

“None of these things move me”

Acts 20:22-24 As Paul calls the elders together in Miletus in Acts chapter 20 and reveals to them what it is that is going to happen to him, He says in verse 22 **“And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there.”** Being guided by the Holy Spirit, Paul acknowledges that he must go to Jerusalem and gladly accepts that responsibility. Not knowing what obstacles may be in front him, he is quite certain of one thing, **Verse 23 “Save that the Holy Ghost witnesses in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.”** The Holy Ghost declared it to be a fact, that in every city the certainty of bonds and afflictions was going to remain in the Apostles life. Paul doesn't know specifically here in Acts what these mental and physical afflictions are going to be, but he knows they will be there. What would our reaction be? Knowing that we're going to a city, and upon our arrival it would only be a matter of time before we began experiencing these hardships. Not knowing to what extent, maybe leaving us crippled, or scared, maybe even death, a violent death at that. Would we gladly accept the responsibility, not knowing what obstacles lay ahead of us but knowing they are there? Notice Paul's reaction, **verse 24 “But none of these things move me,”** these abiding afflictions, however difficult they may be, Paul says “they do not change my view of life.” **Verse 24 continued “neither count I my life dear unto myself.”** The life Paul is referring to here is his physical life. Paul doesn't put a high price on this life. He has a desire to live, but the life he's looking for is one of a eternal nature and he knows that he can not find that life making this one his priority. **verse 24 “neither count I my life dear unto myself so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.”** Paul continued to stay focused on the course he was on and he was not moved because the life which he valued was the eternal one. On a much smaller scale, do we allow the abiding afflictions in our life to move us? **Acts 20:24 (KJV)24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.** Which life do we value?

Jay Dixon