

# "Be Ye Followers Of Me"

**Introduction.** In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul tells the Corinthians, "Be ye followers of me." Paul included this admonition in other places as well (1 Corinthians 4:16; Philippians 3:17). We cannot be an apostle, but we can learn from his life. Will Rogers said, "We can't all be heroes because someone has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by."

## I. ***He Was A Great Sinner***

- A. After referring to himself as "blasphemer, and a persecutor and injurious," Paul referred to himself as a "chief sinner" (1 Timothy 1:13-15; cf. Acts 8:3; 9:1-2; 22:4-5; 26:9-11).
- B. Paul also mentions his persecution of the church in his letters as well (1 Corinthians 15:9; Galatians 1:13; Philippians 3:6).

## II. ***He Obeyed The Lord***

- A. When recalling his conversion to Agrippa, Paul said that he was obedient when the Lord called him (Acts 26:12-19).
- B. He did not see his obedience as a sure entrance to heaven (1 Corinthians 9:27). If he believed in "once saved, always saved," he had a funny way of expressing it!

## III. ***He Preached The Gospel***

- A. It is interesting to note that Paul referred to himself as a preacher only twice (1 Timothy 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:11). He declared that he was ready to preach the gospel (Romans 1:15).
- B. Paul mentioned his preaching of the gospel sixteen times (Romans 10:8; 15:19-20; 1 Corinthians 1:17; 2:1-5; 9:16; 15:1-2; 2 Corinthians 2:12; 4:5; 10:14; Galatians 1:16; 2:2; 4:13; Ephesians 3:8; Colossians 1:28; 1 Thessalonians 2:9; 2 Timothy 4:17).

## IV. ***He Endured Persecution***

- A. Not only was Paul a persecutor, but he had to endure persecution when he became a Christian and began preaching the gospel (1 Corinthians 4:11-13; 2 Corinthians 4:9, 16-18; 11:23-28; 12:10; Galatians 5:11; 1 Thessalonians 2:15; 2 Timothy 3:10-12).
- B. When we do experience persecution, we need to make sure that we act in the appropriate way (Matthew 5:11-12; Romans 12:14).

## V. ***He Obtained A Crown***

- A. This was the ultimate quest in Paul's life. It meant everything to him (1 Corinthians 9:25; 2 Timothy 4:8).

B. We will receive a reward if we can remain faithful (Colossians 3:23-24). We must strive lawfully (2 Timothy 2:5).

**Conclusion.** Mark Twain once remarked, "Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example." Yet Paul was a good example in turning from evil and living righteously. Have you examined yourself to see if you have too (2 Corinthians 13:5; 1 Corinthians 11:28; Galatians 6:4)?