. Time to research. (Acts 17:11)
 - 2. Time to meditate. (Psa. 1:3; 119:148; 1 Tim. 4:15,16)
 - 3. Time to study context, to think conclusions through, look up words.
- C. “A *little* knowledge is a dangerous thing” applies to Bible knowledge.(cf. 2 Pet. 3:16)

Conclusion:

- A. We need to find some way to restore what has been lost by our rush.
- B. We, in the words of the song, need to “take time to be holy”.
- C. We need to take time for the really important things of life.