



Dear Crossroads Family,

We've all heard many warnings in recent years about distracted driving. The most common distraction is the cell phone, but there are many other distractions that can take our eyes off the road as well. Regardless of the source of the distraction, when someone is engaged in a life and death kind of responsibility, that person shouldn't entertain distractions no matter how enticing or seemingly important they may be.

As followers of Christ, we have been charged with a kind of life and death responsibility—communicating the message of the gospel of Christ to a world that is lost and dying without it. Like drivers with a cellphone in hand, we too can get distracted from our main responsibility as followers of Christ. This Sunday we will see how the Apostle Paul address that problem in his first letter to the Corinthian church. (Sermon notes are provided below.)

As always, Bible study and worship together as the family of God are always important parts of our week of service for Christ, but I believe this message is especially important. I trust you will be in your place as we stay focused on our mission and avoid the distractions that would hinder us.

See you Sunday (and Happy Valentines Day)!

Love,

Bro. Doug

The Distracted Christian

1 Corinthians 9:16-27

The Corinthian church of Paul's day was a mess. 1 Cor. 9:16-27 addresses the heart of their problem: getting _____ from our _____ - _____ purpose and mission.

Paul's first concern is the potential distraction of personal _____ and _____ gain. He talks about preaching voluntarily. Paul normally taught that ministers of the gospel should receive their _____ from the gospel, but in Corinth, he knew that accepting their support would create expectations that he served _____ instead of _____. Material gain wasn't going to distract him from his main purpose, effectively selling his independence for it. Paul sets an example for us and challenges us to realize what Jesus famously taught: "You cannot serve both ____ and _____. " (**Matt. 6:24**)

The Bible also warns that we can be easily distracted by personal _____ and _____. “To become all things to all people” means that he sacrificed his own preferences and privileges that he might see people _____. Spreading the gospel requires us to set aside personal preferences. But why do we follow Christ...to get our _____? Or is it to spread the gospel?

Finally, Paul speaks about athletic achievements because athletes exemplified how personal _____ and _____ can be a distraction for the follower of Christ. Like a determined athlete, true followers of Christ must bring their desire for physical comfort into _____ to win the most valued prize in heaven, described in **1 Thess. 2:19**: The crown of _____.

What is common to all these distractions? The word, “_____”; making it about ____ life, about ____ will and ____ way. **2 Cor. 9** reminds me of what Jesus warned about: *that whoever would save his life will ____ it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will ____ it.*

A Few Announcements:

There will be no Sunday night Service this Sunday and the Church Office will be closed Monday, February 16, in observance of Presidents’ Day.

Mark Your Calendar! A Church Workday is coming up on Saturday, February 28, from 8:00 am to noon. Tree trimming and general grounds work will be the focus to get Crossroads ready for spring. Plan to be a part of this workday. Many hands make light work (and it’s also a lot more fun!).

EAT-SHOP-PRAY: Join the Women of Prayer Ministry for lunch at Cracker Barrel Restaurant (Huebner Rd, 11030 IH 10 W) on Monday, February 16, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The guest speaker will be Katy Padgett, sharing “A Story Worth Telling”. Please RSVP by text to Gail Anderson @210.863.5254. Invite a friend to come! Let Gail know if you would like a ride.

Crossroads Card & Crafting Ministry will be meeting this week on Tuesday, February 17, from 12:00-2:00 pm. Come and be a part of this fun and important outreach ministry!

***Dr. Doug Diehl
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