

Simply a Servant, Traveling God's Course - Acts 20:24

But

KJV: "but none of these things move me"

"However, despite the fact that imprisonment and afflictions await me (v.23), it's okay because..."

I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself

Life: while this word can refer to our soul, in this more common sense it refers to our temporal, "earthly life"ⁱ

Precious: "of exceptional value"ⁱⁱ

"I do not appraise my life to be something that has any precious value for myself"

If only I may

NET "my only aim..."

NLT "unless I use it for..."

Finish my course

NKJV & NIV: "race"

Course:

"movement on a path from one point to another, *course*"

"carrying out of an obligation or task, *course of life, mission*"ⁱⁱⁱ

And the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus

Ministry: *diakonia*, a role that is "functioning in the interest of a larger public," a person's "service"^{iv}

"the service to God and others that Jesus has granted to me"

To testify to the gospel of the grace of God

Testify: "to make a solemn declaration about the truth of something"^v

Gospel: "God's good news to humans"^{vi}

Grace: "As in so many contexts, the grace of God may be rendered as 'the goodness of God' in the sense of 'the kindness or goodness of God toward people.'"^{vii}

We should (and do) _____ our lives.

Our lives can be very valuable; but life lived " _____ " appraises at zero.

Because he was courageously continuing forward despite the difficult and dangerous circumstances ahead, it's obvious that Paul did not believe that his life needed to be:

- As _____ as possible.

- As _____ as possible.
- As _____ as possible.
- As _____ as possible.
- As _____ as possible.

Life is meant to be _____, not preserved for self.

Matthew 16:25 *For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

We each have a God-given _____ for our life.

Psalm 139:16; Daniel 5:23

His course is the one that matters because:

- He is sovereign
- He is _____ of our lives
- He loved us and gave His Son to save us
- He is _____
- His promises to sustain us on the course
- He _____ us when the course is completed
- My course is part of _____ (Acts 13:24-25, 36-37)

We each have God-given areas of _____ along our course.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.*

Philippians 2:5-7 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant...*

We can press on despite an uncertain future if we focus upon faithfully finishing the course and ministry we have received from the Lord Jesus.

ⁱ Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., & Gingrich, F. W. (2000). [A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature](#) (3rd ed., p. 1098). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

ⁱⁱ Ibid, 1005.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid, 261.

^{iv} Ibid, 230.

^v Ibid, 233.

^{vi} Ibid, 402.

^{vii} Newman, B. M., & Nida, E. A. (1972). [A handbook on the Acts of the Apostles](#) (p. 392). New York: United Bible Societies.